The City of Los Angeles is an enormously popular tourist destination. Including visits by people doing business here, in all, 50 million travelers came to Los Angeles in 2018.

In order to consolidate rental car operations for visitors into one convenient location, the City has broken ground for construction of the $2 billion Consolidated Rent-A-Car (CONRAC) facility at LA International Airport (LAX), which will feature tens of thousands of parking spaces, but only 200+ Level 2 electric vehicle (EV) chargers.

While the removal of 3,200 rental car shuttle trips per day will reduce air pollution at the Central Terminal and surrounding areas, it will not reduce air pollution from the cars and trucks that are actually being rented at CONRAC, including greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Additionally, while CONRAC is designed to be built to accommodate emerging vehicle types such as autonomous vehicles, it does not include requirements for installed electric vehicle chargers that match increased EV production plans of the auto industry, nor the very real and short timeline given by the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to greatly reduce GHG emissions.

At the 2019 LA Auto Show and elsewhere, the automotive industry has announced aggressive goals to rapidly increase production of electric vehicles, including sport utility vehicles (SUVs).

Despite California's pioneering efforts to accelerate improved vehicle emission and mileage standards, the City remains atop the list of the cities with the worst air pollution in the country. This largely stems from the growing popularity of gas-powered trucks and truck-based SUVs which haven't been subject to reasonable regulations. At this point, slowing down or turning back our clean air standards will have a deleterious effect upon children via increased asthma rates and increased heart disease among low-income residents living near freeways, as detailed in Council File #17-0309.

As the world's top athletes will be competing in Los Angeles for the 2028 Olympic Games, it would be respectful to increase efforts to reduce air pollution on their behalf. Yet it would be even more honorable and, from health care savings and increased worker productivity alone, financially valuable to reduce air pollution on behalf of Angelenos who breathe it daily.

LA's position as a top tourist/business destination could be leveraged to reduce air pollution from rental cars and trucks and inspire sales of electric vehicles to tourists from around the world.

If LAWA were to mandate that 80% of its available rental cars be electric vehicles by 2024, a number of benefits could occur, including:

1) Providing visit-long test drives of electric vehicles to showcase the ease of use, ease of charging, enjoyment of EV technology, and surprisingly high levels of drivability and safety.

2) Providing motivation for hotels, tourist destinations and entertainment venues competing for tourist dollars to install electric vehicle chargers.

3) A reduction of air pollution and associated health care costs and improved worker productivity, particularly among rental car garage workers, from the estimated number of rental cars used within the City annually.
4) Help actively create a secondary used EV market.

5) Motivate tourists upon their return home to purchase EVs and push other cities to increase EV charging infrastructure.

6) Increase the number of workers employed in the installation and maintenance of EV chargers.

7) Motivate the installation of sufficient high speed chargers along the routes most traveled by rental cars, which could also be used by Angelenos.

8) Help the City dramatically increase its EV charging infrastructure for the use of its residents on a timeline more suited to what is necessary for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in time to keep the region and the planet habitable.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council request that Los Angeles World Airports report back on the possibility of requiring that 80% of its rental cars at the CONRAC facility be electric vehicles, including a feasible stretch goal timeline for achieving that goal, electric vehicle chargers necessary to support it, and reporting on the positive benefits mentioned above; and

I FURTHER MOVE that the Department of Water and Power (LADWP), in conjunction with the Department of Building and Safety, be requested to report back on the power load necessary at CONRAC to achieve this result and financial incentives available to make it a reality; and

I FURTHER MOVE that LADWP, in partnership with the Department of Transportation, and in consultation with LA County and adjacent cities, be requested to work with rental car agencies to find the routes most travelled by rental cars and report back on the capability to incentivize and install sufficient high speed chargers for this effort along those routes, and potential financial partnerships, including other governmental entities, to fund such; and

I FURTHER MOVE that the Director of the Office of Climate Emergency Mobilization partner with the Economic & Workforce Development Department to report back on the estimated number of jobs that will be created by this effort.

PRESENTED BY: 

PAUL KORETZ  
Councilmember, 5th District

MIKE BONIN  
Councilmember, 11th District

SECONDED BY: