

# PUBLIC REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

# **Correspondence Received**

			The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:					
Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments				
9.		Favor	Genevieve M Clavreul					
			Hector Ramirez					
			Jonathan Pacheco Bell					
			Denise Kniter	We are writing to express our strong opposition to the Hotel Worker Protection Motion, as written. Los Angeles has already lost business conferences, conventions, and other travel, to neighboring cities due to our inability to compete financially in these market conditions. In the Tourism ecosystem, this reverberates into our communities and disproportionately effects small businesses, who are least able to weather a decrease in expected revenue.  The loss in Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) is already apparent in the city of Los Angeles, and is a significant concern for the 2024 Budget cycle. Numerous services, including homelessness outreach and support services, rely on the funding provided by TOT. We cannot undermine our county, our region, our small businesses, and our working families by replicating an ordinance that has harmed the city. The LA ordinance has halted new construction, shrunk service, and cost work and contracts to our regional economy. izFed supports the amendments outlined by the Hotel Association of Los Angeles, including changing the square footage limitations to 7500 square feet for hotels with fewer than forty guest rooms, and 6500 square feet for hotels with forty of more guest rooms.  We appreciate your consideration of our remarks, and strongly urge you to incorporate amendments into the current motion language. For questions on our position, please contact Denise.Kniter@bizfed.org				
			Emily Miller					
			Tim Riley					
		Other	Chase Hardage	Proposal needs further study to consider the heavy financial impact on those currently with ground leases with the County of Los Angeles				
			Janet Zaldua	On behalf of Marina del Rey Tourism Board, we request a delay proceeding with drafting the ordinance until further evaluation is conducted related to the requirements. We also request clarification from the Board regarding the unreasonable rush on the timeline and to identify the compelling reasons driving this unwarranted sense of urgency.				
		Item Total	8					

As of: 8/9/2023 8:17:30 AM

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

HILDA L. SOLIS HOLLY J. MITCHELL LINDSEY P.HORVATH JANICE HAHN KATHRYN BARGER

Grand Total 8
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As of: 8/9/2023 8:17:30 AM



August 5, 2023

Supervisor Lindesy Horvath 500 W. Temple Street. Room 821 Los Angeles, CA 90012

### RE: Agenda Item 9 - Hotel Worker Protections - OPPOSE

Dear Supervisor Horvath,

We are writing you on behalf of BizFed, the Los Angeles County Business Federation, an alliance of over 235 diverse business associations who represent 420,000 employers with 5 million employees in Los Angeles County. We are writing to express our strong opposition to the Hotel Worker Protection Motion, as written.

The California Hotel & Lodging Association (CHLA) has since engaged Tourism Economics to analyze the economic impact of the Hotel Worker Protection Ordinance (HWPO) that took effect in August 2022 within the City of Los Angeles, CA. These impacts are expected to result in broader losses to the Los Angeles economy. Specifically, we anticipate that the loss of visitor spending and loss of hotel capital spending will result in the: loss of 5,856 jobs in other sectors of the economy, including the loss of 1,542 direct hotel construction and renovation jobs. Overall, there is an estimated \$51.5 million decrease in state and local tax revenues in 2025 as a result of HWPO.

Los Angeles has already lost business conferences, conventions, and other travel, to neighboring cities due to our inability to compete financially in these market conditions. In the Tourism ecosystem, this reverberates into our communities and disproportionately effects small businesses, who are least able to weather a decrease in expected revenue.

The loss in Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) is already apparent in the city of Los Angeles, and is a significant concern for the 2024 Budget cycle. Numerous services, including homelessness outreach and support services, rely on the funding provided by TOT. We cannot undermine our county, our region, our small businesses, and our working families by replicating an ordinance that has harmed the city. The LA ordinance has halted new construction, shrunk service, and cost work and contracts to our regional economy.

BizFed supports the amendments outlined by the Hotel Association of Los Angeles, including changing the square footage limitations to 7500 square feet for hotels with fewer than forty quest rooms, and 6500 square feet for hotels with forty of more quest rooms.

We appreciate your consideration of our remarks, and strongly urge you to incorporate amendments into the current motion language. For questions on our position, please contact Denise.Kniter@bizfed.org

Sincerely,

John Musella BizFed Chair

David Fleming

BizFed Founding Chair Santa Clarita Valley Chamber

Tracy Hernandez BizFed Founding CEO David Englin BizFed President

## **BizFed Association Members**

7-11 Franchise Owners Association for SoCal **Action Apartment Association** Alhambra Chamber **American Beverage Association Antelope Valley Chamber formerly Lancaster Chamber of Commerce** Apartment Association of Greater Los Angeles Apartment Association, CA Southern Cities, Inc. **Arcadia Association of Realtors** AREAA North Los Angeles SFV SCV Armenian Trade & Labor Association Arts District Los Angeles Associated Builders & Contractors SoCal (ABC **Association of Club Executives** Association of Independent Commercial Producers AV Edge California **Azusa Chamber Beverly Hills Bar Association Beverly Hills Chamber** BioCom **Black Business Association** BNT4SUCCESS **Bowling Centers of SoCal Boyle Heights Chamber of Commerce Building Industry Association - LA/Ventura** Building Industry Association of Southern California **Building Industry Association- Baldyview** Building Owners & Managers Association of Greater Los Angeles **Burbank Association of Realtors Burbank Chamber of Commerce Business and Industry Council for Emergency Planning and Preparedness Business Resource Group CABIA California Business and Industrial Alliance Calabasas Chamber of Commerce** CalAsian Chamber CalChamber California Apartment Association- Los **California Asphalt Pavement Association** California Bankers Association **California Business Properties** California Business Roundtable **California Cannabis Industry Association California Cleaners Association California Contract Cities Association California Fashion Association California Gaming Association California Grocers Association California Hispanic Chamber** California Hotel & Lodging Association California Independent Oil Marketers Association (CIOMA) **California Independent Petroleum Association California Life Sciences Association** California Manufacturers & Technology Association **California Metals Coalition California Natural Gas Producers Association California Restaurant Association California Retailers Association California Self Storage Association** California Small Business Alliance California Society of CPAs - Los Angeles Chapter California Trucking Association+ **Carson Chamber of Commerce Carson Dominguez Employers Alliance Central City Association Century City Chamber of Commerce Cerritos Regional Chamber of Commerce** Chatsworth Porter Ranch Chamber of Commerce **Citrus Valley Association of Realtors Claremont Chamber of Commerce** Commercial Industrial Council/Chamber of Commerce **Compton Chamber of Commerce** Construction Industry Air Quality Coalition

