

## UPDATES FOR SORO NC BOARD MEETING, MARCH 17th

- Mayor Eric Garcetti signed his 33rd [Executive Directive](#), which creates the City of Los Angeles Tourism Cabinet, a group of department general managers to support growth in the tourism and hospitality sectors in Los Angeles. The Executive Directive also calls for the implementation of the recommendations laid out in the City's [Tourism Master Plan](#).
- Mayor Eric Garcetti held a signing ceremony for an ordinance that will lower speed limits on 177 miles of streets across Los Angeles. The ordinance, which was drafted by the City Attorney and approved by the City Council, was a direct result of the passage of AB-43, a State bill led by Assemblymember Laura Friedman that grants greater authority to cities to control speed limits.
- The Mayor announced that LADWP has cleared \$275 million dollars in Utility debt for hundreds of thousands of families and businesses who had fallen behind on their power and water bills. Folks do not need to apply to receive this debt relief. LADWP automatically applied these credits to customers' accounts.
- Free Tax Prep L.A. 2022 is active—this program provides working families with free tax preparation services and helps them to claim state and federal tax credits. Now in its sixth year, the program is a collaborative effort between the City of Los Angeles, Community Investment for Families Department (CIFD), and other orgs. For more information or to find a location, please visit [FreeTaxPrepLA.com](#). Until 4/18, [@FreeTaxPrepLA](#) will be offering free tax services to qualifying Angelenos.
- **Housingiskey, the State's Rental assistance program, will stop accepting applications at the end of this month! If folks haven't applied they can do so at [housingiskey.com](#)**
- Late last month Mayor Garcetti announced the completion of the Red Cloud Wind Project in New Mexico, a major renewable energy agreement that will provide enough clean energy to boost the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's (LADWP) clean energy portfolio by 6% — This means over 60% of LA's Energy will now be carbon-free. This does put us in a good position to achieve the Mayor's ambitious goal to reach a 100% clean energy grid by 2035.
- Lastly, The City's Climate Emergency Mobilization Office (CEMO) is having its Inaugural Climate Equity LA Virtual Workshop Series. One of the main goals at the CEMO is to advance equity in the City of Los Angeles' climate and energy policies. Through a series of virtual workshops, CEMO will explore how current and proposed City policies will impact health, jobs, affordable housing, and the climate crisis with participants from across the City, especially those in frontline communities. The kick-off event was on March 3rd and the series began March 10. The next sessions are:
  - March 17, 6-8pm: Energy/Housing Justice & Building Decarbonization
  - March 24, 6-8pm: A Just Green Workforce & Building Decarbonization
  - Register here: [bit.ly/CEMOmar2022](#)