

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HILDA L.
SOLIS AND SHEILA KUEHL

February 26, 2019

DIVESTITURE OF US ARMY CORPS FLOOD CONTROL CHANNELS

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (District) work collaboratively to operate the Los Angeles County Drainage Area (LACDA) system, a wide network of water management infrastructure in Los Angeles County. The LACDA system provides flood risk management for approximately 10 million residents and 2.1 million parcels with a value of more than \$1 trillion. The District is responsible for 14 major dams and roughly 500 miles of open channels. The USACE is responsible for 4 major dams and 40 miles of open channels. While the District has extensively maintained its facilities over the years to ensure that they continue to perform as designed, due to insufficient Federal funding, many portions of the USACE's water infrastructure in the County are not being maintained at acceptable levels.

The USACE needs approximately \$193 million annually to address deferred maintenance, but only receives about 10 to 15 percent of that in any given year. Given

MOTION

SOLIS _____

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

KUEHL _____

BARGER _____

HAHN _____

the current Federal fiscal environment, this trend is expected to continue indefinitely. The consequence of deferred maintenance is significantly diminished capacity to reduce flood risk in parts of the LACDA system. The increased risk puts millions in peril while increasing resident's flood insurance costs. On April 10, 2018, the District sent a letter requesting that the USACE initiate a Disposition Study to examine transferring ownership and operations of its channels in Los Angeles County to the District. The study is critical for determining whether the disposition of segments of the system is warranted and feasible. Assuming local control of these channels will provide:

- Efficiency in designing, building, and maintaining flood risk management projects
- Improved response to issues involving the unsheltered living in the channels
- Greater opportunities for ecosystem restoration and recreation projects
- Greater transparency and accountability with our local cities

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Officer, in coordination with the Department of Public Works, to send a five-signature letter to the Los Angeles County Congressional delegation requesting their support for a Disposition Study to examine transferring ownership and operations of USACE-owned channels to the District.

#

SUP:HLS