Construction Industry Coalition on Water

Council on Infil Builders

**Crenshaw Chamber of Commerce** 

**Culver City Chamber of Commerce Downey Association of REALTORS Downey Chamber of Commerce Downtown Alhambra Business Association Downtown Center Business Improvement** District **Downtown Long Beach Alliance** El Monte/South El Monte Chamber **El Segundo Chamber of Commerce Employers Group Encino Chamber of Commerce Energy Independence Now EIN Engineering Contractor's Association** FastLink DTLA **Filipino American Chamber of Commerce** Friends of Hollywood Central Park **FuturePorts Gardena Valley Chamber** Gateway to LA **Glendale Association of Realtors Glendale Chamber Glendora Chamber Greater Antelope Valley AOR Greater Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce Greater Lakewood Chamber of Commerce Greater Leimert Park Crenshaw Corridor BID Greater Los Angeles African American Chamber Greater Los Angeles Association of Realtors** Greater Los Angeles New Car Dealers Association **Greater San Fernando Valley Chamber** Harbor Association of Industry and Commerce **Harbor Trucking Association Historic Core BID of Downtown Los Angeles Hollywood Chamber Hong Kong Trade Development Council Hospital Association of Southern California Hotel Association of Los Angeles Huntington Park Area Chamber of Commerce** ICBWA- International Cannabis Women Business Association **Independent Cities Association Industrial Environmental Association Industry Business Council** Inglewood Board of Real Estate **Inland Empire Economic Partnership International Franchise Association Irwindale Chamber of Commerce Kombucha Brewers International** La Cañada Flintridge Chamber **LA Coalition LA Fashion District BID LA South Chamber of Commerce Larchmont Boulevard Association Latin Business Association Latino Food Industry Association Latino Restaurant Association LAX Coastal Area Chamber** League of California Cities Long Beach Area Chamber Long Beach Economic Partnership Los Angeles Area Chamber **Los Angeles Economic Development Center** Los Angeles Gateway Chamber of Commerce Los Angeles Latino Chamber Los Angeles LGBTQ Chamber of Commerce Los Angeles Parking Association Los Angeles World Affairs Council/Town Hall Los Angeles MADIA **Malibu Chamber of Commerce Manhattan Beach Chamber of Commerce Marketplace Industry Association** Monrovia Chamber Motion Picture Association of America, Inc. MoveLA **MultiCultural Business Alliance NAIOP Southern California Chapter** NAREIT **National Association of Minority Contractors National Association of Tobacco Outlets National Association of Women Business** 

National Federation of Independent Business Owners California National Hookah **National Latina Business Women's** Association **Orange County Business Council** Orange County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce **Pacific Merchant Shipping Association Panorama City Chamber of Commerce** Paramount Chamber of Commerce **Pasadena Chamber** Pasadena Foothills Association of Realtors **PGA** PhRMA Pico Rivera Chamber of Commerce Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California Pomona Chamber Rancho Southeast REALTORS ReadyNation California Recording Industry Association of America Regional CAL Black Chamber, SVF Regional Hispanic Chambers San Dimas Chamber of Commerce San Gabriel Chamber of Commerce San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership San Pedro Peninsula Chamber Santa Clarita Valley Chamber Santa Clarita Valley Economic Development Corp. Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce **Sherman Oaks Chamber South Bay Association of Chambers** South Bay Association of Realtors **South Gate Chamber of Commerce South Pasadena Chamber of Commerce Southern California Contractors Association** Southern California Golf Association **Southern California Grantmakers Southern California Leadership Council** Southern California Minority Suppliers Development Council Inc. Southern California Water Coalition **Southland Regional Association of Realtors** Sportfishing Association of California Structural Engineers Association of Southern California Sunland/Tujunga Chamber **Sunset Strip Business Improvement District Torrance Area Chamber Tri-Counties Association of Realtors United Cannabis Business Association** United Chambers - San Fernando Valley & United States-Mexico Chamber Unmanned Autonomous Vehicle Systems Association US Green Building Council **US Resiliency Council** Valley Economic Alliance, The Valley Industry & Commerce Association
Venice Chamber of Commerce Vermont Slauson Economic Development Corporation Veterans in Business **Vietnamese American Chamber Warner Center Association West Hollywood Chamber** West Hollywood Design District **West Los Angeles Chamber** West San Gabriel Valley Association of Realtors West Valley/Warner Center Chamber **Western Electrical Contractors Association Western Manufactured Housing Association Western States Petroleum Association Westside Council of Chambers Whittier Chamber of Commerce** Wilmington Chamber **Women's Business Enterprise Council World Trade Center** 

National Association of Women Business Owners - LA

National Association of Women Business Owners- California

### Hotel operator comments gathered during Tourism Economics research

"For most properties it's about a doubling of labor costs in housekeeping. Many room attendants going from cleaning 14 rooms a day to 8 or 9, and then you need to add a manager position for oversight/record keeping, and double the number of carts/room cleaning products."

"Here housekeepers did 15 rooms a day previously, now it's 7 rooms a day. Where we can, we pay the double time and they do 16 rooms.... But the staff only want to do that once or twice a week because it's physically tiring."

[Cost increases represent an impact of \$3.4 million annually at one large hotel, and \$3.8 million annually at another. All in increased labor and payroll costs.]

"Our ADR would need to increase \$8 to cover the cost. We would lose too much demand with that increase. So an ADR increase alone won't cover it."

"We are charging a fee. We reevaluate it every quarter. Our cost POR for the four quarter was \$13 higher, if you add the fee and tax we're charging \$16 more."

"There are unintended consequences of this. If you want to build more hotels, this is a disincentive because they have driven the cost much more than the model can work."

"This has negatively impacted our financials by raising labor costs substantially during an already difficult time coming out of the yearly losses caused by the pandemic and also dealing with a depleted labor market - hotels did not have an opportunity to be a part of the due diligence and provide feedback before this was forcibly and irresponsibly implemented."

"Before the ordinance, room attendant cleaned 10-11 suites. Now they can only clean 4 suites."

"Due to the ordinance our Rooms cost per occupied room has increased significantly." [selected 25% increase regarding direct increase in cost]

"Our room attendants do not like it. It has extra cost not to mention the record keeping nightmare."

"The ordinance hurts the business. The hotel cannot provide same level of service to the guests which makes them look elsewhere. Hotel suffers loss due to reduced business and increased payroll"

"Biggest challenge has been to hire staffing in housekeeping to accommodate the stayover service. Currently running with 70% Temp Workers which is far from ideal. We've increased room attendants starting wages to \$22/hr, lowered their insurance rates and added new benefits... still not getting applicants interested or who can pass eVerify."

"Rooms were put OOO due to the ordinance due to never having enough cleaning staff due to the requirements (that mirror the Union's closely). The hotel struggled. And it wasn't upper management that had to face the angry guests. It was those that were barely being paid \$20 an hour."

"We had to add one Housekeeping Clerk just to process the extremely complicated daily room assignments ensuring to be in compliance. We had to purchase additional Housekeeping Carts and Vacuum Cleaners at cost of \$14,900.

Due to general national staffing shortages and the extreme local demand for housekeeping staff due to this ordinance, we don't foresee to be able to staff sufficiently in the near future."

Per the City of Los Angeles Tourism Master Plan – Page 35: "Los Angeles should also monitor and develop the quality of the existing supply in order to promote repeat visitation to the destination by leisure and business travelers alike. Research for the Tourism Master Plan identified that only 48% of hotels in the Greater Los Angeles area are rated by visitors as very good or excellent in TripAdvisor—placing Los Angeles behind 11 other competing destinations."





August 7, 2023,

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors:

The California Hospitality United Coalition represents social justice organizations, small businesses, and local and minority chambers of commerce as a united coalition protecting hospitality jobs and strengthening the economy. We are writing to you regarding Agenda Item 9: Hotel Worker Protection Ordinance (HWPO).

The HWPO has two main elements. The first element of the ordinance mandates that hotels provide panic buttons for housekeepers and other employees who work alone. You will find broad agreement within the hospitality industry that panic buttons are a critical element for employee safety which is why many hotels already voluntarily provide them to their employees. A standalone ordinance that creates uniformity across the county for panic buttons in hotels would be broadly supported.

However, the second element that creates square footage cleaning limitations for hotel housekeepers will slash productivity at a time when wages are increasing. Less work for more pay is not economically sustainable. In fact, numerous economic studies have demonstrated that these severe workload limitations have significant unintended consequences that damage the broader economy, destroy jobs, and reduce local tax revenue.

Oxford Economics analyzed the impact of a similar ordinance passed by the city of Los Angeles last year. The study found that their HWPO results in an annual:

- 5.0% decline in occupied hotel room nights
- \$603.3 million of lost direct economic activity
- \$335.8 million less visitor spending
- \$267.5 million less hotel capital spending
- \$51.5 million decrease in state and local tax revenues
- 5,856 lost jobs

When the cost of living is at an all-time high and homelessness continues to rise, Los Angeles County cannot afford destructive policies that will weaken our economy and cost our communities jobs. Government mandated workload limitations should not be imposed without considering the consequences and consulting the businesses that will be impacted.

