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**Chief Executive Officer**  
Fesia A. Davenport

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

# ADOPTED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

September 24, 2024

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:

40 September 24, 2024

EDWARD YEN  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**RESPONSES TO THE 2023-2024 CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS  
(ALL DISTRICTS AFFECTED)  
(3 VOTES)**

**SUBJECT**

Approval of the Los Angeles County (County) responses to the findings and recommendations of the 2023-2024 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury (CGJ) Final Report, and the transmittal of responses to the CGJ, as well as the Superior Court, upon approval by the County Board of Supervisors (Board).

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:**

1. Approve the responses to the findings and recommendations of the 2023-2024 Los Angeles County CGJ Final Report that pertain to County government matters under the control of the Board.
2. Instruct the Executive Officer of the Board to transmit copies of this report to the CGJ, upon approval by the Board.
3. Instruct the Executive Officer of the Board to file a copy of this report with the Superior Court, upon approval by the Board.

**PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Section 933 (b) of the California Penal Code establishes that the county boards of supervisors shall

comment on grand jury findings and recommendations which pertain to county government matters under control of those boards.

On June 28, 2024, the 2023-2024 CGJ released its Final Report containing findings and recommendations directed to various County and non-County agencies. County department directors have reported back on the CGJ recommendations, and these responses are incorporated and enclosed as the County's official response to the 2023-2024 CGJ Final Report.

Recommendations that refer to non-County agencies have been referred directly by the CGJ to those entities.

### **Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

The recommendations in the CGJ Final Report and the County's responses are broadly consistent with all three of the County's major Strategic Plan North Star goals.

North Star No. 1 - Make Investments that Transform Lives: We will aggressively address society's most complicated social, health, and public safety challenges. We want to be a highly responsive organization capable of responding to complex societal challenges - one person at a time.

North Star No. 2 - Foster Vibrant and Resilient Communities: Our investments in the lives of County residents are sustainable only when grounded in strong communities. We want to be the hub of a network of public-private partnering agencies supporting vibrant communities.

North Star No. 3 - Realize Tomorrow's Government Today: Our increasingly dynamic and complex environment challenges our collective abilities to respond to public needs and expectations. We want to be an innovative, flexible, effective, and transparent partner focused on advancing the common good.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

Any costs associated with implementing CGJ recommendations will be considered in the appropriate budget phase.

### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

Certain CGJ recommendations require additional financing resources. Departments will assess the need for additional funding during the 2024-25 budget cycle and beyond, as appropriate.

### **IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

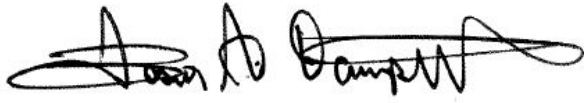
N/A

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

9/24/2024

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fesia A. Davenport', with a stylized, flowing script.

FESIA A. DAVENPORT

Chief Executive Officer

FAD:JMN:CDM

PN:kdm

Enclosures

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors  
County Counsel  
District Attorney  
Sheriff  
Arts and Culture  
Children and Family Services  
Consumer and Business Affairs  
Fire  
Health Services  
Internal Services  
Medical Examiner  
Parks and Recreation  
Public Health  
Public Works  
Regional Planning  
Treasurer and Tax Collector  
Office of Education  
Office of the Inspector General

## Attachment

### County of Los Angeles Responses

# RESPONSE TO THE CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS; DEPARTMENT OF  
CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

## 2023-2024 CIVIL GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DEOXYRIBONUCLEIC ACID (DNA): DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICE REUNITING ORPHAN-ABANDONED CHILDREN WITH UNKNOWN RELATIVES

### SUMMARY

"This report is concerned with the limits of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) Family Finding program; connecting orphaned children, aged eighteen and under, lost in the system, to potential biological relatives. The Committee looked diligently into the realistic outcomes involved with using genetic matching, or DNA testing, to place a foster child under DCFS care into the home of blood relatives and reviewed potential response outcomes from certain families, once contacted. The Committee reviewed the current procedure for Family Finding and evaluated the possibility of collecting a child's DNA when all other avenues for reconnection have failed, as well as an evaluation of why the adoption of this program might have pushback."<sup>1</sup>

### **RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.1**

Board of Supervisors (BOS) direct DCFS to review data collection procedures when processing children new to the system to include orphan status, allowing DCFS to establish whether or not a child is a true orphan or if there are known relatives for placement.

### RESPONSE

Disagree. This recommendation will not be implemented, because it is not warranted or reasonable. DCFS as with all other child welfare serving counties in the State, uses the State of California's Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS) database system to track all aspects of child welfare casework. This database captures information on all children being served by DCFS, including children who have been legally freed by Dependency Court.

In addressing children who are legally freed, DCFS avoids the use of the word "orphan." Legally freed refers to a child whose parental rights have been terminated by Dependency Court, and the State of California has acknowledged the Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) Court Order through the processing of the State Form AD4333 (Acknowledgement and Confirmation of Receipt of Relinquishment Documents).

Similarly, DCFS tracks Relinquished Children through the same CWS/CMS system; specifically, in the "Client Management Section" of each case, which includes "Existing Family Information" related to how Parental Rights were terminated, whether by Court Order or through Voluntary Relinquishment.

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<sup>1</sup> 2023-2024 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury Final Report, Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA): Department of Children and Family Service Reuniting Orphan-Abandoned Children with Unknown Relatives, p. 20.

Safely Surrendered Babies (SSB) are tracked through the coordinated use of an internal manual tracking system by DCFS' Emergency Response Command Post (ERCP) and the Adoption Division's Matching Coordination Unit. The Safely Surrendered Baby law (California Health and Safety Code section 1255.7) provides a safe alternative for the surrender of a newborn baby in specified circumstances. Under the Safely Surrendered Baby law, a parent or person with lawful custody can safely surrender a baby confidentially, and without fear of prosecution, within 72 hours of birth.

Additionally, DCFS developed the Upfront Family Finding (UFF) Program in keeping its focus on children placed in non-relative care at the time of detention. UFF's approach includes a deliberate effort on increasing relative placements, engaging relatives in providing non-placement supports, and partnering with CBOs to provide additional supports to relatives. As part of the UFF program, dedicated staff conduct active searches for family members using search engines like CLEAR, which aggregates public records pulled from sources such as phone companies, utility companies, motor vehicle registrations, real-time incarceration information, and consumer credit bureaus, to quickly locate possible connections/associates to the person in question. In addition to using CLEAR results, UFF social workers also conduct interviews with age-appropriate children, parents, and known relatives/Non-Related Extended Family Members (NREFMs) to explore their ability and willingness to provide various forms of support to the child(ren) and their family. Further, UFF social workers conduct thorough reviews of current and previous case records to identify possible family supports.

DCFS piloted UFF in two regional offices in October 2016, and, after an evaluation completed by Child Trends in 2018, added UFF to eight additional offices. By July 2023, UFF expanded its operation at all DCFS regional offices. During 2023, initial placement data tracked by the Family Finding and Engagement Program showed 80% of children detained were placed with a relative/NREFM or released to the Non-Offending Parent by regional staff. Of children placed in out-of-home care, 57% were placed with kin (relative or NREFM). Since inception, the UFF has located 42,429 maternal relatives, 28,591 paternal relatives, and 5,225 NREFMs (as of March 13, 2024). At the end of receiving UFF services, 23% maternal relatives, 14% paternal relatives and 6% NREFMs were in the Resource Family Approval (RFA) process. From inception to March 2024, 6,004 children have been provided UFF services. This rate is consistent with UFF data previously collected and reported by the Office of Child Protection.

#### **RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.2**

BOS and DCFS work with Court to expand authority to include genetic DNA testing when a true orphan has been identified. This will allow judges to expedite the testing process and potential placement.

#### **RESPONSE**

Disagree. The recommendation will not be implemented, because it is not warranted or reasonable. The County, through DCFS, is not in agreement with this finding and does not support facilitating DNA testing of children in foster care.

## *Legal Concerns*

Children, like adults, have a constitutional right to be free from unreasonable searches and seizures, as guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution. Invasions of the body, including nonconsensual extractions of bodily material for DNA profiling, are searches entitled to Constitutional protections and DNA may not be collected from a person absent consent of the person from whom the DNA is to be taken, a court-ordered warrant based on probable cause, or an exception to the warrant requirement. Children, given their age of minority, are not legally allowed to consent to such collection, thus, consent by the parents (or individual who has the power to consent for the child) or a court order authorizing the collection of the DNA must be obtained.

In most instances when a child is removed from the home, especially during the reunification phase of the court proceeding, the child's parent(s) will retain the right to make medical decisions and decisions about DNA sampling. In other instances, where it is in the child's best interest to have a substitute medical decision maker, the juvenile court may appoint someone other than a parent to serve as the holder of the child's rights. That person or entity may be imbued with the authority to give, or withhold, consent regarding medical decisions, which would include DNA sampling. In either case, if petitioned by a party to the proceedings to provide DNA sampling, the Juvenile Court can make the decision to authorize or deny a request for DNA sampling, which would require all parties to be provided notice and the opportunity to be heard to ensure due process is provided.

