

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR DON KNABE

November 10, 2009

It is well known that the economic downturn has taken its toll on Los Angeles County's hotel industry. Adding insult to injury, however, the current federal hotel per diem rates set annually by the General Services Administration (GSA) are significantly lower than other comparable regions in California, which means Los Angeles County hotels are missing out on thousands of federal employee visits as well as a major source of revenue for cities and businesses.

The current government per diem rate of \$135 for Los Angeles County is \$12 less than San Diego County; \$14 less than Santa Barbara County; \$31 less than San Francisco County; and is \$74 less than the City of Santa Monica, despite the fact that Santa Monica is located within Los Angeles County.

Such a substantial variance in per diem rates is unfair and illogical, and only serves to penalize Los Angeles County hotels, which provide thousands of jobs and economic stimulus across Southern California.

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MOLINA _____

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ANTONOVICH _____

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Recently, Congressional Representatives Jane Harman, Dana Rohrabacher, Linda Sanchez, and Laura Richardson sent a letter to GSA Acting Administrator Paul F. Prouty asking that the GSA reconsider their methodology so that a more equitable and competitive federal per diem rate can be established for Los Angeles County. Today, I urge the County to do the same.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Office to draft a letter from the Chair to GSA Administrator Paul F. Prouty to urge the GSA in its annual per diem review to sample a smaller geographic region of mid-priced, upper, and upper-scale properties within Los Angeles County, similar to those available in Santa Monica, so a more equitable and competitive per diem rate can be established for Los Angeles County.

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