

**Media Contact**

Sarah Shimazaki

sarah@resource-media.org

408-209-2369

**Listening Session Addresses Major Climate Bond  
with Political and Community Leaders***Advocates for parks and environmental justice participated in meaningful discussion*

**LOS ANGELES, CA, July 20, 2023** — Resources Legacy Fund and the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation hosted a 2024 Climate & Natural Resources Bond Listening Session at Magic Johnson Park on Friday, July 14th. Assemblymember Luz Rivas from District 43, Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia from District 36, and Senator Ben Allen from District 24 gathered with park and environmental justice advocates to discuss a pending climate bond, which could appear on the 2024 state ballot.

Californians and their representatives have an opportunity to pass one of the largest environmental measures ever, to address the rising threat of climate change: a \$15.5 billion “climate bond” (SB 867 and AB 1567) that is currently moving through the Legislature. These measures offer new solutions for Los Angeles and California, especially for low-income communities that typically bear the brunt of repeated extreme heat waves, catastrophic wildfires, disastrous floods, and rolling black outs. Emerging as a priority due to recent and significant state budget cuts, the climate bond provides perhaps the only viable path for Californians to maintain the state’s critical investments in building a sustainable and resilient future in the face of climate change.

“Together, we can build a bond that reflects the diversity of our state and priorities of our communities,” Assemblymember Luz Rivas shared on Friday. “Bonds allow investments for greater climate resilience in the most impacted communities. Bonds also help preserve our precious natural resources, ensuring everyone can access and enjoy these spaces.”

The climate bond would provide significant new funding to build California’s climate resilience, from planting trees to cool cities to expanding renewable energy throughout the state. “We really are committed to getting something very meaningful onto the ballot next year that's going to make a transformative difference, as we face this very depressing reality of climate change,” said Senator Ben Allen. “We need to make the upfront investments now, to make sure we're more prepared in the future.”

Community advocates for parks and environmental justice participated in a lively discussion, voicing their top priorities for the climate bond including investing in workforce development programs, community resilience centers, infrastructure for water recycling and storage, wildfire prevention, reinvesting in degraded lands or “brownfields,” and ensuring local entities are at the forefront of investments.

“It’s our job to make sure we have a comprehensive, equitable package, with community priorities in place, ready for our leadership to champion,” said Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia. “There is a significant amount of impact that can take place here in LA County and these listening sessions will allow us to make sure we understand and prioritize the greatest needs in building California’s climate resilience.”

**About Parks Now** Parks Now represents a coalition of California-based organizations committed to public health and social and environmental justice, who share a belief that access to parks, the coast, and public land is fundamental to healthy, vibrant communities. For more information, visit <http://www.caparksnow.com/>

**Folder with photos from the event, provided by the Parks Now Coalition:**

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1xL6MB4k9xvPZi9ly\\_RMcxACA50BG5NXe?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1xL6MB4k9xvPZi9ly_RMcxACA50BG5NXe?usp=drive_link)

###