

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HOLLY J. MITCHELL

October 4, 2022

L.A. County Support for the White House Talent Pipeline Challenge and the Equity in Infrastructure Pledge

On June 17, 2022, the Biden-Harris Administration launched the *Talent Pipeline Challenge (Challenge): Supporting Employer Investments in Equitable Workforce Development for Infrastructure Jobs*. The Challenge is a nationwide call to action to make tangible commitments that support equitable workforce development in three critical infrastructure sectors: Broadband, Construction, and Electrification. In particular, the Challenge calls on State and Local Governments to leverage the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to support pandemic-impacted workers and use Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) grant funding and Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act dollars to support infrastructure projects and project labor needs. The full text of the Challenge is available [here](#).

Similarly, five founding agencies engaged in the delivery of critical infrastructure and transportation services – the Chicago Transit Authority, Denver International Airport, the Port of Long Beach, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, and the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority – by launching the *Equity in Infrastructure Pledge (Pledge)*. This Pledge “exists to improve public contracting practices by creating more opportunities for Historically Underutilized Businesses to build

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generational wealth and reduce the racial wealth gap by creating more prime, joint venture and equity contracting opportunities for these firms.” The full text of the Pledge is available [here](#). By signing this pledge, public agencies are committing to create a more equitable contracting process, allow hardy reached communities to access public infrastructure dollars, and build wealth for those that have been systematically excluded.

Both the Challenge and the Pledge are consistent with the Los Angeles County (County) Board of Supervisors’ (Board) vision, goals, and initiatives, which include the following actions:

- The unanimous adoption of a motion titled "[Addressing Infrastructure Inequity](#),” in August 2021, which directed County Departments, including the Department of Public Works to set a national example of Antiracist infrastructure investments;
- The establishment of relevant Board priorities such as Sustainability, Anti-Racism, Diversity, and Inclusion (ARDI), the Poverty Alleviation Initiative, and the Digital Divide Initiative;
- The investment of \$1.9 billion in equity-focused ARPA funds, including employment and training services focused on disadvantaged communities and priority populations;
- The launch of InfrastructureLA to maximize the County’s share of BIL funds with a focus on projects that advance equity, sustainability, and climate resilience goals. This initiative provides regional coordination and governance around identifying, evaluating, scoring and requesting funding for infrastructure projects, while developing a standardized methodology that builds on the equity criteria and approach created by ARDI through the ARPA process and considers workforce development opportunities, economic development potential, job creation, and other benefits;
- Commitment to Equity in County Contracting and the work to stand up an Office of Contracting Equity within the Internal Services Department as supported by the Equity in County Contracting Workgroup;
- The adoption of updated policies related to Fair Chance Employment, Countywide Local and Targeted Worker Hiring, and Community Benefits for Economic

Development Projects;

- The launch of a new Department of Economic Opportunity, in July 2022 that will play a leadership role in promoting job quality and equity across ARPA and BIL investments.

As the largest County in the United States, it is important that the County position itself as a leader in creating high-quality, green infrastructure jobs as we recover from our dual public health and economic pandemic. Therefore, we must champion national efforts to build local and regional support to leverage historic Federal funding opportunities for equitable investments in infrastructure and workforce development.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Direct the Directors of the Departments of Public Works (DPW) and Economic Opportunity (DEO), with support from the Chief Executive Office's Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations Branch, to join the Talent Pipeline Challenge by taking the following steps:
 - a. Send a five-signature letter to the Biden-Harris Administration to sign onto the Challenge.
 - b. Collaborate with the Biden-Harris Administration on public communications and other steps necessary to effectuate the County's support and endorsement of the Challenge, including leveraging the work of the County's High-Road talent development pipeline and work of InfrastructureLA.
2. Direct the Directors of DPW and DEO, with support from the Chief Executive Office's Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations Branch, to join the founding agencies in signing the Equity in Infrastructure Pledge by taking the following actions:
 - a. Take the pledge on behalf of the County of Los Angeles.
 - b. Send a five-signature letter to the Equity in Infrastructure Project (EIP) leadership, including the EIP Advisory Council, the White House, and the U.S. Department of Transportation, to support and endorse the pledge publicly.

- c. Collaborate with the Equity in Infrastructure Project Advisory Council to put forward public communications or other steps necessary to effectuate the County's partnership in the EIP.
- d. Instruct the Director of DPW to track the number, size and percentage of Historically Underutilized Businesses growing to prime contractors as prioritized by the Pledge.

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