To reiterate, we urge the Board of Supervisors to amend the current proposal to create a standalone worker protection ordinance similar to the ordinance recently passed by Anaheim City Council. Additionally, we respectfully ask that you work with the hospitality industry to create a balanced policy solution with regard to hotel workload limitations.

Sincerely,

Lynn S. Mohrfeld, CAE

President & CEO, California Hotel & Lodging Association

Attached: The California Hospitality United Coalition member list

# The California Hospitality United Coalition

Together, we're Committed to Protecting California's Hospitality, Economy, and Jobs.

### **Chambers of Commerce**

Antelope Valley Chambers of Commerce

Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce

Brea Chamber of Commerce

**Burbank Chamber of Commerce** 

California Delta Chambers & Visitors Bureau

California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce

Century City Chamber of Commerce

Costa Mesa Chamber of Commerce

Culver City Chamber of Commerce

El Dorado County Chamber of Commerce

El Dorado Hills Chamber of Commerce

Garden Grove Chamber of Commerce

Greater Reedley Chamber of Commerce

Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce

Greater San Fernando Valley Chamber of Commerce

Hispanic Chambers of Commerce San Francisco

Inland Empire Regional Chamber of Commerce

La Canada Flintridge Chamber of Commerce

Lodi Chamber of Commerce

Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce

Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce

Malibu Pacific Palisades Chamber of Commerce

Oceanside Chamber of Commerce

Petaluma Area Chamber of Commerce

Pomona Chamber of Commerce

Rancho Cordova Area Chamber of Commerce

Rancho Mirage Chamber of Commerce

Redondo Beach Chamber of Commerce

Regional Chamber of Commerce San Gabriel Valley

Regional Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

San Francisco Filipino American Chamber of Commerce

San Mateo Chamber of Commerce

San Pedro Chamber of Commerce

San Ramon Chamber of Commerce

Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce

Santee Chamber of Commerce

Silicon Valley Central Chamber & CVB

South Bay Association of Chambers of Commerce

Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce

Tulare Chamber of Commerce

Walnut Creek Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau

West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce

Westside Council of Chambers of Commerce

Yorba Linda Chamber Of Commerce

### **Hospitality**

California Restaurant Association

California Travel Association

Northeast Los Angeles Hotel Owners Association

Sonesta Camarillo

Taiwan Hotel and Motel Association of Southern California

The Greater Los Angeles Hospitality Association

Ventura County Lodging Association

American Hotel & Lodging Association

Asian American Hotel Owners Association

Bayside Hotel Group

Best Western Hotels and Resorts

Camarillo Hotel & Tourism Association

Hotel Council of San Francisco Hoteliers

### **Visitor Bureaus**

Visit Sacramento

Visit SLO CAL

Visit Stockton

Visit Vacaville

Visit Ventura

Yolo County Visitors Bureau/Visit Yolo

Destination Irvine

Greater Ontario Convention & Visitors Bureau

Marina del Rey Tourism Board

Travel Santa Ana

Visit Greater Palm Springs

### **Businesses & Taxpaver Groups**

California Retailers Association

California Taxpayer Protection Committee

California Taxpayers Coalition

Central Valley Taxpayers Assoc

San Diego Tax Fighters

Placer County Taxpayers Association

Seaside Taxpayers Association

AAHOA Director at Large Eastern Division

Asian Industry B2B

California Business and Industrial Alliance

California Business Properties Association

California Business Roundtable

Central City Association of Los Angeles

Fairmont Century Plaza

Inland Empire Economic Partnership

Los Angeles County Business Federation

National Federation of Independent Business

Orange County Business Council

**Protect Culver City** 

R Street Sacramento Partnership

The Hollywood Partnership

United Latinos Action

Valley Industry & Commerce Association West Ventura County Business Alliance



August 4, 2023

The Honorable Board of Supervisors County of Los Angeles 383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration 500 West Temple Street Los Angeles, California 90012

### Dear Supervisors:

On behalf of the hospitality businesses in Marina del Rey, the Marina del Rey Tourism Board respectfully requests that the County of Los Angeles withhold proceeding with drafting the Hotel Worker Protections ordinance as instructed in the recent motion by Supervisors Solis and Horvath, listed in Agenda Item #9.

Furthermore, we request that the Board considers instructing the County Counsel to reevaluate the workload limitations based on square footage requirements, as outlined in 1D of the proposed motion. A careful reassessment of increasing the square footage requirements can significantly contribute to a more equitable and workable framework for all parties involved.

Lastly, we request clarification from the Board regarding the unreasonable rush on the timeline and to identify the compelling reasons driving this unwarranted sense of urgency.

We appreciate the County's commitment to safeguarding the well-being of hotel employees and fostering a secure working environment. While we wholeheartedly share the goal of prioritizing staff safety, we would like to draw attention to the potential implications that the proposed requirements could have on existing and prospective hospitality tenants in Marina del Rey.

Specifically, it is essential for the County to consider the impact on housekeeping budgets, staffing levels, and overall operations within the hospitality businesses in the Marina, as well as the eventual cost transfer to hotel guests. This ordinance will not just marginally increase housekeeping expenses but will, in fact, more than double them. Such a substantial financial burden would be unsustainable for our tourism community and will lead to severe consequences for hotels in the Marina. Increasing costs by millions of dollars for a single property will push establishments to their limits, making it impossible for them to maintain their current staffing levels. The unfortunate result will be reduction in hours for hardworking staff members and loss of health benefits, leading to an adverse impact on their livelihoods and overall well-being.

We implore you to withhold drafting the ordinance and consider our input and collaboration. The requirements alone will significantly place a burden on hotels, particularly at a time when numerous hospitality businesses are already challenged by escalated labor and operational expenses stemming from labor shortages and the challenging process of pandemic recovery. While tourism was on the rebound in 2022, the number of visitors in 2023 is down throughout Los Angeles due to the resurgence of international travel options and the impact of inflation on consumer spending behavior.

We firmly believe that a balanced and thoughtful approach to decision-making, one that addresses the concerns of both hotel workers and hotel operators, will pave the way for an ordinance that reflects the best interests of our hospitality workers and business community. As elected officials, we trust that you will carefully consider these aspects before making any final decisions. The Marina del Rey Tourism Board remains open to engaging in constructive dialogue to find a mutually beneficial solution.

Sincerely,

Janet Zaldua

CEO

Marina del Rey Tourism Board

# Hardage Hospitality 12555 High Bluff Drive, Suite 330 San Diego, CA 92130

August 7, 2023

Dear Supervisors,

I represent the Courtyard and Residence Inn in Marina del Rey. We ask that you consider further the impacts of the Hotel Worker Protection Ordinance as proposed. The current proposal would be extremely problematic in regards to the limitation of cleaning rooms on a per square foot basis. These are not merely marginal cost increases, and in some instances would nearly double our housekeeping budget. The housekeeping department is already the largest in hotel operations and would be place an extremely heavy burden on the finances of the hotel. Furthermore, given the larger room sizes of our Residence Inn tower, we would be even more severely impacted by the Ordnance as proposed. This would ultimately result in a reduction of services that would be unfair to not only our associates, but the many guests that visit us each year.

We request that the Board and County Counsel consider changing the required square footage as follows: increase from 4,500 to 7,500 square feet of floor space for hotels with fewer than forty guest rooms; and increase from 3,500 to 6,500 square feet for hotels with forty of more guest rooms as outlined in Section 1D of Agenda Item #9.