When assessing the feasibility of extending DNA sampling to all children who enter child welfare, it is also critical to consider that DNA sampling could subvert public policy and increase risk to some children. There are instances where DNA sampling is unnecessary, such as when a child remains in the home of a parent, or where a Non-Related Extended Family Members (NREFM) has been identified as the preferred placement option, or when viable relative placement options have already been identified. It is also worth remembering that relatedness in the legal sense is narrower than relatedness in the biological sense.

## *Equity Issues*

When considering the moral, ethical, and equity issues surrounding the DNA sampling of foster youth, it is necessary to address ethical issues of informed consent, privacy, confidentiality, and disproportionality. Children and adults share the right to privacy, which includes the right to make an informed, independent decision about whether to have DNA extracted from their bodies, and whether and to whom their genetic test results may be shared. Systematic DNA testing of all youth entering the child welfare system would do nothing to reduce racial disproportionality and the concurring disparities, but rather cultivates institutionalized racism and problematic practices that contribute to greater inequity.

### *Current Efforts to Identify Kin and Relative Placements*

In addition to the UFF program noted in the response above, DCFS developed the Permanency Partners Program (P3) in 2004 after recognizing the significant impact familial support has on the well-being of children in care. The P3 program is comprised of retired and part-time social workers who work collaboratively with case-carrying social workers to conduct family finding.

The P3 program seeks to locate and engage children/youths' relatives, NREFMs, and chosen family by conducting individual interviews with children/youth, parents, and any available relatives. P3 social workers engage individuals located, in efforts to broaden knowledge of those who may be able to support the families and conduct thorough reviews of case records, reports, and files to engage/re-engage those family members that may have previously been known (and forgotten) to DCFS. P3 social workers also use computer-based search databases in their mining process. These search mechanisms do not require the invasiveness of gathering DNA samples and allow for trained social workers to help connect/reconnect with a safe and trauma-responsive approach.



# RESPONSE TO THE CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS; CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
OFFICE; DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS; SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

## 2023-2024 CIVIL GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MICROMOBILITY DEVICES: "PAY NOW OR PAY LATER"

### SUMMARY

"This report reviews and evaluates the efficacy and facilitation of ubiquitous micromobility machines. The Committee looked at whether the County was doing what is necessary to ensure that all of its citizens have a safe and positive experience while using micromobility devices (i.e., electric scooters (e-scooters) and electric bicycles (e-bikes), etc.). The Committee's objective was to look at how vendors were permitted to operate within the City of Los Angeles, what the California Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) laws were that pertain to operating these devices, the use of private e-bikes and e-scooters, State legislation, community reactions, and injuries and/or deaths caused by the careless riding of these instruments."<sup>2</sup>

### **RECOMMENDATION NO. 2.1**

Ensure LAPD, LBPd, other local municipal law enforcement agencies and campus police agencies and other local law enforcement agencies enforce electric scooters prohibition against riding on sidewalk, helmet requirements, and speed limits.

### RESPONSE

Agree. This recommendation has been implemented. Los Angeles County Code Section 15.76.080 prohibits operation of bicycle or any vehicle on any sidewalk except at a permanent or temporary driveway, unless otherwise specified by posted notices, which was amended in 2023 to permit some bicycle riding on sidewalks. The County of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department enforces the Code based upon its resources and competing public safety priorities.

### **RECOMMENDATION NO. 2.2**

Municipal governments should update permit agreements to require electric scooter manufacturers to offer liability insurance.

### RESPONSE

Partially disagree. This recommendation will not be implemented. The County, including its BOS and Chief Executive Office (CEO), does not currently license or permit any shared micromobility device companies within the unincorporated areas under the scope of its jurisdiction. The County, therefore, does not have a permit system for micromobility devices and shared mobility devices, in the same way that incorporated cities like the City of Los Angeles and other municipal governments mentioned in this report do. The County only has jurisdiction over the unincorporated areas of the County and does not have jurisdiction over

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<sup>2</sup> 2023-2024 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury Final Report, Micromobility Devices: "Pay Now or Pay Later", p. 33.

incorporated cities when it comes to the permitting of such micromobility devices. However, the feasibility of this sort of permit system has been studied in the past.

An On-Demand Personal Mobility Devices Pilot Program was developed and originally implemented within the unincorporated County communities from May 1, 2019, to June 30, 2020. Three companies applied to participate in the program; however, no applicants completed the process. As a result, the program was extended to June 30, 2021, but no permits were issued.

If the County implemented such a permit system in the future, the County would require a shared micromobility company to indemnify it, and as a matter of public policy would support the requirement for scooter companies to purchase commercial general liability insurance coverage, with the County listed as an Additional Insured. This would provide an alternate recovery source in the event of rider accidents, including but not limited to severe liability cases which result in traumatic brain injury, paralysis, broken bones, or death. This would also allow the County to recover for defense costs against the scooter company, if/when named as a joint party in a lawsuit.

### **RECOMMENDATION NO. 2.3**

Local Agencies should create local ordinances to make mandatory the use of helmets while riding any of the e-bikes or e-scooters.

### **RESPONSE**

Agree. The recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future. On November 20, 2018, the BOS directed the CEO to work with County departments to study the impact of e-scooters and e-bikes in other jurisdictions, identify potential public safety issues, and report back with a list of recommendations on how to move forward with a potential regulation of these technologies. The report recommended that the BOS request all shared mobility companies cease operations in the unincorporated communities except for Marina del Rey and that the County develop a pilot permitting program with an accompanying set of regulations to allow the safe operation and storage of these devices on County roadways.

As noted in the response above, an On-Demand Personal Mobility Devices Pilot Program was developed and implemented within the unincorporated County communities, but no permits were issued.

The County does not currently have an ordinance to manage On-Demand EV Scooters. However, the use of helmets was discussed at length while the pilot program was being developed. Helmet usage is a positive safety measure for inclusion, should a new County ordinance be proposed.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 2.4**

Law enforcement agencies (LAPD, LBPD, Community College Campus Police) should create a campaign to educate pedestrians and operators to use safety equipment, e.g., helmets.

**RESPONSE**

Disagree. The Sheriff's Department is not opposed to a public campaign like this one, but it believes such a public awareness campaign is better suited to other agencies who have the resources and skill set to develop an effective campaign. As such, the recommendation will not be implemented.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 2.5**

Law enforcement agencies (LAPD, LBPD, and Community College Campus Police) should create e-bike and e-scooter User Education Course (similar to driver education for autos).

**RESPONSE**

Disagree. This recommendation will not be implemented as it is outside of the scope of the County of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department as an enforcement agency. The County and its Sheriff's Department are supportive of disseminating and advertising related resources that have been developed by appropriate and relevant outside agencies.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 2.6**

Municipal governments should update permit agreements to require electric scooter and electric bike manufacturers to add some type of warning signal on their devices such as a horn or buzzer.

**RESPONSE**

Partially disagree. This recommendation will not be implemented. As noted above, the County does not currently license or permit any shared micromobility device companies. A requirement that electric scooter and electric bike manufacturers add some type of warning signal on their devices such as a horn or buzzer is more appropriate and feasible for legislation at the State level. The County, however, generally supports the addition of any/all safety signaling to help alert the public to the presence of a motorized mobility scooter, so that others in the vicinity can be made aware of their location and potentially assist in the avoidance of a collision.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 2.7**

BOS, CEO, and Los Angeles City Mayor and City Council, and other major local city governments should support the passage of AB 381.

**RESPONSE**

Agree. However, it should be noted that SB 381 was signed by the Governor on October 13, 2023, and became effective January 1, 2024, so no further action by the County is needed. Additionally, it appears as though this recommendation includes a typo; AB 381 ("Teacher credentialing: services credential with a specialization in health: occupational and physical therapists.") deals with credentialing within unrelated subject matter areas, whereas SB 381 ("Electric bicycles: study") deals with the study of electric bicycles and their safety, as referenced earlier in this investigative report.

# RESPONSE TO THE CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS; CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
OFFICE

## 2023-2024 CIVIL GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SCHOOL SAFETY: EQUITABLE SAFETY FOR ALL

### SUMMARY

"This report explores the safeness of various public schools within the County to determine the type of exposure and peril that were in the schools. The goal was to visit schools, speak with administrators, and review safety and emergency programs that they were following. The investigative team randomly selected schools within LAUSD (Los Angeles Unified School District), as well as a few schools outside of LAUSD, and met to discuss various school safety procedures."<sup>3</sup>

### **RECOMMENDATION NO. 3.3**

LAUSD, Culver City Unified School District and Torrance Unified School District Principals should work with the BOS, city council members and school superintendents to get approval for installation of "traffic bumps" in all areas surrounding their school thus helping to slow down traffic and prevent car accidents or injury to students.

### RESPONSE

Partially disagree. This recommendation will not be implemented to the extent that it is outside of the scope of the jurisdiction of the County. California Streets and Highways Code Section 989 and California Government Code Sections 57329 and 57385 state that county roads transfer to a city automatically upon incorporation.

This recommendation is focused on the school districts of specific incorporated cities (the City of Los Angeles, the City of Culver City, and the City of Torrance) and since each of these instances appear to be within an incorporated city, each of those respective cities have jurisdiction over matters related to those streets around their schools, including decisions to install traffic bumps/speed bumps.

