

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR JANICE HAHN

Economic Relief for Small Businesses/Concessionaires of County-Owned and County-Operated Park and Recreational Facilities

On March 4, 2020, the County of Los Angeles (County) Health Officer issued a Declaration of a Public Health Emergency and the Chair of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Board) issued a Proclamation of a Local Emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic. On March 19, 2020, pursuant to California Government Code Section 8550 et. seq., and Los Angeles County Code Section 2.68.150, the Chair of the Board issued a ‘Safer at Home’ Executive Order temporarily closing non-essential businesses and prohibiting gatherings of 10 or more people. Subsequently, under the County Department of Public Health’s Recovery Framework, some non-essential businesses reopened beginning in May 2020, with restrictions and safety protocols in place.

The County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation (Department) has a long-standing commitment to promote and partner with the small business community to support the dynamic and vast park amenities and services provided in Los Angeles County Parks. Concessionaires, some of which are small businesses, provide access to

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specialized recreation activities, services and community benefit programming at local and regional parks. Concessionaires operate equestrian facilities, trap and skeet, archery and camping/RV facilities, recreational vehicle park, outdoor recreation shooting range(s), BMX/bike park, tennis centers, bait, boat and bike rentals, concession stands and others park services and amenities.

Due to the public health emergency, the 'Safer at Home' Executive Order, the closure of non-essential businesses and Public Health restrictions, the Department's small businesses/concessionaires continued their contract obligations to the Department to provide maintenance and security while not being able to operate and generate revenue. Like many individuals and businesses throughout the County and elsewhere, they have suffered unexpected income loss. While some of these small businesses/concessionaires have reopened their operations, they continue to experience economic hardship due to business closures, increase costs for PPE, limitation in user capacity due to physical distancing requirements, and reduced consumer demand, resulting in an inability of many of them to meet contractually required monthly rent payments and other obligations.

The County, through DPR, needs to implement appropriate economic relief measures to help its partners mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and remain viable over the long term. Such measures may include, without limitation, the deferral, forbearance, abatement, and/or adjustment of minimum and other rent requirements, the deferral of required lump-sum contributions for capital improvement funds, the waiver of any late payment fees and the use of improvement funds. Upon consultation with County Counsel and Chief Executive Office, funds may be available in DPR's various non-golf

facility improvement funds to mitigate the impact of the economic relief on DPR's Operating Budget.

I, THEREFORE MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Find that approval of the proposed actions is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), because the proposed actions are activities that are excluded from the definition of a project by Section 21065 of the Public Resources Code and Section 15378(b)(5) of the CEQA Guidelines, as the proposed actions to provide short-term economic relief are administrative activities of government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.
2. Direct the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to evaluate, on a case-by-case basis, the requests for economic relief from non-golf operators, concessionaires, and lessees of County-owned and County-operated facilities, due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. Authorize the Director of Parks and Recreation, in consultation with the Chief Executive Office and County Counsel, to implement appropriate economic relief measures for up to 90 days from the day of this motion, to assist DPR's operators, concessionaires, and lessees in mitigating the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Such measures may include, without limitation, the deferral, forbearance, abatement, and/or adjustment of minimum and other rent requirements, the deferral of required lump-sum contributions for capital improvement funds, and the waiver of any late payment fees;
4. Delegate authority to the Director of Parks and Recreation, or her designee, to execute amendments, upon approval as to form by County Counsel, to concession, operating, and lease agreements to provide the appropriate economic relief measures.

5. Delegate authority to the Director of Parks and Recreation, or her designee, to execute amendments, upon approval as to form by County Counsel, to concession, operating, and lease agreements to utilize non-golf improvement funds, which include without limitation, Capital Improvement Funds, currently deposited in various DPR accounts, to mitigate the impact of the economic relief to DPR's Operating Budget.

6. Direct DPR to report back to the Board in 90 days regarding all measures implemented during the period specified herein and recommendations for additional relief thereafter, if appropriate.

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