In addition, it is already a Marriott brand standard to provide our housekeeping staff with Panic Buttons. We have already done so and support the protection of our associates in guest rooms.

With regards to the proposed housekeeping training, we ask that this part of the motion be reconsidered as well. Marriott has spent decades developing the highest standards of guest service for our associates, and it would seem unnecessary to send our staff to an outside origination that may not follow these same high standards. In order to avoid any confusion this would bring our associates in performing their daily duties, we request that the outside training organization be presented as an option and not a requirement.

Please consider the impact on housekeeping budgets, staffing levels, and overall operations within the hospitality businesses, as well as the eventual cost transfer to hotel guests.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Chase Hardage

Vice President of Operations

# CITY OF LOS ANGELES HOTEL WORKER PROTECTION ORDINANCE ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS

Prepared for: California Hotel & Lodging Association March 14, 2023



# **About Tourism Economics**



AN OXFORD ECONOMICS COMPANY

Tourism Economics is an Oxford Economics company with a singular objective: combine an understanding of tourism dynamics with rigorous economics in order to answer the most important questions facing destinations, developers, and strategic planners. By combining quantitative methods with industry knowledge, Tourism economics designs custom market strategies, destination recovery plans, tourism forecasting models, tourism policy analysis and economic impact studies.

With over four decades of experience of our principal consultants, it is our passion to work as partners with our clients to achieve a destination's full potential.

Oxford Economics is one of the world's leading providers of economic analysis, forecasts and consulting advice. Founded in 1981 as a joint venture with Oxford University's business college, Oxford Economics enjoys a reputation for high quality, Quantitative analysis and evidence-based advice. For this, it draws on its own staff of more than 250 professional economists and analysts; a dedicated data analysis team; global modeling tools, and a range of partner institutions in Europe, the US and in the United Nations Project Link. Oxford economics has offices in London, Oxford, Dubai, Philadelphia and Belfast.

For more information:

info@tourismeconomics.com



# **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The California Hotel & Lodging Association (CHLA) engaged Tourism Economics to analyze the economic impact of the Hotel Worker Protection Ordinance (HWPO) that took effect in August 2022 within the City of Los Angeles, CA. We developed an understanding of the HWPO and its impact on hotel operations and prepared an economic model to quantify its expected impacts.

### **Key Observations**

- Overall, in 2025 as an example year, we estimate that with the HWPO, Los Angeles will experience:
  - 6.8% higher hotel average daily rate (ADR)
  - 5.0% decline in occupied hotel room nights
  - \$603.3 million of lost direct economic activity, including \$335.8 million less visitor spending and \$267.5 million less hotel capital spending
- These impacts are expected to result in broader losses to the Los Angeles economy. Specifically, we anticipate that the loss of visitor spending and loss of hotel capital spending will result in the:
  - loss of 5,856 jobs in other sectors of the economy,
  - including the loss of 1,542 direct hotel construction and renovation jobs.
- Overall, we estimate a:
  - \$51.5 million decrease in state and local tax revenues in 2025 as a result of HWPO, reflecting a \$4.8 million

- increase in lodging taxes due to higher room rates but declines in other tax categories.
- The HWPO contains several provisions. Of these, the most significant impact to hotel operations results from workload limitations for room attendants that restrict the amount of space they are permitted to clean each day at standard pay. Hotels have adjusted operations in response to these restrictions, such as by hiring additional staff or/or paying twice standard pay.
- Overall, as a result of HWPO, hotels are experiencing an approximate doubling of housekeeping labor costs (room attendants and managers).
- We quantified how we anticipate this cost increase will impact the Los Angeles hotel market over time, relative to an alternative scenario without the HWPO. We have used 2025 as a summary year, allowing several years for hotel operations and customer behavior to adapt to the change.
- In our analysis, we anticipate that hotels will continue to respond to higher labor costs per occupied room by: (1) increasing ADR and fees, (2) reducing services and staff in other departments, (3) scaling back planned renovations. We also anticipate that the development of new hotels in the market will slow.
- As travelers, including meetings and groups, respond to higher room rates and reduced services, we expect hotel demand will decline relative to the alternative scenario without the HWPO, resulting in less visitor spending in Los Angeles.



# **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The accompanying figures illustrate impacts due to the HWPO relative to an alternative scenario without the ordinance. We have used 2025 as an example year.

### Total lost economic output (business sales)

City of Los Angeles, compared to scenario without HWPO, in millions



Source: Tourism Economics

Source: Tourism Economics

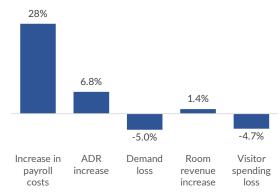
### Total lost jobs and wages in 2025

City of Los Angeles, compared to scenario without HWPO, \$ in millions



### **HWPO** impact to tourism in 2025

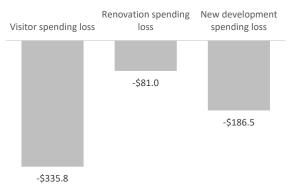
City of Los Angeles, % compared to scenario without ordinance



Source: STR. Tourism Economics

## **HWPO** impact in 2025

City of Los Angeles, in millions





# **ORDINANCE SUMMARY**

On June 28, 2022, the Los Angeles City Council approved a new Hotel Worker Protection Ordinance (HWPO) that went into effect on August 12, 2022. The HWPO contains several provisions. Of these, the most significant impact to hotel operations results from workload limitations for room attendants. The restrictions include limits on the amount of guest room space that room attendants may clean in a day. These limits are reduced in certain cases, such as attendants assigned rooms to clean that are on several different floors.

Hotels are responding to these restrictions in a variety of ways. In some cases, room attendants are cleaning more rooms than the limitation, and as stipulated in HWPO, hotels are paying staff double the standard rate for each day. The double rate of pay applies to every hour worked that day including hours worked before square footage limit has been reached. In other cases, hotels are hiring additional room attendants, while looking to reduce other staffing at the property. Some properties are taking rooms out of inventory temporarily due to lack of staffing.

The following are measures from the new Hotel Worker Protection Ordinance.

- 1) installation of panic buttons
- 2) on-call security for hotels with 60+ rooms or annual manager training with fewer than 60 rooms,
- 3) leave for employees who activate a panic button
- 4) documented attendance for annual staff training regarding maintenance and use of panic buttons
- 5) signage installation

### **Daily Square Footage Limitations**

- Hotels with less than 45 rooms: Does not apply
- Hotels with 45-60 rooms: 4,000 square feet
- Hotels with 60+ rooms: 3,500 square feet

### Square Footage Reductions (500 square feet each)

- Each special attention room or room with rollout bed assigned in excess of five rooms
- Each additional building assigned
- Each additional floor assigned in excess of two floors



# **ORDINANCE SCOPE**

The Citywide Hotel Worker Minimum Wage Ordinance was also amended. Previously, the elevated minimum wage and time off requirements for hotel workers only applied to workers in hotels with 150+ guest rooms. Hotels with 60+ rooms are now included under the same requirements, thus expanding the minimum wage requirement to cover an additional 17% of Los Angeles hotels.

This is effectively a minimum wage raise from \$16.04/hour to \$18.86/hour for that group among additional time off requirements. The hotel worker minimum wage will adjust annually with the City of Los Angeles minimum wage.

While 100% of hotels in the City of Los Angeles are affected by the HWPO measures related to panic buttons, 46% of hotels in Los Angeles (87% of all rooms) are now also affected by the square footage cleaning limitations.

# **Supply share of Los Angeles hotels**

Percent of Los Angeles market share

Rooms
13%
4%
14%
69%

Source: STR (February 2023)



# **HOTEL OPERATOR SURVEY**

The Hotel Association of Los Angeles fielded a survey of hotel operators in February 2023 to better understand operational impacts and general response to the HWPO.