LAUSD serves a few unincorporated areas of the County. However, further research is needed to determine if any LAUSD schools are adjacent to roads that the County has jurisdiction over. The County is generally supportive of such school safety measures. When opportunities for traffic bump/speed bump installation on roadways within the unincorporated areas of the County near these schools are identified and presented to the Board of Supervisors (BOS), the BOS will consider them.

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<sup>3</sup> 2023-2024 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury Final Report, School Safety: Equitable Safety for All, p. 53.

# **RESPONSE TO THE CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT**

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AND BUSINESS AFFAIRS

## **2023-2024 CIVIL GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF CANNABIS REGULATION AND THE SOCIAL EQUITY PROGRAM**

### **SUMMARY**

"This report discusses the challenges of the City of Los Angeles' Department of Cannabis Regulations (DCR) and how they manage the Social Equity Program (SEP). The report identifies the findings from the Committee's interviews and their recommendations in assisting to make the SEP a viable and worthwhile program. The Committee found that new cannabis business owners in the City of Los Angeles faced regulatory obstacles and many people were eliminated from the permitting process."<sup>4</sup>

### **RESPONSE**

Upon careful review, it is confirmed that the Office of Cannabis Management (OCM), which operates under the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs (DCBA), a County entity, is not designated as a responding agency under the Required Responses section for the Department of Cannabis Regulation (DCR) and the Social Equity Program (SEP). Furthermore, the recommendations specified in this investigative report pertain exclusively to the Department of Cannabis Regulation (DCR), a City of Los Angeles entity. As such, the County does not have responses for the recommendations in this investigative report.

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<sup>4</sup> 2023-2024 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury Final Report, The Department of Cannabis Regulation and the Social Equity Program, pp. 71-72.

# RESPONSE TO THE CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS; CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
OFFICE

## 2023-2024 CIVIL GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ROOM TO BREATHE: AN ANALYSIS OF GUARANTEED BASIC INCOME AND LA COUNTY'S PILOT INITIATIVES

### SUMMARY

"This report analyzes the BREATHE (Los Angeles County's Guaranteed Basic Income Experiment) program's implementation, how funding sources can effect data, the long term effects (if any) of Guaranteed Basic Income (GBI) models on impacted communities, and identifying room for potential improvements if and when running future models. The Committee also evaluated similar GBI initiatives administered elsewhere in the State of California as a reference to pros and cons of a program's parameters."<sup>5</sup>

### **RECOMMENDATION NO. 5.1**

BOS should collect data about how many participants used the income for job training, education, and childcare at the end of the program. Any future programs similar to BREATHE that the BOS chooses for their own policy reasons should be part of any success metrics by which to analyze such programs, if any.

### RESPONSE

Agree. The County has already established an agreement for the implementation of this recommendation. In partnership with the County, the University of Pennsylvania's Center for Guaranteed Income Research (CGIR) executed a randomized controlled trial to determine the impacts of the guaranteed income on the overall health and well-being of recipients across several domain areas. Research activities entail completing a survey every six months throughout the program duration, as well as six months after it concludes. A final report of all findings is anticipated to be completed one year after the final data collection point.

### **RECOMMENDATION NO. 5.2**

BOS should disclose the amount of money paid by quarter to date: a) to the University of Pennsylvania to run and administer the BREATHE program; b) the amounts paid to the treatment group (those paid, as opposed to the control group); and c) administrative costs incurred by the County.

### RESPONSE

Agree. The County has implemented this recommendation. The [Los Angeles County American Rescue Plan \(ARP\) Dashboard](https://arptracking.ceo.lacounty.gov/public) (<https://arptracking.ceo.lacounty.gov/public>) provides data on spending, budget allocations, and project progress on a monthly basis. The Dashboard is a public facing tool that includes program and administrative expenditure data, as well as data related to metrics and outcomes, individuals served inclusive of demographic

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<sup>5</sup> 2023-2024 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury Final Report, Room to Breathe: An Analysis of Guaranteed Basic Income and LA County's Pilot Initiatives, p. 96.

and geographic data, and [resource guides](https://ceo.lacounty.gov/recovery/) (<https://ceo.lacounty.gov/recovery/>) that provide informational material to help the public navigate the tool.

In partnership with the University of Pennsylvania Center for Guaranteed Income Research (CGIR) and the Stanford Basic Income Lab, the County has committed to also contributing to a [public facing data dashboard](https://guaranteedincome.us/los-angeles-county) (<https://guaranteedincome.us/los-angeles-county>) that includes guaranteed income disbursement and expenditure data of the participants of Breathe: Los Angeles County's Guaranteed Income Program. The dashboard also includes participant demographic data, local economic data, and total disbursements of payments to date; the dashboard is updated monthly.

# RESPONSE TO THE CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS; CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
OFFICE; DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH; DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

## 2023-2024 CIVIL GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LOS ANGELES RIVER: LET IT FLOW, LET IT FLOW, LET IT FLOW (NOT!)

### SUMMARY

"This report studies the Los Angeles River (LA River), a complex system of systems in which people, places, and the environment coexist. The report is focused on determining how questions of ownership, jurisdiction, and politics work alongside or against policies that historically have ignored the LA River system's importance as a component to sustainable municipal infrastructure. The purpose of this report is to determine which agencies or organizations are responsible for the upkeep of the LA River."<sup>6</sup>

### **RECOMMENDATION NO. 6.1**

In the interest of local health and the City's and County's reputation as a worldwide tourist destination, the Creek's soft bottom segment must be abated to prevent it from becoming a breeding ground for the primary vectors for transmission of West Nile or Dengue Fever. BOS coordinates clean up, and vector control against predicted dengue fever.

### RESPONSE

Agree. This recommendation has been implemented to areas under the scope of the jurisdiction of the County's BOS and its Department of Public Works (DPW). DPW maintains a small portion of Compton Creek from the 91 Freeway to its confluence with the Los Angeles River. For this portion, DPW performs annual vegetation removal in the fall that includes re-establishment of the low flow down the center of the creek to assist with vector control. The majority and rest of Compton Creek upstream of the 91 Freeway is maintained by the Army Corps of Engineers.

Additionally, the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health (DPH) investigates and monitors the trends of mosquito-borne diseases among residents in the County. West Nile virus and Saint Louis Encephalitis virus are two mosquito-borne diseases endemic in the County. These diseases are spread by local Culex mosquitoes each year in the County. Mosquito-borne diseases such as dengue and chikungunya are also identified among returning travelers who became infected abroad and are subsequently diagnosed in the County. These travel-associated diseases are not typically spread by local mosquitoes. However, sporadic local transmission can occur as the mosquito species capable of spreading these infections, primarily Aedes mosquitoes, are present in most areas of the County.

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<sup>6</sup> 2023-2024 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury Final Report, Los Angeles River: Let it Flow, Let it Flow, Let it Flow (Not!), pp. 113-114.



The independent Greater Los Angeles Vector Control District and Compton Creek Mosquito Abatement Districts serving the Compton Creek area provide additional information on local conditions and their impact on mosquito breeding. These independent specialized agencies are responsible for mosquito surveillance and control within their jurisdictions and can provide guidance on mitigating the disease risks associated with mosquitoes in that region moving forward.

#### **RECOMMENDATION NO. 6.2**

City of Compton explore alternative money management such as trustee appointment for general fund disbursement and city service moneys or more seriously, file for Federal bankruptcy protection.

#### **RESPONSE**

Neither agree nor disagree. Compton Creek within the City of Compton is maintained by the Army Corps of Engineers. The County's Department of Public Works (DPW) does not have jurisdiction over this matter. Similarly, this recommendation does not involve or implicate health expertise from the County's Department of Public Health (DPH). As such, it is recommended that the Civil Grand Jury review the response from the City of Compton regarding this recommendation.

#### **RECOMMENDATION NO. 6.3**

Regarding the City of Compton, prioritize the clean-up of the water and sewer infrastructure and especially prioritize Compton Creek. Explore the possibility to assigning a Trustee to fulfil the project objectives of bringing the creek up to excellent standards.

#### **RESPONSE**

Neither agree nor disagree. Compton Creek within the City of Compton is maintained by the Army Corps of Engineers. The County's DPW does not have jurisdiction over this matter and recommends the Civil Grand Jury review the responses from the City of Compton regarding the recommendations presented in this investigative report, which may include more details about the City of Compton's funding sources and facilities.

#### **RECOMMENDATION NO. 6.4**

City of Compton should explore how Heal the Bay (and any other interested environmental/other civic-oriented group) can restart volunteer cleanup activities.

#### **RESPONSE**

Disagree. This recommendation will not be implemented as this recommendation is outside of the scope of the jurisdiction of the County and its BOS. The City of Compton is an incorporated city and has its own authority to conduct the exploration of such an option. However, the County supports any such efforts to restart volunteer cleanup activities that the City of Compton wishes to pursue.

