

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HILDA L. SOLIS AND
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Lower LA River Revitalization Multi-Benefit Investments

In 1987, the United States Army Corps of Engineers partnered with the Los Angeles County Flood Control District to implement the Los Angeles County Drainage Area (LACDA) project. This project constructed flood risk management improvements along the Lower Los Angeles River between the Rio Hondo River and the City of Long Beach, along with 21 miles of trail enhancements for the Los Angeles River/Rio Hondo Trail system. The LACDA project was completed in 2001 at a total cost of \$220 million; \$70 million of that cost was funded by the Los Angeles County Flood Control District. In 2000, Assembly Bill 1147 was passed and signed into law; the bill provided for the State to reimburse up to 60 percent of local costs, subject to certain conditions, for several flood control projects, including the LACDA project subject to certain conditions. As a result, Flood Control District is eligible for a reimbursement of approximately \$41 million.

Pursuant to Assembly Bill 530, the County of Los Angeles partnered with cities along the Lower Los Angeles River corridor, as well as stakeholders and community-

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based organizations, to create the Lower Los Angeles River Revitalization Plan, which lays out a vision for improving the river corridor as well as the quality of life for residents along the river. The Plan which covers the 19-mile stretch of river from the City of Vernon to the City of Long Beach, was completed in 2018. During the development of this Plan, a 39-member Working Group, comprised of agencies and organizations with interests in the Lower Los Angeles River, was established and supported by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works. The completed Plan incorporated feedback from 80 Working Group and committee meetings, community input from 32 events, and direct feedback from approximately 2,000 residents. The Plan identified opportunities along the entire lower 19 miles of the Los Angeles River for adding natural features, increasing access to the river, creating opportunities for recreation, and promoting equity while continuing to provide flood risk management.

The County continues to update its 1996 LA River Master Plan for the 51-mile length of the LA River. As a result of this continued effort, research has shown in greater detail the public health and open space needs for the communities of the Lower LA River. Displacement studies have been part of both the Lower LA River Revitalization and Master Plan update efforts, and these studies have found that a significant number of neighborhoods along the Lower LA River are categorized as vulnerable to displacement, at-risk of displacement, or experiencing on-going displacement. Other important facts include that (1) sixty-four percent of households along the corridor are considered low-income; (2) there are approximately 2,500 people experiencing homelessness who live along the river; and (3) corridor communities have one-third the park space compared to the current County average. With future improvements, studies show many of these

neighborhoods will move to a higher displacement risk category and offer land banking for affordable housing and permanent supportive housing as measures that can mitigate displacement vulnerability.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors

1. Direct the Chief Executive Officer, in coordination with the Department of Public Works, to send five-signature letters to the Director of the California Department of Water Resources, the Secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency, and Speaker Anthony Rendon, in support of partial reimbursement to the Los Angeles County Flood Control District for the LACDA project, as directed by Assembly Bill 1147.
2. Direct the Director of Public Works to report back in 60 days with a plan to prioritize the approximate \$41 million that is anticipated to be received from the state as reimbursement for the LACDA project, with the funds to be used for multi-benefit investments identified in the Lower Los Angeles River Revitalization Plan. The report should explore and include, as appropriate, funding recommendations for:
 - a. Land banking for parcels along the Lower LA River corridor to be used for affordable and permanent supportive housing, and potential development of a community land trust for the management of banked parcels.
 - b. Empowerment and capacity-building for community-based organizations that provide services and support to those residents living along the Lower LA River corridor.
 - c. Creation of workforce and economic development opportunities along the Lower LA River corridor.

- d. Prioritization of projects consistent with the Lower LA River Revitalization Plan that can leverage other federal, state, and local funding sources, such as Measure W, Measure H, Measure A, and Measure M.

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