Key results are summarized as follows. Each percentage reflects the share of hotel operators:

- 71% report they are not considering a renovation this year;
- 50% report they have postponed maintenance or renovations that otherwise would have occurred; and,
- 75% report they have already reduced staff, services, or taken other cost containment steps;
- 68% report already raising room rates or adding a fee;
- 82% report already adding or considering adding an additional fee specifically for this ordinance.

In summary, hotel operators have already been responding to the HWPO with multiple changes. Many of these changes include increasing rates or fees and/or decreasing services, acknowledging that one result will be fewer occupied rooms.



# IMPACT ANALYSIS

# **IMPACT ANALYSIS**

We prepared an analysis of impacts to the City of Los Angeles in a scenario with the HWPO as compared to an alternative scenario without HWPO.

### Approach

As part of this analysis:

- we reviewed the HWPO;
- held discussions with four teams of senior hotel operators in the City of Los Angeles that have been making operating changes in response to HWPO and that have been preparing financial budgets for future periods;
- reviewed written comments and survey responses provided by hotel operators;
- obtained hotel performance measures from STR, including historical benchmark data on hotel payroll expenses per occupied room; and,
- analyzed the scope of properties that will be affected by the HWPO room cleaning limitations.

We understand that union properties may arrange a HWPO waiver in connection with a collective bargaining agreement. However, we assumed that over time, as existing collective bargaining agreements are renegotiated, operating cost structures at union properties will also be impacted by HWPO, for example through competition with non-union properties for staff. As a result, over time HWPO is expected to result in higher operating costs for effectively all hotels in the City of Los Angeles.

### Analysis overview

Our analysis included four primary steps. We:

- 1. estimated hotel operating impacts of the HWPO;
- 2. estimated how occupied room nights and visitor spending would change in response to higher room rates and reduced services;
- 3. estimated how hotel renovation activity and new hotel construction would slow as a result of reduced operating cash flow; and,
- 4. quantified the economic impacts of reduced visitor spending and reduced hotel capital spending.



# **TOURISM IMPACT**

The following describes key aspects of our analysis. All changes refer to changes in the current situation with HWPO relative to an alternative scenario without HWPO. In the discussion we have focused on 2025 as an example year, as it allows time for hotel operating changes and traveler behavior to adjust.

### **Tourism impact**

- We estimate on average in the market that hotels will increase ADR by approximately \$14.65 (6.8%) by 2025 due to HWPO (through ADR increases or through added fees).
- As a result of higher ADR and reductions to service levels, renovations and construction, we expect a decrease of demand (occupied hotel room nights) of approximately 5.0%.
- With a 5.0% decrease in demand, we estimate a 4.7% decrease in visitor spending, equivalent to \$335.8 million less visitor spending in 2025.
- Higher ADR will discourage some travelers from staying in the
  City of Los Angeles or will cause them to reduce their length of
  stay. For example, planners for some meetings and group events
  are anticipated to select other markets that offer more
  competitive pricing. Some travelers will select other destinations
  or choose to stay at hotels that are outside the City of Los
  Angeles. Other guests may choose to shorten their trip.
- Reduced service levels as hotels seek to cut other costs, such as by reducing hours at restaurants, reducing staffing, and closing onsite amenities, will also impact traveler choices over time.

- Lastly, reduced spending on hotel renovations will make hotels in the City of Los Angeles less attractive to travelers over time.
- With higher ADR, but lower demand, hotel revenue is estimated to increase by only \$30.0 million. This will only cover part of the \$110.3 million of increased payroll costs for hotels.
- We quantified the lost business sales, jobs and tax revenues associated with this decrease in visitor spending.
- Initially, hotels subject to the HWPO are experiencing an approximately 100% increase in housekeeping payroll costs per occupied room. This is occurring, for example, as hotels pay twice the standard rate to room attendants, as they hire additional staff, and as they allocate staff time to tracking room cleaning limitations. Hotels subject to HWPO account for 87% of hotel rooms in the market. Because not all hotels in the market are covered, and because we expect operations will adapt some over time, we have assumed the rooms department payroll cost increase per occupied room will stabilize at about 34.6% higher in 2025.
- Higher payroll costs represent a significant cost increase for hotels. We estimate this additional cost at \$14 per occupied room night. Hotels must find ways to either increase prices, or reduce other costs, or both, to help cover the impact to payroll. Overall, we estimate total payroll costs at City of Los Angeles hotels will increase by \$110.3 million in 2025.



# **TOURISM IMPACT**

- We expect ADR in 2025 will increase by 6.8% above what ADR would be without the ordinance.
- Demand will decline 5.0% due to the higher rates and reduced services.
- Room revenue will increase by 1.4% in 2025.
   This additional revenue will address a small portion of the increase in payroll costs.
- In total, over the fiveyear period of analysis, we expect a loss of \$1.4 billion of visitor spending.

# **HWPO** impact to Los Angeles tourism

\$ in millions (except ADR increase and increase in payroll per occupied room)

	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	5 yr total
ADR increase (%)	7.1%	6.9%	6.8%	6.6%	6.4%	
ADR increase (\$)	\$14.65	\$14.65	\$14.65	\$14.65	\$14.65	
Demand loss (%)	-2.2%	-4.0%	-5.0%	-5.0%	-5.0%	
Room revenue increase (%)	4.8%	2.7%	1.4%	1.3%	1.1%	
Room revenue increase (\$)	\$89.1	\$53.2	\$30.0	\$28.1	\$26.1	
Increase in rooms payroll per occupied room (%)	34.6%	34.6%	34.6%	34.6%	34.6%	
Increase in rooms payroll per occupied room (\$)	\$14.00	\$14.00	\$14.00	\$14.00	\$14.00	
Increase in payroll costs (%)	32%	29%	28%	28%	28%	
Increase in payroll costs (\$)	\$116.3	\$112.1	\$110.3	\$113.7	\$117.1	
Visitor spending loss (%)	-1.9%	-3.7%	-4.7%	-4.7%	-4.6%	
Visitor spending loss (\$)	-\$119.6	-\$250.2	-\$335.8	-\$353.2	-\$370.4	-\$1,429.3



# **HOTEL CAPITAL SPENDING IMPACT**

- With substantially higher payroll costs and reduced operating cash flows, we expect hotel owners will look for ways to delay or scale back planned renovations.
- Also, in a market with higher operating costs and lower returns, we expect fewer new hotels will be developed.
- Overall, we estimate that through a combination of reduced renovations and new development, hotel capital spending in Los Angeles over the fiveyear period of analysis will be reduced by \$1.27 billion.

# **HWPO** impact to Los Angeles hotel capital spending

\$ in millions

	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	5 yr total
Renovation spending loss (%)	-65.0%	-59.8%	-57.2%	-54.4%	-54.4%	
Renovation spending loss (\$)	-\$82.4	-\$79.0	-\$81.0	-\$81.5	-\$86.2	
New development spending loss (\$)	-\$132.7	-\$158.1	-\$186.5	-\$190.2	-\$194.2	
Hotel capital spending loss (\$)	-\$215.1	-\$237.1	-\$267.5	-\$271.7	-\$280.5	-\$1,271.8



# VISITOR SPENDING ECONOMIC IMPACT

- Lost visitor spending has important impacts on the local economy. We estimate that a loss of \$335.8 million in visitor spending in 2025 will result in total lost business sales of \$558.1 million.
- This is expected to result in 3,544
   total job losses in the City of Los
   Angeles relative to an alternative
   scenario without HWPO. These
   include jobs at businesses patronized
   by visitors, such as restaurants, as
   well as jobs at other businesses in
   the supply chain, such as specialized
   maintenance services, advertising
   and professional services.
- State and local taxes are expected to be \$30.0 million lower because of HWPO in 2025, despite a \$4.8 million increase in lodging taxes resulting from higher ADR levels.