# RESPONSE TO THE CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS; CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
OFFICE; DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES; MEDICAL EXAMINER

## 2023-2024 CIVIL GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE EXAMINERS GET EXAMINED!

### SUMMARY

"This report reviews whether recent changes in infrastructure and in leadership have diminished or enhanced the basic operations and processes of the Department of Medical Examiner (DME), the Office of Decedent Affairs (ODA), and the Department of Health Services (DHS), and their collaborative work or coordinated support. This includes a review of whether past procedures, programs, and projects are being continued promptly, efficiently, and according to the expectations of the electorate. This also includes a review of whether sufficient and experienced personnel are hired, and adequate facilities with state-of-the-art instrumentation are provided to serve the estimated 75,000 deaths each year within the County."<sup>7</sup>

### **RECOMMENDATION NO. 7.1**

DME should eliminate the critical issues which are preventing achievement of full accreditation by the National Board of Medical Examiners, including:

- i. 90% of the autopsy reports completed in ninety days or less.
- ii. 90% of the autopsies and exams performed within seventy-two hours.
- iii. DME needs to promptly submit the latest DME's Annual Report for 2023.

### RESPONSE

Agree. The County's Department of Medical Examiner (DME) has made significant strides in regaining their NAME (National Board of Medical Examiners) accreditation by implementing efficient workflows, which have been coupled with substantial gains in the budget for staffing in various areas. DME is targeting to regain accreditation in 2025.

DME was allocated an epidemiologist position in Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-25 and this individual will be the author of the annual reports and will help DME catch up to 2023. DME is currently engaged in interviews for the position, with a target start date for the selected individual in late Summer or early Fall of 2024.

### **RECOMMENDATION NO. 7.2**

DHS should provide additional staffing for ODA attendants, aids, and crematory operators, and transport vans [preferably electric]; Hire more transport drivers so that three drivers are on duty twenty-four seven to account for the fact that a death occurs at any time.

### RESPONSE

Agree. The County's Department of Health Services (DHS) has submitted a budget request for additional Office of Decedent Affairs (ODA) staffing in the FY 2024-25

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<sup>7</sup> 2023-2024 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury Final Report, The Examiners Get Examined!, p. 153.

Supplemental Budget Resolution (SBR) to address immediate needs, and full staffing will be assessed at later budget phases, as needed. This budget request includes requests for Services & Supplies (S&S) funding for the ongoing and annual costs related to the Decedent Management System. The request also seeks funding for the replacement of outdated refrigerated storage containers for decedents and additional morgue vehicles.

Additionally, please note that since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic (in 2020), DHS ceased operating a crematory. DHS has outsourced cremations and no longer requires crematory operators.

#### **RECOMMENDATION NO. 7.3**

The BOS and Chief Executive Officer should create capital outlay plans for replacing or relocating the entire DME complex containing the Medical Examiner's current facility to a larger facility with state-of-the-art equipment and disruptive toxicological labs.

#### **RESPONSE**

Agree. This recommendation requires further analysis. A master plan should be conducted to identify a comprehensive facilities capital plan for the DME, including the central Los Angeles location, as well as in the North, Valley, and South portions of the County. The timeframe to initiate a master plan is Quarter 1 of 2025 and will require an allocation of funding.

#### **RECOMMENDATION NO. 7.4**

Continue to develop additional facilities for Medical Examiner investigators in north, valley, and south portions of the County to improve efficiency, prompt response, and to demonstrate coverage of the DME fieldwork.

#### **RESPONSE**

Partially disagree. The benchmarks assessing this need and the expected improvements for the specific expansion of satellite offices are not clear. The named Los Angeles regions are ambiguous and need further clarification. However, opportunities to improve service delivery and geographic coverage will continue to be evaluated, as a component of ongoing operational management.

#### **RECOMMENDATION NO. 7.5**

Regardless of how or why the existing facilities are deteriorating, the concern of seismic retrofit safety has to be addressed promptly, both on a global and granular level for the good of the employees and the general public.

#### **RESPONSE**

Agree. This recommendation is in the process of being implemented. Funding for seismic retrofit of the existing Downtown DME facility has been approved. The County's Department of Public Works (DPW) is working on pre-design activities to address seismic deficiencies for DME's 1102/1104-A Buildings. A preliminary target for BOS approval of the seismic repairs is Quarter 1 of 2025. However, considerations for a new DME facility are also underway, at the same time as this proposed project.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 7.6**

DHS should ensure that future ceremonies for unclaimed dead are widely publicized prior to the event and ensure as many private citizens are allowed to attend as possible.

**RESPONSE**

Agree. The County's Department of Health Services (DHS) has implemented this recommendation. Before 2020, the annual Ceremony of the Unclaimed Dead typically hosted about 200-300 people who attended in person. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all large gatherings were canceled, resulting in DHS adapting the ceremony to a live-stream format. From 2020 to 2022, over 15,000 online viewers participated virtually. The virtual option not only addressed pandemic limitations, but also expanded the ceremony's reach to a larger and more diverse audience.

In 2023, DHS switched to hybrid events, with both virtual attendance and in-person attendance (limited to 75 individuals). DHS extensively publicized the ceremonies through various channels, including flyers, social media, and media advisories. DHS live-streamed the annual Ceremony of the Unclaimed Dead, allowing the broader community to participate remotely. DHS also shared flyers across all social media platforms and distributed them to over 40 community organizations and partners. The hybrid model adopted in 2023 allowed for a larger audience, with both virtual participation and a limited number of in-person attendees.

In 2024, DHS plans to expand in-person attendance and continue offering a virtual option, ensuring that future ceremonies are widely publicized and accessible for the community.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 7.7**

The fee the Public Administrator charges for claiming the cremated remains of a decedent should be reviewed, with the intent to increase them for the services & convenience rendered to make them more representative of actual costs.

**RESPONSE**

Disagree. The Public Administrator (PA) does not charge a fee for claiming the cremated remains of a decedent. The fees charged to the estate by the PA are set by statute in the California Probate Code and altered only through the legislative process.

Pursuant to the Probate Code, the County's PA is entitled to reasonable costs incurred for the preservation of an estate and reasonable compensation for services rendered on behalf of deceased County residents. Costs and fees associated with an estate may include, but are not limited to, disposition of remains, such as cremation, storage, or burial.

There may be times when the PA is required to render services (i.e., locating the next of kin), but is unable to recover costs and fees because the estate is insolvent.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 7.8**

The ODA should explore the possibility of using the same VertiQ case management system that is already in use by the DME.

**RESPONSE**

Partially disagree. While using an existing system may be efficient, it may not meet the unique needs of the Office of Decedent Affairs (ODA) or align with their workflow. Instead of assuming the feasibility of adopting VertiQ, a comprehensive needs assessment could be conducted, evaluating multiple options to determine the best fit for the ODA. This approach will ensure that ODA's specific requirements will inform any decision made, with aims to enhance ODA's service delivery effectively. The assessment will be completed by DHS and should not exceed six months from the Civil Grand Jury Report's publication date.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 7.9**

When the ME relocates to new quarters, the building should be designed with the purpose of housing the activities of the ODA, with consideration being given to moving those functions from the hospital into the Department of the DME.

**RESPONSE**

Partially disagree. This recommendation involves two separate considerations. First, any decision about co-locating the activities of the Office of Decedent Affairs (ODA) would have to be made once it is determined whether the DME will be operating in their existing facility (after a seismic retrofit) or in a new facility. That portion of the recommendation cannot be considered until the decision is made about the location of the DME operations.

Second, additional analysis is needed to determine the optimal location for where the ODA functions should reside and will not be implemented at this time. The role of DME (as defined in California Government Code Section 27491) is to investigate sudden unexpected and violent deaths to provide information to prevent premature deaths. The specific cases of which decedents fall under the jurisdiction of DME have been reviewed in previous studies ([https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/bc/1007230\\_ReporttoCEO-FINAL11-17-16.pdf](https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/bc/1007230_ReporttoCEO-FINAL11-17-16.pdf)). The recommendation as written would make the DME involved with decedents that do not fall under the jurisdiction of the Medical Examiner. Taking on this additional function would dilute that core function of the DME at a time when DME has been making efforts to regain its accreditation. However, it is also understood that DHS may not be the right fit for the ODA functions either, since the management of indigent and unclaimed deceased individuals, as well as cemetery functions, are rarely performed by a Medical Center.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 7.10**

The DME is housed (since 1972) in an antiquated building complex constructed in the 1920's that doesn't meet today's minimal earthquake safety standards. Must relocate to a larger facility.

**RESPONSE**

Partially disagree. This recommendation is in the process of being implemented. While the Old Administration Building, on the DME's Downtown Los Angeles complex was seismically retrofitted in 2002, the County's Department of Public Works (DPW) is working on pre-design activities to address seismic deficiencies for

DME's 1102/1104-A Buildings, which were built in 1972. A preliminary target for Board approval of the seismic repairs is Quarter 1 of 2025.

However, there is also partial disagreement with this recommendation, since compliance with seismic standards should not dictate a requirement to move into a larger facility. Funding is being acquired for conducting a feasibility study that will create the foundation for what the new DME facility will be composed of, be it at the seismically retrofitted version of the current site or a new facility.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 7.11**

DME should ensure adequate qualified staffing in the Medical Examiners' three satellite offices to relieve the workload off of HQ. This may facilitate support of the needs a major disaster or a catastrophic earthquake bring.

