

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS

November 30, 2021

Southeast Los Angeles Cultural Center

The County of Los Angeles Flood Control District, in partnership with the San Gabriel & Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC), has been working closely in early planning, feasibility, siting, community outreach, and various aspects of the pre-development and planning phase for a Community Cultural Center in Southeast Los Angeles (SELA) near the City of South Gate, California.

The SELA Cultural Center is envisioned as a multi-arts facility that weaves together world-class design and high-caliber programming from across Los Angeles County with the vibrant culture of the surrounding community. The Los Angeles River adjacent SELA Cultural Center is envisioned to support and showcase the Southeast Los Angeles community and provide a permanent place to gather in creative expression.

The SELA Cultural Center was identified by Lower LA River planning efforts and will be located at a prominent site near the Rio Hondo Confluence. One potential site location for the future SELA cultural center is currently occupied by the Los Angeles County Flood Control District and covers an area of about 10 acres. In addition, Los Angeles County's draft LA River Master Plan also incorporates SELA Cultural Center within the planning

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process of 51 miles of connected public open space that provides landmark opportunities to reduce flood risk and improve resiliency, support healthy and connected ecosystems, address potential adverse impacts to housing affordability and people experiencing homelessness, promote healthy, safe, clean water, and create jobs while fostering opportunities for arts, culture, and community engagement.

One prominent site which presents an ideal SELA Cultural Center location is the County Flood Control District yard adjacent to the LA River in an area with a high community need for arts and culture programming, in addition to the enhanced park and open space. The SELA Culture Center scope will also integrate stormwater capture and reuse best practices with enhanced open space and connectivity to the LA River while providing cultural arts programming and educational opportunities to the underserved SELA communities. Over the past couple of years, the State, RMC, County Counsel, County Chief Executive Office, County Flood Control District, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Los Angeles County Museum of Arts, and County Arts and Culture Department, have all engaged in some preliminary discussions and held internal exploratory meetings to discuss the proposed SELA Culture Development leads. The State of California has allocated various budget appropriations to support planning, environmental documents, and community outreach activities. It is imperative that the County now engages formally with all relevant entities to discuss various administrative, regulatory, and funding discussions in collaboration with SELA community stakeholders to provide a SELA Culture Center development roadmap detailing agency and outside leads for the funding, environment document, planning, design, construction, operation and governance of the future SELA Cultural Center.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Find that the below actions are not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because they are activities that are excluded from the definition of a project by section 21065 of the California Public Resources Code and section 15378(b) of the State CEQA Guidelines. The actions involve organizational and administrative activities of government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment. Further, the below actions are exempt from CEQA pursuant to section 15262 of the State CEQA Guidelines and section 21102 of the California Public Resources Code to the extent they relate to planning and feasibility studies for possible future actions which the Board has not adopted, approved or funded.

The below actions do not include approval of any project, as defined under CEQA. Board consideration and approval of an appropriate CEQA document will occur prior to implementation of any activities that would be considered a project under CEQA.

2. Instruct the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), or her designee, in consultation with County Counsel, and the Departments of Public Works and Arts and Culture, to engage in formal discussions with the State of California and San Gabriel & Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC), and the Los Angeles Philharmonic and Museum Associates, as potential Southeast Los Angeles (SELA) Cultural Center Project partners, report back in three months to provide a conceptual SELA Cultural Center Development roadmap for the proposed development, construction, and operation of the SELA Cultural Center, including:
 - Designation of CEQA lead agency
 - Development of a fundraising plan
 - Ongoing collaboration with the RMC on design of the SELA Cultural Center
 - Collaboration with Southeast Arts and Cultural Foundation on community outreach and engagement within the SELA community and with local artists
 - Designation of construction lead
 - Development of a workforce investment program
 - Designation of operational and programmatic leads.
3. Instruct the CEO, or her designee, on behalf of the County, and in consultation with County Counsel, to negotiate and return to the Board with a proposed long-term lease of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District's South Imperial Yard, located at 5525 East Imperial Highway, South Gate, CA, between the County and the Flood Control District, for repurposing of the site as the proposed SELA Cultural Center.

I FURTHER MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, ACTING AS THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT:

1. Find that the below actions are not a project under CEQA to the extent they are activities that are excluded from the definition of a project by section 21065 of the California Public Resources Code and section 15378(b) of the State CEQA Guidelines. The actions involve organizational and administrative activities of government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment. Further, the below actions are exempt from CEQA pursuant to section 15262 of the State CEQA Guidelines and section 21102 of the California Public Resources Code to the extent they relate to planning and feasibility studies for possible future actions which the Board has not adopted, approved or funded. Finally, the proposed predevelopment activities are exempt from CEQA pursuant to section 15304 of the State CEQA Guidelines and Class 4 of the County's Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, Appendix G. In addition, based on the records of the proposed predevelopment activities, they will

comply with all applicable regulations, are not located in a sensitive environment, there are no cumulative impacts, unusual circumstances, damage to scenic highways, listing on hazardous waste lists compiled pursuant to Government Code section 65962.5, or indications that they may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource that will make the exemption inapplicable based on those records. Upon the Board's approval of this exemption and related action, the Department of Public Works will file a Notice of Exemption with the County Clerk in accordance with California Public Resources Code section 21152.

The below actions do not include approval of the proposed relocation project, as defined under CEQA. Board consideration and approval of an appropriate CEQA document will occur prior to implementation of any activities that would be considered a project under CEQA.

2. Instruct the Director of Public Works, or his designee, on behalf of the Flood Control District, and in consultation with County Counsel, to negotiate and return to the Board with a proposed long-term lease of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District's South Imperial Yard, located at 5525 East Imperial Highway, South Gate, CA, between the County and the Flood Control District for repurposing of the site as the proposed SELA Cultural Center.
3. Instruct the Director of Public Works, or his designee, in collaboration with the Chief Executive Office and RMC, to proceed with necessary predevelopment activities, including site due diligence using as-needed consultants, to develop a conceptual plan for the proposed short-term and long-term replacement and relocation of the Flood Control District's facilities at the South Imperial Yard to facilitate the proposed use of the South Imperial Yard as the site of the SELA Cultural Center.

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