# Visitor spending economic impact

in millions (except jobs)

Total	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Output	-\$198.8	-\$415.9	-\$558.1	-\$587.0	-\$615.6
GDP	-\$116.3	-\$243.3	-\$326.5	-\$343.4	-\$360.2
Wages and salaries	-\$72.4	-\$151.4	-\$203.2	-\$213.7	-\$224.1
Jobs	-1,315	-2,695	-3,544	-3,653	-3,755
Taxes	-\$13.5	-\$49.3	-\$72.8	-\$77.1	-\$81.4
Federal	-\$15.2	-\$31.9	-\$42.8	-\$45.0	-\$47.2
State and local	\$1.8	-\$17.5	-\$30.0	-\$32.1	-\$34.2
Taxes on lodging	\$14.2	\$8.5	\$4.8	\$4.5	\$4.1
Direct					
Output	-\$119.6	-\$250.2	-\$335.8	-\$353.2	-\$370.4
GDP	-\$68.2	-\$142.6	-\$191.3	-\$201.2	-\$211.0
Wages and salaries	-\$44.0	-\$92.1	-\$123.5	-\$129.9	-\$136.3
Jobs	-919	-1,883	-2,477	-2,553	-2,624
Taxes	-\$2.9	-\$27.2	-\$43.1	-\$45.9	-\$48.7
Federal	-\$9.3	-\$19.4	-\$26.0	-\$27.4	-\$28.7
State and local	\$6.4	-\$7.9	-\$17.1	-\$18.6	-\$20.0
Taxes on lodging	\$14.2	\$8.5	\$4.8	\$4.5	\$4.1



# **CONSTRUCTION ECONOMIC IMPACT**

- An expected loss in 2025 direct hotel capital spending of \$267.5 million will negatively affect economic output by roughly \$424.1 million in 2025.
- This corresponds to the loss of approximately 1,542 direct hotel construction and renovation jobs.

# **Construction economic impact**

in millions (except jobs)

Total	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Output	-\$341.0	-\$375.9	-\$424.1	-\$430.7	-\$444.6
GDP	-\$180.0	-\$198.4	-\$223.9	-\$227.3	-\$234.7
Wages and salaries	-\$135.6	-\$149.4	-\$168.6	-\$171.2	-\$176.8
Jobs	-1,936	-2,091	-2,312	-2,301	-2,328
Taxes	-\$43.3	-\$47.7	-\$53.9	-\$54.7	-\$56.5
Federal	-\$26.1	-\$28.7	-\$32.4	-\$32.9	-\$34.0
State and local	-\$17.2	-\$19.0	-\$21.4	-\$21.8	-\$22.5
Taxes on lodging	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0
Direct					
Output	-\$215.1	-\$237.1	-\$267.5	-\$271.7	-\$280.5
GDP	-\$103.9	-\$114.5	-\$129.2	-\$131.2	-\$135.5
Wages and salaries	-\$93.1	-\$102.7	-\$115.8	-\$117.6	-\$121.4
Jobs	-1,291	-1,394	-1,542	-1,534	-1,552
Taxes	-\$25.7	-\$28.3	-\$31.9	-\$32.4	-\$33.5
Federal	-\$17.0	-\$18.7	-\$21.1	-\$21.4	-\$22.1
State and local	-\$8.7	-\$9.6	-\$10.8	-\$11.0	-\$11.4
Taxes on lodging	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0



# **ECONOMIC IMPACT**

Total economic impact is the summation of visitor spending and construction impacts to the Los Angeles economy.

- The HWPO will negatively impact total economic output by \$982.2 million in 2025 (direct impact \$603.3 million).
- GDP will be negatively impacted by \$550.4 million in 2025 (direct impact of \$320.5 million).

# **Total economic impact**

in millions (except jobs)

Total	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Output	-\$539.9	-\$791.8	-\$982.2	-\$1,017.7	-\$1,060.3
GDP	-\$296.3	-\$441.7	-\$550.4	-\$570.8	-\$594.9
Wages and salaries	-\$208.0	-\$300.9	-\$371.8	-\$385.0	-\$400.9
Jobs	-3,251	-4,786	-5,856	-5,955	-6,083
Taxes	-\$56.8	-\$97.1	-\$126.6	-\$131.8	-\$137.9
Federal	-\$41.3	-\$60.6	-\$75.2	-\$77.9	-\$81.2
State and local	-\$15.5	-\$36.5	-\$51.5	-\$53.9	-\$56.7
Taxes on lodging	\$14.2	\$8.5	\$4.8	\$4.5	\$4.1
Direct					
Output	-\$334.7	-\$487.3	-\$603.3	-\$624.9	-\$650.9
GDP	-\$172.1	-\$257.1	-\$320.5	-\$332.5	-\$346.5
Wages and salaries	-\$137.2	-\$194.7	-\$239.4	-\$247.6	-\$257.7
Jobs	-2,209	-3,277	-4,018	-4,087	-4,176
Taxes	-\$28.6	-\$55.5	-\$75.0	-\$78.3	-\$82.1
Federal	-\$26.2	-\$38.1	-\$47.1	-\$48.8	-\$50.8
State and local	-\$2.3	-\$17.5	-\$27.9	-\$29.5	-\$31.3
Taxes on lodging	\$14.2	\$8.5	\$4.8	\$4.5	\$4.1



# CITY OF LOS ANGELES HOTEL WORKER PROTECTION ORDINANCE ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS

Prepared for: California Hotel & Lodging Association March 14, 2023



# **About Tourism Economics**



### AN OXFORD ECONOMICS COMPANY

Tourism Economics is an Oxford Economics company with a singular objective: combine an understanding of tourism dynamics with rigorous economics in order to answer the most important questions facing destinations, developers, and strategic planners. By combining quantitative methods with industry knowledge, Tourism economics designs custom market strategies, destination recovery plans, tourism forecasting models, tourism policy analysis and economic impact studies.

With over four decades of experience of our principal consultants, it is our passion to work as partners with our clients to achieve a destination's full potential.

Oxford Economics is one of the world's leading providers of economic analysis, forecasts and consulting advice. Founded in 1981 as a joint venture with Oxford University's business college, Oxford Economics enjoys a reputation for high quality, Quantitative analysis and evidence-based advice. For this, it draws on its own staff of more than 250 professional economists and analysts; a dedicated data analysis team; global modeling tools, and a range of partner institutions in Europe, the US and in the United Nations Project Link. Oxford economics has offices in London, Oxford, Dubai, Philadelphia and Belfast.

For more information:

info@tourismeconomics.com



# **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The California Hotel & Lodging Association (CHLA) engaged Tourism Economics to analyze the economic impact of the Hotel Worker Protection Ordinance (HWPO) that took effect in August 2022 within the City of Los Angeles, CA. We developed an understanding of the HWPO and its impact on hotel operations and prepared an economic model to quantify its expected impacts.