**RESPONSE**

Partially disagree. The satellite offices of the DME were established due to the large geographical coverage of DME's jurisdiction. The existence of these satellite offices acknowledges the need, but there is a lack of clarity about what this recommendation means by "adequate qualified staffing" and makes unstated assumptions about what would meet this standard. Ongoing staffing needs will continue to be analyzed as part of the County's annual budgeting process, taking these recommendations into consideration.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 7.12**

ODA and DME jointly consult with the publisher of the VertiQ case management software to see if the two agencies could share various common forms and the practical simplicity of output. In addition, the publisher would "detect" the 'path' of processing decedents to see similarities in tracking.

**RESPONSE**

Disagree. This recommendation will not be implemented since standardizing workflows between the two agencies is not applicable because the core functions differ significantly. Sharing forms and processes could introduce complexities in data management and operational alignment, which may not align with current operational priorities and resource allocation. Focus will instead be placed on optimizing internal processes and leveraging existing resources for each agency.

# RESPONSE TO THE CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS; CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
OFFICE; DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION; DEPARTMENT OF REGIONAL  
PLANNING

## 2023-2024 CIVIL GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR QUIMBY PARK FEES: RETHINKING PARK FEES AND DEVELOPMENT

### SUMMARY

"This report investigates why the City of Los Angeles (City) and the County collect fees for parks from developers and yet continue to be Park Poor (PP) (a term that refers to areas or neighborhoods that have limited access to parks and green spaces). The report also looks at whether the Quimby Act (QA) has been successfully implemented in creating more parks or just more development."<sup>8</sup>

### **RECOMMENDATION NO. 8.1**

The City and the County should review and consider raising Quimby fees to purchase more park land.

### RESPONSE

Agree. This recommendation is currently being implemented. The County, through its Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), is exploring the feasibility of increasing Quimby fees to be in line with current land values from CoStar (based on recent transaction data).

The Quimby Act establishes a standard of dedicating three (3) acres of parkland per 1,000 residents for subdivisions. Quimby fees may be used to acquire land for local park purposes, improve local parkland (including existing local parks), or both acquire and develop local parkland. However, Quimby funds cannot be used for ongoing costs for staff, operations, utilities, and grounds maintenance for the County. Quimby fees that reflect existing land values would generate additional funding to better reflect current costs for park development and parkland acquisition.

Additionally, the County's Department of Regional Planning (DRP) chairs the County Subdivision Committee ("Subdivision Committee"), consisting of five County departments who review all proposed subdivision projects in the unincorporated areas of the County. DPR is also a member of the Subdivision Committee and is responsible for determining the Quimby fees for a proposed subdivision project, which will also support the efforts that implement this recommendation.

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<sup>8</sup> 2023-2024 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury Final Report, Quimby Park Fees: Rethinking Park Fees and Development, pp. 177-181.

### **RECOMMENDATION NO. 8.2**

LAC and LA City Park Departments should consider issuing bonds and measures for park acquisition and development like the Land and Water Conservation Funds, which was established in 1964 at no cost to the taxpayer, the Outdoors Equity Program, Los Angeles County Measure A, and the California Parks, Environment, Energy, and Water Bond Measure, to help areas that are park-poor.

#### **RESPONSE**

Agree. This recommendation has already been implemented. The County's Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) is extremely diligent in scouring all funding opportunities from federal, state, and local grant funding programs and has successfully secured millions of dollars from federal, state, and local grant programs to support new park and park amenities development, especially in the highest need communities.

Historically, the County voters approved two local parks funding measures in 1992 and 1996, both called Proposition A. Measure A, placed on the ballot in November 2016 was approved by over 75% of voters and was the first equity-based finance measure in the United States. Measure A funds are derived from an annual special tax on property within the County (<https://rposd.lacounty.gov/assessment-calculators/>). Measure A funds are distributed into seven (7) funding categories and Measure A generates about \$95 million of revenue annually, with dedicated funding for high and very high-need areas, based on the adopted 2016 Parks Needs Assessment (PNA).

Revenue collected from both Proposition A and Measure A provide for:

- improvements to existing park, recreation, and beach facilities;
- acquisition of additional park land and open space;
- construction and development of parks;
- acquisition and development of trails;
- restoration of rivers and streams; and
- graffiti prevention, tree planting, and other park and recreation enhancements.

Additionally, the State of California has various bond-funded grant programs (i.e., Proposition 40, Proposition 84, and Proposition 68) that provide funding for park and open space development, park and open space acquisition, and park enhancements.

### **RECOMMENDATION NO. 8.3**

The City of Los Angeles should consider using the funds available from Quimby and other fees to purchase park space.

#### **RESPONSE**

Disagree. This recommendation will not be implemented, as this recommendation applies to the City of Los Angeles, which, as an incorporated city, and is outside of the scope of the jurisdiction of the County of Los Angeles and its Board of Supervisors, Chief Executive Office, Department of Parks and Recreation, and Department of Regional Planning.



#### **RECOMMENDATION NO. 8.4**

LAC and LA development should not be approved in areas that are park poor until enough land is acquired in those areas before more development is approved.

#### **RESPONSE**

Disagree. This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not legal or reasonable. Efforts are already underway to improve park access in such areas of the County. Not approving any new housing development in park poor areas until enough park land is acquired will further exacerbate the availability of affordable housing in these impacted areas.

There are State laws in effect that prevent the County from reducing the amount of new housing that could potentially be developed in the unincorporated areas of the County or delaying new housing via administrative or other regulatory barriers. If the County is found to violate these State laws, the County could be assessed financial penalties on a per housing unit basis. The County is already responding to critical housing needs through programs and policies to ensure decent, safe, sanitary, and affordable housing for current and future residents, including those with special needs.

However, the County's Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) works closely with the County's Department of Regional Planning (DRP) to:

- review development proposals and ensure various area plans provide equitable access to open space, parks, and recreation;
- preserve natural, historical, and cultural resources;
- provide recreational opportunities and education on indigenous history;
- provide enhanced parks and recreational programs; and
- improve, expand, and connect trails.

In addition, DPR works with DRP to ensure that housing and mixed-use development projects are in compliance with adopted trail plans.

The Los Angeles County 2035 General Plan provides the policy and planning framework for how and where the unincorporated County will grow through the year 2035. This General Plan contains an Open Space Element, developed by DPR, and also incorporates seven community park plans, developed by DPR, and informed by an extensive community-based planning process.

Additionally, any Quimby fees associated with housing development cannot be collected if new housing development is not approved (as discussed in the Seventh Annual Affordable Housing Outcomes Report:

[https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/lac/1147895\\_09-21-23-BM-SeventhAnnualAffordableHousingProgramsReport\\_Final.pdf](https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/lac/1147895_09-21-23-BM-SeventhAnnualAffordableHousingProgramsReport_Final.pdf)), which would further hinder park development.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 8.5**

LAC and LA City should complete a study and target areas that are park-poor to evaluate the reason why these areas are park poor and develop remedies.

**RESPONSE**

Agree. This recommendation has been implemented and will continue to be implemented in the future. The County, through DPR, has completed studies of target areas that are park poor to evaluate the reasons why they are park poor and develop remedies.

In 2016, DPR completed the Countywide Parks Needs Assessment (PNA), which quantifies the need for parks and recreation resources in the County and estimates the potential cost of meeting that need. Unprecedented in scope and scale, the PNA was based on data that included park acreage, population density, proximity to parks, and condition of parks. These criteria established high and very high need park need areas, identifying for the first time where high and very high need park poor areas exist, based on data. The PNA serves as a guiding document for planning, resource allocation, and development of new parks and park amenities to address the dearth of parks in high need communities.

In 2022, the Parks Needs Assessment Plus (PNA+) expanded upon the work of the 2016 Parks Needs Assessment to regional and rural opportunities, as well as the conservation and restoration of degraded lands. Both the PNA and PNA+ utilized data and community-based engagement processes to identify areas that are park poor and opportunities to restore degraded lands for future parklands and open space habitat areas. It is anticipated that DPR will complete an updated PNA within the next five years.

Additionally, the County's DRP oversaw the development of the 2015 County General Plan, which provides the policy framework and long-range vision for how and where the County's unincorporated areas will grow. The County General Plan includes a Parks and Recreation Element, contributed by DPR, that provides policy direction for the maintenance and expansion of the County's parks and recreation system.

As part of its implementation of the General Plan, DRP is currently preparing several Area Plans that focus on land use and other policy issues within various unincorporated communities of the County. These Area Plans include open space and parkland policies recommended by DPR.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 8.6**

LAC and LA City should consider issuing bonds in addition to charging developers Quimby fees to purchase land for park development.

**RESPONSE**

Agree. This recommendation has already been implemented and will continue to be implemented in the future. The Regional Park and Open Space District, established with the passage of Proposition A by voters in the County, is funded through a tax assessment to support the development of parks, open space, and trails. In 2018, Measure A was passed by voters in the County, and it generates \$90 million annually to support parkland acquisition and development.

Local funding measures, like Measure A, are leveraged by State funding programs (funded by bonds) and federal funding programs. The State of California has put forth several bond measures such as Propositions 40, 84, and 68. These grant programs supported by bonds and tax assessments provide critical funding to support park acquisition and development.

