

**REVISED MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HOLLY J. MITCHELL  
AND SHIELA KUEHL**

April 5, 2022

**Criteria To Ensure Equitable and Sustainable Outcomes in Federal and State  
Infrastructure Funding**

In November 2021, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) passed, which provided the County of Los Angeles (County) with a once in a generation opportunity to advance its critical priorities of equity, sustainability, and workforce opportunities. The County and its departments must look to previous plans and policies adopted by the Board of Supervisors (Board) to guide infrastructure priorities, especially for its unincorporated communities.

On August 6, 2019, the Board adopted the “[OurCounty Sustainability Plan](#)” motion, which identified the County’s sustainability priorities and centered its approach on equity. The projects, programs, and priorities outlined in this plan mapped out a future where the County would base all actions on equity-informed principles. It was an ambitious strategy for combatting the worst outcomes of environmental degradation and the racial inequities that come with it.

On July 21, 2020, the Board also adopted the “[Anti-Racism, Diversity and Inclusion](#)” motion, which created an initiative that outlined an anti-racist agenda that guides the Board’s commitment to delivering services with an equity lens. The motion recognized, affirmed, and declared that racism is a matter of public health in the County. Most importantly, the motion

- MORE -

MOTION

SOLIS \_\_\_\_\_

KUEHL \_\_\_\_\_

HAHN \_\_\_\_\_

BARGER \_\_\_\_\_

MITCHELL \_\_\_\_\_

established an eighth Board-directed priority to address racism and bias.

On August 10, 2021, in anticipation of the passage of the IIJA bill, the Board adopted the "[Addressing Infrastructure Inequity](#)" motion. This motion once again acknowledged that people of color faced disproportionate burdens, including suffering from generational smog and pollution, which kills more than 1,300 people each year. The motion was a direct response to generations of policy that left communities of color devastated, particularly the 1956 Federal Aid Highway Act, which left destroyed and bifurcated communities in its wake.

One month later, on September 15, 2021, the Board adopted the "[Moving Forward on Equitable Implementation of the American Rescue Plan](#)" motion. Understanding that the COVID-19 pandemic disproportionately impacted low-income and communities of color, the Board adopted the Chief Executive Officer's (CEO) recommended equity-based funding plan and called for ongoing accountability to ensure that American Rescue Plan funds targeted those communities and individuals with the greatest need.

With the passage of the IIJA bill in November 2021, the Board reemphasized its commitment to equity. Almost immediately after the IIJA bill passed, the Board adopted the "[Investments to Accelerate Digital Equity](#)" motion. Then in February 2022, the Board initiated a Climate Resilience Initiative to increase the County's capacity to address climate hazards and reduce climate disparities. IIJA represents a milestone achievement and offers life-changing funding to increase both broadband access and climate resilient infrastructure. These motions ensured that future allocations would be targeted towards historically marginalized and under-resourced communities.

Going forward, all levels of the County's work and engagement with State and Federal entities should represent the Board's ongoing commitment to equity, sustainability, and workforce development. These priorities must be reflected in the County's infrastructure projects, which can alter the built environment for generations. This motion directs the CEO and the Director of the Department of Public Works to execute a strategy for pursuing infrastructure project funding that aligns with the previously adopted Board values and priorities.

**I WE THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

1. Direct the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), in collaboration with the Chief Sustainability Office (CSO), the Directors of the Departments of Public Works (DPW), Internal Services (ISD), Economic and Workforce Development

Department (EWDD) and other impacted departments, to launch the Infrastructure Initiative. The objective of the Infrastructure Initiative will be to maximize the County's share of federal infrastructure spending available through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for regional and unincorporated areas, with an emphasis on projects that advance the Board of Supervisor's (Board) equity, sustainability, and climate resilience goals.

2. Direct the CEO, in collaboration with the Directors of DPW, ISD, and other impacted departments to:
  - a. Develop a governance plan to ensure that the County's process for identifying, evaluating, scoring, and requesting funding for project proposals is coordinated, and that funding requests reflect the priorities of the Board (especially around equity, sustainability, and resilience). The governance plan must also ensure that departments understand the opportunities as well as their roles and obligations under the Infrastructure Initiative. In addition to other plan components approved by the CEO, including departmental roles and responsibilities, the governance plan will include the following:
    - i. Within level one of the governance plan, the CEO will serve as the lead County agency responsible for overseeing the development and implementation of the Infrastructure Initiative, as well as ongoing monitoring, central data gathering and analysis, and regular reporting.
    - ii. Within level two of the governance plan, DPW will serve as the lead agency responsible for identifying and developing funding proposals for infrastructure projects for the unincorporated area and cultivating regional infrastructure projects in collaboration with all Infrastructure LA partners, who are a coalition of public entities seeking to collaborate on regional infrastructure opportunities now available through IJJA, and include Los Angeles Transportation Metropolitan Authority, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts, City of Los Angeles Sanitation districts, and the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. ISD will serve as the lead agency responsible

- for identifying and developing funding proposals for digital divide projects for the unincorporated area and for the region in collaboration with regional stakeholders.
- iii. Within level three of the governance plan, the CEO will identify County departments and agencies which must provide critical support to ensure that priority County projects receive funding and are implemented, including but not limited to the Departments of Beaches and Harbors, Consumer and Business Affairs, Public Health, and Regional Planning, EWDD, and the Los Angeles County Development Authority.
- b. In collaboration with the CSO, the Climate Resilience Office (CEO), the Executive Director of the Antiracism, Diversity and Inclusion Initiative (ARDI), and departmental members of the County Healthy Design Workgroup, develop a standardized scoring methodology to evaluate funding opportunities and proposed projects identified through the governance plan. The scoring methodology must, at a minimum, incorporate the Board's sustainability and equity goals, leverage the equity principles and funding formula developed by ARDI to implement the American Rescue Plan Phase One Spending Plan approved by the Board on July 27, 2021, and identify those projects that are critically needed to preserve the health and safety of County residents and the environment, taking into consideration opportunities to prioritize water, housing, and transportation projects. The scoring methodology should also consider workforce development opportunities, regional and local economic development potential, job creation, and other tangible and intangible benefits.
- c. Establish appropriate processes, including but not limited to data tracking and regular reporting, to effectively manage the Infrastructure Initiative and ensure transparency and accountability.
- d. Prepare an action plan with short term, annual, and five-year time horizons to implement and maintain the Infrastructure Initiative. The action plan should be a "living document" that is refreshed regularly to ensure cohesive

and active planning and implementation. The action plan should incorporate, among other things:

- i. Multilingual, culturally competent communications about the Infrastructure Initiative, including public-facing reporting and accountability, community benefits associated with upcoming projects, and opportunities for community input;
  - ii. A strategy to ensure that local business enterprises are aware of and able to compete effectively for available contracting opportunities;
  - iii. Legislative advocacy opportunities to influence the allocation of funds or the development of applicable regulations; and
  - iv. Short-term and long-term support for departments seeking funding opportunities through competitive grant applications.
3. Authorize the CEO to retain consultants as needed to support the development and implementation of the Infrastructure Initiative.
  4. Direct the CEO, in collaboration with the departmental stakeholders identified above (CSO, DPW, ISD, and EWDD, to report back in writing in 90 days with a final governance plan and action plan as well as a status update on the above directives in 45 days. In addition, after considering the Infrastructure Initiative's workstreams and timelines, the 90-day report should recommend a regular reporting interval that ensures substantive and timely reports to the Board on the Infrastructure Initiative's progress.

# # #

(KS/LO/CT/LM)