### **Key Observations**

- Overall, in 2025 as an example year, we estimate that with the HWPO, Los Angeles will experience:
  - 6.8% higher hotel average daily rate (ADR)
  - 5.0% decline in occupied hotel room nights
  - \$603.3 million of lost direct economic activity, including \$335.8 million less visitor spending and \$267.5 million less hotel capital spending
- These impacts are expected to result in broader losses to the Los Angeles economy. Specifically, we anticipate that the loss of visitor spending and loss of hotel capital spending will result in the:
  - loss of 5,856 jobs in other sectors of the economy,
  - including the loss of 1,542 direct hotel construction and renovation jobs.
- Overall, we estimate a:
  - \$51.5 million decrease in state and local tax revenues in 2025 as a result of HWPO, reflecting a \$4.8 million

- increase in lodging taxes due to higher room rates but declines in other tax categories.
- The HWPO contains several provisions. Of these, the most significant impact to hotel operations results from workload limitations for room attendants that restrict the amount of space they are permitted to clean each day at standard pay. Hotels have adjusted operations in response to these restrictions, such as by hiring additional staff or/or paying twice standard pay.
- Overall, as a result of HWPO, hotels are experiencing an approximate doubling of housekeeping labor costs (room attendants and managers).
- We quantified how we anticipate this cost increase will impact the Los Angeles hotel market over time, relative to an alternative scenario without the HWPO. We have used 2025 as a summary year, allowing several years for hotel operations and customer behavior to adapt to the change.
- In our analysis, we anticipate that hotels will continue to respond to higher labor costs per occupied room by: (1) increasing ADR and fees, (2) reducing services and staff in other departments, (3) scaling back planned renovations. We also anticipate that the development of new hotels in the market will slow.
- As travelers, including meetings and groups, respond to higher room rates and reduced services, we expect hotel demand will decline relative to the alternative scenario without the HWPO, resulting in less visitor spending in Los Angeles.

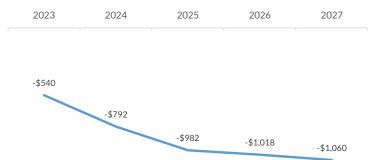


# **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The accompanying figures illustrate impacts due to the HWPO relative to an alternative scenario without the ordinance. We have used 2025 as an example year.

### Total lost economic output (business sales)

City of Los Angeles, compared to scenario without HWPO, in millions



Source: Tourism Economics

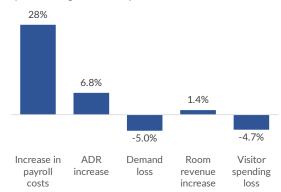
### Total lost jobs and wages in 2025

City of Los Angeles, compared to scenario without HWPO, \$ in millions



### **HWPO** impact to tourism in 2025

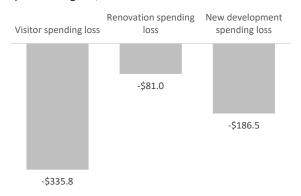
City of Los Angeles, % compared to scenario without ordinance



Source: STR. Tourism Economics

## **HWPO** impact in 2025

City of Los Angeles, in millions





# **ORDINANCE SUMMARY**

On June 28, 2022, the Los Angeles City Council approved a new Hotel Worker Protection Ordinance (HWPO) that went into effect on August 12, 2022. The HWPO contains several provisions. Of these, the most significant impact to hotel operations results from workload limitations for room attendants. The restrictions include limits on the amount of guest room space that room attendants may clean in a day. These limits are reduced in certain cases, such as attendants assigned rooms to clean that are on several different floors.

Hotels are responding to these restrictions in a variety of ways. In some cases, room attendants are cleaning more rooms than the limitation, and as stipulated in HWPO, hotels are paying staff double the standard rate for each day. The double rate of pay applies to every hour worked that day including hours worked before square footage limit has been reached. In other cases, hotels are hiring additional room attendants, while looking to reduce other staffing at the property. Some properties are taking rooms out of inventory temporarily due to lack of staffing.

The following are measures from the new Hotel Worker Protection Ordinance.

- 1) installation of panic buttons
- 2) on-call security for hotels with 60+ rooms or annual manager training with fewer than 60 rooms,
- 3) leave for employees who activate a panic button
- 4) documented attendance for annual staff training regarding maintenance and use of panic buttons
- 5) signage installation

### **Daily Square Footage Limitations**

- Hotels with less than 45 rooms: Does not apply
- Hotels with 45-60 rooms: 4,000 square feet
- Hotels with 60+ rooms: 3,500 square feet

### Square Footage Reductions (500 square feet each)

- Each special attention room or room with rollout bed assigned in excess of five rooms
- Each additional building assigned
- Each additional floor assigned in excess of two floors



# **ORDINANCE SCOPE**

The Citywide Hotel Worker Minimum Wage Ordinance was also amended. Previously, the elevated minimum wage and time off requirements for hotel workers only applied to workers in hotels with 150+ guest rooms. Hotels with 60+ rooms are now included under the same requirements, thus expanding the minimum wage requirement to cover an additional 17% of Los Angeles hotels.

This is effectively a minimum wage raise from \$16.04/hour to \$18.86/hour for that group among additional time off requirements. The hotel worker minimum wage will adjust annually with the City of Los Angeles minimum wage.

While 100% of hotels in the City of Los Angeles are affected by the HWPO measures related to panic buttons, 46% of hotels in Los Angeles (87% of all rooms) are now also affected by the square footage cleaning limitations.

# **Supply share of Los Angeles hotels**

Percent of Los Angeles market share

	<u>Hotels</u>	Rooms
Hotels with less than 45 rooms	54%	13%
Hotels with between 45 and 59 rooms	9%	4%
Hotels with between 60 and 149 rooms	17%	14%
Hotels with 150+ rooms	20%	69%

Source: STR (February 2023)



# **HOTEL OPERATOR SURVEY**

The Hotel Association of Los Angeles fielded a survey of hotel operators in February 2023 to better understand operational impacts and general response to the HWPO.

Key results are summarized as follows. Each percentage reflects the share of hotel operators:

- 71% report they are not considering a renovation this year;
- 50% report they have postponed maintenance or renovations that otherwise would have occurred; and,
- 75% report they have already reduced staff, services, or taken other cost containment steps;
- 68% report already raising room rates or adding a fee;
- 82% report already adding or considering adding an additional fee specifically for this ordinance.

In summary, hotel operators have already been responding to the HWPO with multiple changes. Many of these changes include increasing rates or fees and/or decreasing services, acknowledging that one result will be fewer occupied rooms.



# IMPACT ANALYSIS

# **IMPACT ANALYSIS**

We prepared an analysis of impacts to the City of Los Angeles in a scenario with the HWPO as compared to an alternative scenario without HWPO.

### Approach

As part of this analysis:

- we reviewed the HWPO;
- held discussions with four teams of senior hotel operators in the City of Los Angeles that have been making operating changes in response to HWPO and that have been preparing financial budgets for future periods;
- reviewed written comments and survey responses provided by hotel operators;
- obtained hotel performance measures from STR, including historical benchmark data on hotel payroll expenses per occupied room; and,
- analyzed the scope of properties that will be affected by the HWPO room cleaning limitations.

We understand that union properties may arrange a HWPO waiver in connection with a collective bargaining agreement. However, we assumed that over time, as existing collective bargaining agreements are renegotiated, operating cost structures at union properties will also be impacted by HWPO, for example through competition with non-union properties for staff. As a result, over time HWPO is expected to result in higher operating costs for effectively all hotels in the City of Los Angeles.

### Analysis overview

Our analysis included four primary steps. We:

- 1. estimated hotel operating impacts of the HWPO;
- 2. estimated how occupied room nights and visitor spending would change in response to higher room rates and reduced services;
- 3. estimated how hotel renovation activity and new hotel construction would slow as a result of reduced operating cash flow; and,
- 4. quantified the economic impacts of reduced visitor spending and reduced hotel capital spending.



# **TOURISM IMPACT**

The following describes key aspects of our analysis. All changes refer to changes in the current situation with HWPO relative to an alternative scenario without HWPO. In the discussion we have focused on 2025 as an example year, as it allows time for hotel operating changes and traveler behavior to adjust.