While bonds are not grants and must be paid back with interest over time, bonds can provide funding for land acquisition and capital improvement projects. Bonds and Quimby funds may be used for land acquisition, as well as developing new or rehabilitating existing recreational facilities, but bonds and Quimby funds cannot be used for ongoing costs for staff, operations, utilities, and grounds maintenance for the County of Los Angeles.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 8.7**

LAC and LA City should realign land use zoning to increase the available land for parks.

**RESPONSE**

Disagree. This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not necessary for increasing the available land for parks. The availability of land for parks is not constrained by zoning because parks are already allowed and could potentially be established in all zones within the unincorporated areas of the County. No land use realignment would be required to increase available land for parks.

The County, through DPR uses the standard for the provision of parkland of four (4) acres of local parkland per 1,000 residents of the population in the unincorporated areas of the County and six (6) acres of regional parkland per 1,000 residents of the total population of the County. DPR works closely with the County's DRP to ensure that adopted park, open space, and trails plans are incorporated in development proposals/projects so that zoning is in alignment with these adopted plans.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 8.8**

LAC and LA City should consider exploring options to make more timely use of available Quimby funds.

**RESPONSE**

Agree. This recommendation is already being implemented, on an ongoing basis. Park projects are identified through extensive community engagement processes, and the successful completion of park projects can only be done through the leveraging of various funding sources, including Quimby funds. Quimby funds are not typically enough to be the sole funding source for park projects.

The County, through DPR, will often use Quimby dollars as a required match for other competitive funding grant programs and will align with the grant program timelines, in recognition that there are often insufficient Quimby funds for priority park projects. DPR can secure the necessary funding to complete a new park or new park amenity project by leveraging Quimby funds with other State and local funding sources.

In terms of timing, Quimby fees for proposed subdivision projects are calculated and assessed prior to the public hearing regarding the subdivision's tentative map. However, Quimby fees for proposed subdivision projects are collected prior to the subdivision's final map recordation, which may occur many years later. During the time between the public hearing and final map recordation, the costs for acquiring park land can increase significantly.

More timely use of available Quimby funds could help to minimize the impact of rising costs on land acquisition and on developing new or rehabilitating existing recreational facilities that are eligible for Quimby funding. Quimby funds may be used for land acquisition as well as developing new or rehabilitating existing recreational facilities, but cannot be used for ongoing costs for staff, operations, utilities, and grounds maintenance for the County. In light of these constraints, options for timely use of available Quimby funds will continue to be explored, as they come up.

# RESPONSE TO THE CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS; CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
OFFICE; DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH; LOS ANGELES COUNTY OFFICE OF  
EDUCATION

## 2023-2024 CIVIL GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR WELLBEING CENTERS: IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY SCHOOLS

### SUMMARY

"This report focuses on Wellbeing Centers (WBC) located in high schools in LAUSD (Los Angeles Unified School District) and LACOE (Los Angeles County Office of Education) school districts. The purpose of the Committee's investigation is to determine the initial success of the WBC program and examine who has been accountable for the WBC's budget (during both the initial rollout and ongoing operations). The purpose is also to report on the transparency and appropriateness of the information gathered and review inter-agency monitoring and cooperation."<sup>9</sup>

### **RECOMMENDATION NO. 10.1**

The DPH should evaluate the current system for capturing visits to the WBCs (REDCap) to see if the system is appropriate and can be improved, or if it needs to be replaced.

### RESPONSE

Agree. This recommendation has already been implemented. The REDCap system for data collection was developed and piloted in the Fall Semester of 2023. The system is now fully launched and undergoes continuous quality improvement and system enhancements to optimize its utility in program quality assurance and quality improvement efforts.

### **RECOMMENDATION NO. 10.2**

Relevant Data Analysis metrics need to be developed by the Program Director.

### RESPONSE

Agree. This recommendation has already been implemented. The Program Director has set goals and metrics for the program, is actively looking at data on whether those goals are being met and will continue to refine and adjust the goals based on programmatic progress.

### **RECOMMENDATION NO. 10.3**

Measures of success or outcomes need to be developed in cooperation with stakeholders, especially with administration of the high schools with WBCs. These measures must be collected and reported from the beginning of the program.

### RESPONSE

Agree. This recommendation has already been implemented. The Wellbeing Centers (WBC) data was shared with school and district administrators in the

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<sup>9</sup> 2023-2024 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury Final Report, Wellbeing Centers: In Los Angeles County Schools, p. 201.

Winter/Spring Semester of 2024. During those meetings, district and school stakeholders were provided local school/district level data, and collaboratively worked on solutions for program improvements.

During the initial program implementation phase, WBCs focused on intermediate outcomes, from program launch through the establishment of memorandums of understanding with school districts. This included developing close partnerships with district and school administrators to identify locations and set up centers, hiring and training staff, and developing program policies, protocols, and curriculum.

As a result of school closures due to COVID-19, much of the effort was halted. During this past 2023-24 school year, data metrics and data collection systems have been developed to support both qualitative and quantitative data analysis, as well as quality assurance and improvement initiatives. By Spring 2024, initial data was available to begin sharing with stakeholders.

Data and reports will continue to be enhanced to allow for strategic decision making with stakeholders to optimize program outcomes. Additionally, the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) will continue to make recommendations to schools to work in collaboration with educational interest holders in support of these efforts.

#### **RECOMMENDATION NO. 10.4**

The Program Director should develop standards describing accountability for the practices in use for the WBCs in high schools.

#### **RESPONSE**

Agree. This recommendation has already been implemented. The Program Director has worked closely with staff to create protocols to guide staff across the different sites. These protocols set a standard for staff to follow and create shared expectations for accountability. The program will continue to improve current protocols and implement new protocols to improve service to students at the Wellbeing Centers (WBCs).

#### **RECOMMENDATION NO. 10.5**

The Program, Director should make a survey of programs used to evaluate the effectiveness of the Wellbeing Centers.

#### **RESPONSE**

Agree. This recommendation has already been implemented. In the Winter/Spring semester of 2024, the Program Director conducted a survey of principals and liaisons at school sites where the Wellbeing Centers (WBCs) are located to elicit their feedback. This survey will be conducted annually. Additionally, surveys were conducted to gather feedback from students who come to the WBCs, and student leaders who participate in the Peer Health Advocates program. These surveys will also be conducted annually. The program is using the survey data to drive improvement efforts across the program.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 10.6**

The Department of Public Health needs to develop a process to consistently distribute Wellbeing Center Reports, and ensure information is shared across all schools that host a Wellbeing Center.

**RESPONSE**

Agree. This recommendation has been partially implemented and will continue to be implemented in the future. During the Winter/Spring Semester of 2024, the Program Director began the process of distributing school data reports to each principal and school liaison and had meetings with individual school administrators to discuss the data and how to improve the WBCs at the schools. The Program Director will continue this practice and continue to explore additional methods to share WBC reports with school and district administrators.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 10.7**

Other Healthcare providers should be considered to provide student related services for any future Wellbeing Centers.

**RESPONSE**

Partially disagree. The jurisdiction for this recommendation falls with the School Districts. Planned Parenthood Los Angeles is providing free, no-cost clinical and behavioral health services for students at all Wellbeing Center (WBC) sites within their jurisdiction through memorandums of understanding (MOUs) with School Districts, rather than with the County and its Department of Public Health (DPH). Schools/Districts can engage other healthcare providers that are interested in providing free and confidential services for students at WBCs and the County, through its public health department, DPH, can coordinate and collaborate with these providers.

# RESPONSE TO THE CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS; CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
OFFICE; SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

## 2023-2024 CIVIL GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DE-ESCALATION: TAKE A BEAT, NOT A BEATING

### SUMMARY

"This report concentrates on traffic stops by law enforcement officers and appropriate actions taken once the stop has occurred. The purpose of the Committee's investigation is to shine a light on police officers and deputies in Los Angeles County in their day-to-day duties when patrolling the streets and their involvement in crime-related incidents with its citizens. The Committee's objective is to determine if law enforcement agencies (comprised of Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD), and independent policing agencies) are adhering to and abiding by official written procedures and training related to de-escalation techniques."<sup>10</sup>

### **RECOMMENDATION NO. 11.1**

LASD has tested a new App relating to traffic stops for drivers. This App is called "SafeStop." A recommendation is made for LASD and LAPD to advertise on their websites this App to enable drivers in the County to add it to their cell phones. The App will assist drivers to have a dialogue with the officers or deputies who initiated the stop, thus alleviate potential adverse situations.

### RESPONSE

Agree. The County's LASD's West Hollywood Station launched a partnership with SafeStop in the Fall of 2023. Deputies who were interested in participating on a voluntary basis were supplied with the app, which allows motorists to initiate video contact with law enforcement after having been pulled over, but before deputies approach the vehicle. However, no activations were initiated by the public using the app for the duration of the pilot. Therefore, it is difficult to assess the effectiveness of this app as a tool.

LASD is supportive of further exploring potential use as a voluntary tool for deputies in appropriate circumstances. However, more information is needed to ensure there are no unnecessary delays or safety concerns posed given that current training on safe traffic stops instructs deputies to minimize delays or distractions prior to contacting the occupant(s) inside the vehicle stopped.

