

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS

SEPTEMBER 29, 2015

**EXTENDING WINTER SHELTER ACCESS FOR HOMELESS**

On August 18, 2015, the Board of Supervisors instructed the Interim Chief Executive Officer, in coordination with the Department of Public Works, Los Angeles County Fire Department and the Office of Emergency Management to report back in 30 days on an outline of an emergency response program that includes all relevant County departments in preparing, responding and recovering from the predicted El Niño event.

The impact of the recent storms that occurred throughout the County was mild compared with the potential devastation an El Niño event could cause. Nevertheless, just in the First District, individuals had to be rescued from rushing water in the Los Angeles River near Cypress Park, as well as San Jose Creek in the City of Industry and in both Pomona and South El Monte. These events demonstrate our need to prepare those who seek shelter in riverbeds and other areas where individuals have the potential to be swept away by strong currents.

Winter shelters provide shelter, warmth, food and comfort to homeless individuals during the cold and wet weather season. For the past 20 years the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) has coordinated the Winter Shelter Program in

SOLIS \_\_\_\_\_

RIDLEY-THOMAS \_\_\_\_\_

KUEHL \_\_\_\_\_

KNABE \_\_\_\_\_

ANTONOVICH \_\_\_\_\_

partnership with local non-profit homeless service agencies to administer the day-to-day operations of each program site. A total of 1,521 Winter Shelter beds were available throughout the County at 21 different locations in Downtown Los Angeles (Central City East), Glendora, Hacienda Heights, Lancaster, Long Beach, Pacoima, Pomona, Rowland Heights, Santa Clarita, South Los Angeles, Sylmar, Valinda, West Covina and West Los Angeles.

In 2014-2015, LAHSA's Winter Shelter Program (WSP) operated between December 1, 2014 and March 15, 2015. Due to the predicted El Niño events, it is critical to open the WSP six weeks earlier this year, beginning October 15, 2015 for the safety of those who are without shelter.

Opening the WSP for two weeks in October and the entire month of November would cost \$913,500, and potentially an additional \$629,000 if the shelters stayed open through March. An additional \$92,000 would ensure that the sites are able to stay open 24 hours a day during the worst weather.

**I, THEREFORE MOVE** that the Board direct the Chief Executive Officer, in coordination with the Director of the Homeless Initiative, to identify one time funds and allocate, if necessary through a budget adjustment, to open LAHSA's Winter Shelter Program beginning October 15, 2015 through March 15, 2016, and in addition, allowing for 24 hour access to shelters during torrent conditions.

# # #

HLS: jyp/jab