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\$ in millions

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Taxes on lodging	\$14.2	\$8.5	\$4.8	\$4.5	\$4.1
Direct					
Output	-\$119.6	-\$250.2	-\$335.8	-\$353.2	-\$370.4
GDP	-\$68.2	-\$142.6	-\$191.3	-\$201.2	-\$211.0
Wages and salaries	-\$44.0	-\$92.1	-\$123.5	-\$129.9	-\$136.3
Jobs	-919	-1,883	-2,477	-2,553	-2,624
Taxes	-\$2.9	-\$27.2	-\$43.1	-\$45.9	-\$48.7
Federal	-\$9.3	-\$19.4	-\$26.0	-\$27.4	-\$28.7
State and local	\$6.4	-\$7.9	-\$17.1	-\$18.6	-\$20.0
Taxes on lodging	\$14.2	\$8.5	\$4.8	\$4.5	\$4.1



# **CONSTRUCTION ECONOMIC IMPACT**

- An expected loss in 2025 direct hotel capital spending of \$267.5 million will negatively affect economic output by roughly \$424.1 million in 2025.
- This corresponds to the loss of approximately 1,542 direct hotel construction and renovation jobs.

# **Construction economic impact**

in millions (except jobs)

Total	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Output	-\$341.0	-\$375.9	-\$424.1	-\$430.7	-\$444.6
GDP	-\$180.0	-\$198.4	-\$223.9	-\$227.3	-\$234.7
Wages and salaries	-\$135.6	-\$149.4	-\$168.6	-\$171.2	-\$176.8
Jobs	-1,936	-2,091	-2,312	-2,301	-2,328
Taxes	-\$43.3	-\$47.7	-\$53.9	-\$54.7	-\$56.5
Federal	-\$26.1	-\$28.7	-\$32.4	-\$32.9	-\$34.0
State and local	-\$17.2	-\$19.0	-\$21.4	-\$21.8	-\$22.5
Taxes on lodging	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0
Direct					
Output	-\$215.1	-\$237.1	-\$267.5	-\$271.7	-\$280.5
GDP	-\$103.9	-\$114.5	-\$129.2	-\$131.2	-\$135.5
Wages and salaries	-\$93.1	-\$102.7	-\$115.8	-\$117.6	-\$121.4
Jobs	-1,291	-1,394	-1,542	-1,534	-1,552
Taxes	-\$25.7	-\$28.3	-\$31.9	-\$32.4	-\$33.5
Federal	-\$17.0	-\$18.7	-\$21.1	-\$21.4	-\$22.1
State and local	-\$8.7	-\$9.6	-\$10.8	-\$11.0	-\$11.4
Taxes on lodging	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0



# **ECONOMIC IMPACT**

Total economic impact is the summation of visitor spending and construction impacts to the Los Angeles economy.

- The HWPO will negatively impact total economic output by \$982.2 million in 2025 (direct impact \$603.3 million).
- GDP will be negatively impacted by \$550.4 million in 2025 (direct impact of \$320.5 million).

# **Total economic impact**

in millions (except jobs)

Total	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Output	-\$539.9	-\$791.8	-\$982.2	-\$1,017.7	-\$1,060.3
GDP	-\$296.3	-\$441.7	-\$550.4	-\$570.8	-\$594.9
Wages and salaries	-\$208.0	-\$300.9	-\$371.8	-\$385.0	-\$400.9
Jobs	-3,251	-4,786	-5,856	-5,955	-6,083
Taxes	-\$56.8	-\$97.1	-\$126.6	-\$131.8	-\$137.9
Federal	-\$41.3	-\$60.6	-\$75.2	-\$77.9	-\$81.2
State and local	-\$15.5	-\$36.5	-\$51.5	-\$53.9	-\$56.7
Taxes on lodging	\$14.2	\$8.5	\$4.8	\$4.5	\$4.1
Direct					
Output	-\$334.7	-\$487.3	-\$603.3	-\$624.9	-\$650.9
GDP	-\$172.1	-\$257.1	-\$320.5	-\$332.5	-\$346.5
Wages and salaries	-\$137.2	-\$194.7	-\$239.4	-\$247.6	-\$257.7
Jobs	-2,209	-3,277	-4,018	-4,087	-4,176
Taxes	-\$28.6	-\$55.5	-\$75.0	-\$78.3	-\$82.1
Federal	-\$26.2	-\$38.1	-\$47.1	-\$48.8	-\$50.8
State and local	-\$2.3	-\$17.5	-\$27.9	-\$29.5	-\$31.3
Taxes on lodging	\$14.2	\$8.5	\$4.8	\$4.5	\$4.1



# Marina del Rey Lessees Association

C/o Mr. Timothy C. Riley, Executive Director 8537 Wakefield Avenue Panorama City, CA 91402 Telephone: 818-891-0495

August 7, 2023

The Honorable Board of Supervisors Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration 500 West Temple Street Los Angeles, CA 90012

Via Email

RE: Agenda Item #9, Board of Supervisors meeting of August 8, 2023 Hotel Worker Protection Ordinance

Dear Supervisors:

The Marina del Rey Lessees Association is wholeheartedly in support of the tourism industry in Marina del Rey that draws visitors from the County, across the United States and around the world. The Marina del Rey Land Use Plan asserts that "Visitor-serving facilities are considered recreational and provide service to those who reside in or visit the Marina del Rey area." Hotels are vital to providing visitor-serving facilities so that people may enjoy the County-owned asset of Marina del Rey.

There is widespread recognition in the hotel industry that room attendants and hotel staff who work alone should be provided panic buttons or similar devices for their personal safety and protection. The motion before the Board of Supervisors is worthy of support for that aspect of the proposed ordinance.

However, the mandate that room attendants may only clean a defined amount of square feet of floor space during any eight-hour workday is problematic and not economically sustainable. The industry proposes that the permitted square footage to be cleaned per day should be increased from 4,500 to 7,500 square feet for hotels with fewer than 40 guest rooms and from 3,500 to 6,500 square feet for hotels with more than 40 guest rooms. Doubling the rate of pay for every hour worked based on the motion's limitations of square feet permitted to be cleaned leads to damaging unintended consequences.

The Association asks that the Board of Supervisors take a pause to allow for discussion with hotel representatives and the Marina del Rey Tourism Board before moving forward with an ordinance. While similar ordinances have been adopted in some cities, there should also be a recognition of the unique nature of Marina del

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some cities, there should also be a recognition of the unique nature of Marina del Rey, where the hotels have not been developed on fee simple land. Hotels in Marina del Rey are differentiated from hotels in cities like West Hollywood and Los Angeles in that ground rent is paid to the County, in addition to property taxes, thereby creating an extra financial burden not shared by hotels elsewhere in the County. Given these realities, prior to your adoption of this ordinance, we would ask that your Board direct the CEO's office and Department of Beaches & Harbors to assess the economic impact of this proposed ordinance on existing hotel ground leases in Marina del Rey.

We also draw your attention to the economic impact analysis conducted in the matter of a similar ordinance in the City of Angeles, prepared by Tourism Economics, an Oxford Economics Company, and dated March 14, 2023. In addition to higher average daily room rates (ADR) and significant loss of direct economic activity and loss of jobs in other sectors of the local economy, the report anticipates hotels will continue to respond to higher labor coast by: (1) increasing ADR and fees, (2) reducing services and staff in other departments, and (3) scaling back planned renovations. Furthermore, the development of new hotels in the market will slow.

Thank you for your consideration of working with the hospitality stakeholders to achieve a workable ordinance that protects hospitality jobs and sustains an industry that was among the hardest hit during the pandemic and is only just now starting to get nearer to full recovery.

Sincerely,

Tim Rilev

Executive Director, Marina del Rey Lessees Association

cc: Gary Jones, Director, Department of Beaches and Harbors