



Caring for Our Coast

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February 27, 2025

TO: Supervisor Kathryn Barger, Chair
Supervisor Hilda L. Solis
Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell
Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath
Supervisor Janice Hahn

FROM: Gary Jones, Director

SUBJECT: **LOS ANGELES COUNTY RECOVERY EFFORTS AND BUILDING URGENCY INTO IMPLEMENTATION OF LONG-TERM DISASTER SUPPORT – 30-DAY REPORT (ITEM 13-C, AGENDA OF JANUARY 28, 2025)**

On January 28, 2025, your Board authorized the Director of the Department of Beaches and Harbors (DBH) to waive all fees, execute and amend all permits, licenses, and leases, in consultation with County Counsel, as applicable, and suspend applicable restrictions, for use of property and facilities under the control of DBH necessary to support emergency response and recovery activities required because of the LA County fires. Your Board further directed that DBH provide a written report within 30 days, and quarterly thereafter, detailing the actions taken and verifying the need for continued emergency measures.

Actions Taken:

Provision of Staging Areas:

DBH streamlined the right of entry permit process to facilitate all emergency operations, including, but not limited to, SoCalGas service restoration work, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's hazardous material remediation process, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' debris removal activities. DBH also participated in the CEO Real Estate Division's effort to develop a Countywide record-keeping system for tracking all fire-related permits.



Providing Shelter to Individuals Displaced by Fire:

DBH is currently providing shelter to two patrons who have been displaced by the fires at the Dockweiler RV Park. One of them has stayed longer than the 21 days DBH allows for stays within a 60-day period, pursuant to authority previously granted by the Board of Supervisors.

Multi-agency Collaborations for Beach Restoration:

DBH participated in several multi-agency and stakeholder collaborations aimed at controlling fire-related debris flows and assessing how best to manage run-off on beaches, including timber and metal from burnt structures and charred, silty materials. Participants included the California Office of Emergency Services, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH), and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, as well as Heal the Bay and other environmentally-focused organizations/experts.

As a result of these collaborations, appropriate agencies responded to DBH's request that dark runoff materials found on some beaches be tested and that a means of removing sediment be identified, should doing so be necessary. Initial results of tests conducted by the Department of Public Works on dark sediment at Will Rogers State Beach and Topanga Beach were reviewed, and it was determined that the material was non-toxic and did not require removal.

DBH continues to meet regularly with stakeholders as sediment samples taken from beaches following the most recent rainstorms are tested for toxicity.

Enhanced Public Information on Post-Fire Beach Cleanup:

In coordination with the Joint Information Center (JIC), and following collaboration with County and regional partners to identify any hazards, DBH led discussions to develop and refine consistent messaging on post-fire beach cleanup operations, share sediment test results, and educate the public about the difference between an ocean water closure and a beach closure. This messaging is integrated into a dedicated webpage, located at beaches.lacounty.gov/wildfires, and is aligned with the DPH post-fire assessment plan to ensure that the public and stakeholders receive timely, accurate updates on recovery efforts, test results, and beach and water safety.

Ongoing Need:

The actions DBH has taken so far are further being refined to meet the operational needs of the stakeholders involved in the cleanup and fire damage restoration. At this time, the emergency measures should be maintained to the extent they accommodate these types of activities. In addition, it would be prudent for the County to work with the Governor's office to extend the tenancy provisions in Governor's Executive Order N-14-25 to facilities operated by public agencies and to extend those provisions beyond March 8, 2025, as it appears a longer period of time will be required for recovery.

GJ:AC

c: Beach Board Deputies
Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors
Chief Executive Officer
Office of Emergency Management