



**Caring for Our Coast**

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November 25, 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 – QUARTERLY 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, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' debris removal activities, the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power infrastructure work and the security companies hired by the City of Los Angeles Police Department to provide security service within the Pacific Palisades area. 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:*

Since February 2025, DBH has provided shelter at the Dockweiler RV Park, ranging from intermittent to continuous stays, to five patrons who have been displaced by the fires. Four of the five guests have 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, dark/charred vegetation, and silty materials. Participants included the California Office of Emergency Services, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (L.A. Water Board), the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH), and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (DPW), 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 sediment 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 DPW after the January 26<sup>th</sup> storm on sediment samples taken from tidal stormwater outlet areas at Will Rogers State Beach and Topanga Beach were reviewed, and it was determined that most substances of concern were not detected in the samples, with only minor traces found in limited instances. Importantly, none of the detected levels exceeded safety thresholds – i.e., the tests indicated that the sediment was not hazardous.

L.A. Water Board took additional sediment samples from more than a dozen sites along the Santa Monica Bay the week of February 24<sup>th</sup> following significant rainstorms. Results are available on L.A. Water Board's website. None of the tested substances exceeded California or U.S. environmental quality standards for residential soils or background levels.

L.A. Water Board conducted a final round of sediment sampling at the end of April and posted the results on its website. None of the tested substances exceeded California or U.S. environmental quality standards for residential soils or background levels.

DBH met regularly with Federal, State, and local stakeholders for ongoing coordination and collaboration on this matter. A final meeting was held on August 21<sup>st</sup>.

Larger debris that washes up along the beach at Will Rogers and Topanga was picked up by maintenance crews daily. Initially, debris was piled up at various locations on the

beach until DBH secured approval to dispose of the collected material at the Calabasas Landfill. Since securing approval from the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts, DBH has disposed of more than 550 tons of debris at the Calabasas Landfill.

The fire-damaged maintenance facility and public restroom structures at Will Rogers State Beach (WRSB) were deemed total losses and were removed by US Army Corps of Engineers' contractors. A temporary office trailer was deployed at WRSB on November 4, 2025, in support of DBH operational staff assigned to the location. DBH continues to work with the County CEO's Office of Emergency Management, the California Office of Emergency Services, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency to pursue full funding and permanently rebuild facilities lost in the fire.

**Public Information:**

DBH's dedicated webpage at [www.beaches.lacounty.gov/wildfires](http://www.beaches.lacounty.gov/wildfires) remains online to ensure members of the public can continue to access the information.

**Ongoing Need:**

The actions DBH has taken were successful in accommodating the operational needs of the stakeholders involved in the cleanup and fire damage restoration. The emergency measures taken by your Board should be maintained while rebuilding activities continue.

GJ:AC

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