In the coming year, LASD will explore extension of the West Hollywood Station pilot program for the purposes of monitoring outcomes and will gather additional information regarding use cases from law enforcement agencies in other jurisdictions regarding implementation. The recommendation requires further analysis as noted above and will be re-evaluated in six months.

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<sup>10</sup> 2023-2024 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury Final Report, De-Escalation: Take a Beat, Not a Beating, p. 219.



**RECOMMENDATION NO. 11.2**

LASD and LAPD should provide pamphlets similar to the ones that the Antelope Valley Sheriff's Department offers their citizens which gives guidance on what to do when you are involved in a traffic stop with a deputy sheriff. This pamphlet can be made available at all LASD and LAPD stations. These pamphlets should also be placed at other traffic related locations such as car rental agencies, Automobile Association of America offices, and Insurance Agencies.

**RESPONSE**

Agree. The County's LASD agrees that this information should be made widely available. In the next quarter, the pamphlet will be posted publicly online, and the link will be posted at Sheriff's Department stations. This method of communication has proven to be a more effective method of disseminating information throughout the large geographic area patrolled by the LASD. It also an opportunity to easily provide the information in multiple languages. The recommendation has been implemented in part, as noted in the recommendation, but will be more fully implemented in approximately six months.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 11.3**

Both LAPD and LASD should implement the findings of the Study of traffic stops which was published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Science in May 2023. "The First 45 Words" specifies what law enforcement should say when they initially make a traffic stop of a driver in the County.

**RESPONSE**

Agree. This effort is underway. As part of compliance efforts related to the Antelope Valley Settlement Agreement, the County's LASD has rolled out full-day training on constitutional and bias-free policing which encompasses the principles identified in the aforementioned study, including introduction of deputies at the initiation of contact with a civilian, stating the reason for stops or detentions, ensuring that the stop or detention is no longer than necessary to take appropriate action, and acting with courtesy and professionalism in civilian interactions.

Quarterly refresher roll-call trainings on these topics are also being implemented. LASD is also delivering a new training via a group of external trainers, entitled "Why'd You Stop Me." This focuses on deputy-community interactions and communication, including the concepts of procedural justice.

Further, the LASD's Audit and Accountability Bureau has been conducting a series of audits monitoring these efforts on an ongoing basis, which are being used in conjunction with body worn camera review to determine compliance and identify necessary improvements.

Finally, California passed Assembly Bill 2773 (which amends government Code section 12525.5) requiring law enforcement to state the reason for the stop before engaging in any further questioning regarding the stop. The Sheriff's Department employees have received training on this new law. Therefore, this recommendation has been implemented.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 11.4**

Direct LASD and LAPD to monitor and explore all new Artificial Intelligence (AI) currently being created to provide improved training, augment their current policies and reporting.

**RESPONSE**

Agree. The recommendation has been implemented. The County's LASD has already evaluated numerous Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools. The evaluation indicates that the tools are expensive and not effective at this early stage. However, the Sheriff's Department will continue to monitor and explore AI capabilities as they evolve to identify opportunities for improved training, reporting, and policy development. The Sheriff's Department recognizes that such tools may implicate meet and confer issues with labor, if such tools are adopted.

# RESPONSE TO THE CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS; CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
OFFICE; DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE; OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL;  
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

## 2023-2024 CIVIL GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT USE OF FORCE INVOLVING RACIAL BIAS

### SUMMARY

"This report looks at the racial demographics of law enforcement (LE) civilian stops and arrests, District Attorney (DA) and LA City Attorney (CA) prosecutorial endeavors, and the racial makeup of Los Angeles County jails and detention entities. The Committee also investigated the litigation costs breakdown in the County, focusing primarily on the last five years."<sup>11</sup>

### **RECOMMENDATION NO. 12.1**

The LAPD and the LASD should use training officers who have a more inclusive attitude toward other ethnic minorities and dissuade patrol training officers from passing on outdated and racially bias procedures.

- a. LAPD should source creative strategies and anti-racist curriculum for training officers.
- b. LASD should source creative strategies and anti-racist curriculum for training officers.

### RESPONSE

Agree. The recommendation has been implemented or is otherwise in progress. The County's Sheriff's Department is highly diverse. As of July 2024, the demographics of the Sheriff's Department's sworn workforce reflected the following breakdown: 57.7% Hispanic, 7% Black, 5.6% Asian, 1.9% Filipino, 25.9% White, and 1.9% Other. The Sheriff's Department's training program is being updated to ensure it is robust, comprehensive, and addresses 21st Century Policing principles. Bias-free policing training is included in this effort and is ongoing. Additionally, the Office of Inspector General prepares reports that include recommendations regarding addressing racial disparities in policing.

### **RECOMMENDATION NO. 12.2**

All LACY LE agencies and departments should follow California Assembly Bill 748 to the letter of the law. LACY LE oversight authorities should stop allowing LE to do whatever they please when it comes to releasing BWV.

### RESPONSE

Agree. This recommendation has been implemented. The County's Sheriff's Department is in compliance with Assembly Bill 748 and meets or exceeds the 45-day guidelines for the release of video in critical incidents. However, the portion of this recommendation related to oversight authorities is outside of the jurisdiction of the Sheriff's Department. Additionally, the Office of Inspector General has

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<sup>11</sup> 2023-2024 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury Final Report, Law Enforcement Use of Force Involving Racial Bias, pp. 237-250.

prepared reports that include identifying the need for systemic reform at the Sheriff's Department and recommendations regarding compliance with the release of records.

#### **RECOMMENDATION NO. 12.3**

LACY LE agencies should make a more concerted effort to recruit officers who live in or near the areas they are assigned to patrol. LASD should collect racial data on officers to include for consideration when assigning officer patrol location.

#### **RESPONSE**

Agree. This recommendation is being implemented. The County's Sheriff's Department has retained the services of an outside firm to support and augment the recruitment of a diverse and qualified sworn workforce.

The County's Sheriff's Department is highly diverse. As of July 2024, the demographics of the Sheriff's Department's sworn workforce reflected the following breakdown: 57.7% Hispanic, 7% Black, 5.6% Asian, 1.9% Filipino, 25.9% White, and 1.9% Other. The deputies who are assigned to patrol reflect this diversity.

Additionally, the Office of Inspector General prepares reports that include recommendations regarding further addressing racial disparities in policing. Continuous improvement is needed to improve mechanisms for the reform of law enforcement operations, to further ensure compliance with the United States Constitution, the California Constitution, and federal, state, and local laws that were implemented to ensure fair and unbiased policing.

#### **RECOMMENDATION NO. 12.4**

LE oversight entities should do their jobs and be outraged at their own failing to hold LE officers and their commanders accountable for continued unwanted missuses of authority and to deprive citizens of fair treatment under the law.

#### **RESPONSE**

Agree. The County agrees with the need for accountability. The County's Sheriff's Department is committed to constitutional policing practices, while working towards establishing public safety and building public trust.

This effort includes holding deputies and leadership accountable as the Sheriff's Department ensures that it provides services that are respectful, empathetic, and constitutional. Different oversight entities have different legal authorities and within the scope of the current legal authorities relevant to the Sheriff's Department's oversight bodies, this recommendation has been implemented.

Further, the Office of Inspector General also prepares reports that include recommendations regarding further addressing racial disparities in policing. Continuous improvement is needed to improve mechanisms for the reform of law enforcement operations, to further ensure compliance with the United States Constitution, the California Constitution, and federal, state, and local laws that were implemented to ensure fair and unbiased policing.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 12.5**

(No recommendation provided.)

**RESPONSE**

The County was unable to identify a Recommendation 12.5 in this investigative report and thus, there is no response to Recommendation 12.5.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 12.6**

(No recommendation provided.)

**RESPONSE**

The County was unable to identify a Recommendation 12.6 in this investigative report and thus, there is no response to Recommendation 12.6.

# RESPONSE TO THE CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS; CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
OFFICE; DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS; INTERNAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

## 2023-2024 CIVIL GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EV CHARGING IN LA COUNTY: THE "SHOCKING" STORY

### SUMMARY

"This report identifies and puts forth recommendations to assist in EV (Electric Vehicle) drivers' experiences when charging their vehicle throughout Los Angeles, including methods and practices to handle most problems found at County-owned EVCS (Electric Vehicle Charging Stations) parking facilities. This report addresses these problems and offers practical and workable solutions that could be modeled everywhere."<sup>12</sup>

### **RECOMMENDATION NO. 13.1a**

Increase the number of EV Charging Stations at all large parking facilities that currently have less than ten percent of their total parking spaces set up as EV charging stations.

### RESPONSE

Agree. This recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future. The County, through the coordination of its Department Public Works (DPW) and its Internal Services Department (ISD) will work to increase the number of EV charging stations to 10 percent of the total parking spaces by 2027.

ISD has been working with all County departments to install EVCSs (Electric Vehicle Charging Stations) to meet County Fleet, employee, and visitor charging demands, including replacing over 300 old stations on various networks to streamline the user experience. Recent focus has been on Justice40 communities as this has been the priority of local utilities, State, and federal funding. The pace of installations is dependent on numerous factors, including available County and grant/incentive funding, as well as the availability of equipment, which has been impacted ever since the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **RECOMMENDATION NO. 13.1b**

Request that funding from the BOS for the EV Charging Infrastructure be tripled to six million dollars annually at LAC controlled parking facilities.

