

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HILDA L. SOLIS AND  
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**Extreme Weather and Emergency Response**

Rural areas across Los Angeles County, such as river beds and mountain/hillside/forest/desert areas, are often the chosen dwelling spaces for many of our neighbors experiencing homelessness. Although these areas may seem like safe places for refuge, there are times throughout the year when extreme weather conditions create imminent danger for those living in these areas and surrounding communities. These dangers include flooding of the rivers due to heavy rain storms, significant heat events, and wildfires during times of extreme heat. High temperatures often soar above 100 degrees in areas like the Antelope Valley, Pomona, and San Fernando Valley, and these temperatures can cause severe dehydration, heat stroke, and other serious health problems for people exposed to the elements.

In fact, in December 2017, it was determined that the Skirball fire, which burned 422 acres, damaged 12 structures, and destroyed 6 homes, was caused by an illegal cooking fire at a homeless encampment. More recently, people experiencing

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homelessness were impacted by two fires in the Santa Fe Dam area this year, one on July 5<sup>th</sup> and the other on July 11<sup>th</sup>.

Given the danger of living in these areas, it is imperative that we look at what the County can do proactively in rural areas to 1) protect the lives of and provide services to people experiencing homelessness, including exploring the capability of responding after hours during emergencies, and 2) protect the lives of people and property of surrounding communities.

**WE, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Office's Homeless Initiative and Office of Emergency Management to:

- 1) Develop a pre-planned and coordinated emergency response to significant heat events that will address the needs of people experiencing homelessness. This response should identify how Homeless Services, including Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority's (LAHSA) Homeless Engagement Teams, as well as other County-funded outreach programs, can support the work of the County's emergency services departments.
- 2) Determine the feasibility of using LAHSA Homeless Engagement Teams, as well as other County-funded outreach teams, to transport clients in need to cooling centers (when centers are activated);
- 3) Coordinate a multi-agency effort to develop a plan to address at-risk homeless encampments in the wild-land interface and riverbeds to provide assistance to our homeless neighbors after regular business hours during fires, inclement weather or other disasters; and

4) Report back to the Board in 30 days on items 1 – 3 above.

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