### RESPONSE

Partially disagree. This recommendation requires further analysis, as part of the annual County budget process. The County and its Internal Services Department (ISD) agree with the need for increased investments to meet established goals and targets in this funding area. However, there are many needs and priorities that must be considered during the annual County budget process.

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<sup>12</sup> 2023-2024 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury Final Report, EV Charging in LA County: The "Shocking" Story, pp. 258-259.

When investigating the request for funds for EV charging stations in parking facilities under the control of the County during the next budget cycle, there will also be an exploration of any funds that can also be leveraged with federal/State/utility grant or incentive dollars. For example, in the budget for FY 2024-25, the adopted County budget for EV infrastructure was increased to \$3.8 million and is expected to leverage approximately \$8 million in utility incentives, as well as several more million in grant funding.

### **RECOMMENDATION NO. 13.2**

At the entrance of each large parking facility, install the following signage: “Follow green line to EV Charging Stations”, as well as install a green line from each entrance of the parking facilities to charging stations as seen in the (example) photo below:



(Example provided by Committee member)

### **RESPONSE**

Agree. This recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future. Currently, signage is posted at various locations when entering garages, along with the signage at the EV stations themselves. Signage will be reviewed for visibility and wayfinding to help guide customers to EV charging stations. Current signage will be supplemented with additional signage and wayfinding measures, as appropriate. Applicable signage standards will be followed for all EV charging stations that are installed by 2027.

### **RECOMMENDATION NO. 13.3**

Install an EV-Only sign and paint the ground “EV-Charging Only” at each charging station.

### **RESPONSE**

Disagree. This recommendation will not be implemented. The County, through its Internal Services Department (ISD) works closely with host Departments on signage. Some departments choose to have some parking spots with EV charging stations to be EV-optional. Many County parking facilities are parking space constrained, and the host department may choose to only dedicate some of the parking spots to be EV-only while some others could be EV-optional. The mix of EV-optional to EV-only parking spots will change over time as demand for EV-only parking spots increases.

This is especially true at sites where ISD purposefully installs more charging stations than immediate demand for charging stations would warrant. This is done to anticipate future demand and recognize that the cost to add additional infrastructure later on can be non-linear, as most of the cost can lie in the undergrounding and electrical switchgear.

As such, many large County parking facilities with EV infrastructure are initially designed to accommodate EV-optional parking with the anticipated change to EV-only in the future when the demand for EV-only spots warrants that transition. In the meantime, applicable signage standards will be followed for all EV charging stations that are installed by 2027.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 13.4**

Train parking personnel to regularly monitor EV Charging Stations and report broken or missing signs and missing or problematic QR codes to ISD management.

**RESPONSE**

Agree. This recommendation has been implemented and will continue to be implemented in the future. The County, through its Internal Services Department (ISD), works with facility managers to address signage or QR code issues, as well as matters of maintenance. ISD has also established an email address ([evsupport@isd.lacounty.gov](mailto:evsupport@isd.lacounty.gov)) where ISD staff can be contacted about the resolution of maintenance issues, as a supplement to the PowerFlex support phone and email contacts to ensure timely responses to issues that arise. There are also plans to provide staff training on regular monitoring of EV charging stations, as well as educational materials for employees and the public on how to use these charging stations.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 13.5**

Refresh EV-Only ground signs when they are difficult to read.

**RESPONSE**

Agree. This recommendation has been implemented and will continue to be implemented in the future. The County, through its Internal Services Department (ISD) and its Department of Public Works (DPW), works to refresh such EV-Only ground signs when they become difficult to read. This includes routine evaluation of signage, striping, and ground stencils to maintain visibility. When these elements become difficult to see, they are updated and/or refreshed.



**RECOMMENDATION NO. 13.6**

Enforcement policy of EV Only laws need to be done on a case-by-case basis. Train parking personnel to recognize that if no EVCS are available, we recommend a paper warning sign be placed under the windshield wiper of the gas-powered vehicle stating that their vehicle is in violation of the EV Charging statutes. If an EV is not connected to charging Station, then a similar notice should be placed under the windshield wiper of the EV not charging. *See Appendix 2 and 3 full page layout.*

**RESPONSE**

Agree. This recommendation will continue to be implemented in the future. The County, through its Internal Services Department (ISD) and Department of Public Works (DPW), currently provides for parking citations in the enforcement of parking management. Parking personnel are trained to recognize violations and follow protocols to issue warnings accordingly, whether for gas-powered vehicles or EVs not connected to charging stations. Ongoing review of the procedures for EV charging enforcement will be done to ensure that the procedures are updated, as needed, for staff issuing citations to address appropriate parking and use at EV stations.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 13.7**

It is recommended that after paper warning has been placed on a specific vehicle for violation of the EV statute, the next offense should be enforced with a \$100 ticket or that their car be towed or that a boot be placed on the vehicle tire.

**RESPONSE**

Partially disagree. The County's protocol involves issuing warnings for initial violations, in accordance with established procedures. However, the County will review current enforcement levels for consideration of any changes to further compel compliance with existing parking policies.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 13.8**

ISD management to train parking personnel on parking enforcement protocols.

**RESPONSE**

Agree. This recommendation has already been implemented. The County's Internal Services Department (ISD) already train their staff on parking enforcement protocols. ISD will monitor warnings issued to vehicles to improve the escalation process, ensuring a more effective review of infractions, including those that may be from repeat offenders. Ongoing review of the procedures for EV charging enforcement will be done to ensure that the procedures are updated, as needed, for staff issuing citations to address appropriate parking and use at EV stations.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 13.9a**

It is recommended that a Wi-Fi extender (strengthens Wi-Fi signal) be placed in areas where repeated Wi-Fi issues occur. The optimal solution is to install a Wi-Fi booster or repeater to increase Wi-Fi strength to those areas with poor reception.

**RESPONSE**

Disagree. This recommendation will not be implemented, since the PowerFlex system hardware does not operate over Wi-Fi. The PowerFlex user app is designed to initiate a charge session even if the user's cell phone does not have cellular service or Wi-Fi while the user is in the parking facility. Once the user walks outside the parking facility and can re-establish a connection to a cellular or Wi-Fi network, the app will allow the charge session to continue.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 13.9b**

It is recommended that the EV-Optional signs be placed in areas of the weakest Wi-Fi signal for those parking facilities that have reversible signs reading EV-Optional on one side and the 4-hour limit with the violation codes on the other side.

**RESPONSE**

Disagree. This recommendation will not be implemented, since the PowerFlex system hardware does not operate over Wi-Fi. The PowerFlex user app is designed to initiate a charge session even if the user's cell phone does not have cellular service or Wi-Fi while the user is in the parking facility. Once the user walks outside the parking facility and can re-establish a connection to a cellular or Wi-Fi network, the app will allow the charge session to continue.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 13.9c**

ISD to examine the feasibility placing Wi-Fi booster or repeater in areas with poor reception.

**RESPONSE**

Disagree. This recommendation will not be implemented, since the PowerFlex system hardware does not operate over Wi-Fi. The PowerFlex user app is designed to initiate a charge session even if the user's cell phone does not have cellular service or Wi-Fi while the user is in the parking facility. Once the user walks outside the parking facility and can re-establish a connection to a cellular or Wi-Fi network, the app will allow the charge session to continue.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 13.10**

It is recommended that when a charging project is slated to begin that data be collected and recorded on an excel spread sheet. The following information would facilitate incremental improvements to the installation process:

- Actual start date of EV charger project at (address of location).
- Actual completion date of installation of charging stations.
- Actual date the charging stations come online and are available for charging.
- Actual date when wall signs are installed.
- Actual date when ground signs are installed.

**RESPONSE**

Agree. This recommendation has already been implemented. The County, through its Internal Services Department (ISD), currently tracks relevant dates for project management of new EVSE (Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment)/EVCS (Electric Vehicle Charging Station) installations. Additionally, the County's Department of Public Works (DPW) is planning to implement an inventory system by 2027 that will include tracking the actual start date, completion date of installation, availability for charging, and installation dates of wall and ground signs at each location.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 13.11**

It is recommended that a contract be established with at least one to three reliable repair contractors so that an independent service provider can respond to a problem if PowerFlex is not able to respond within 48 hours.

**RESPONSE**

Agree. This recommendation is being implemented. The County, through its Internal Services Department (ISD), is in the process of setting up a contract with such Electric Vehicle Charging Station (EVCS) maintenance contractors. Additionally, a contract with PowerFlex is already in place and if PowerFlex is unable to respond within 48 hours, County departments coordinate on the repairs to the PowerFlex-enabled equipment.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 13.12**

It is recommended that all DC fast chargers in publicly accessed parking facilities be removed and replaced Level 2 chargers. The DC Fast Chargers should be used primarily for emergency response electric vehicles, police electric vehicles, public transportation electric vehicles and the LAC Sheriff's electric vehicles.

**RESPONSE**

Partially disagree. This recommendation has been partially implemented. The County's Department of Public Works (DPW) only utilizes Level 2 chargers in publicly accessed parking facilities and does not have any DC fast chargers, though DPW does not have any vehicles that are primarily used for emergency response.

However, the County partially disagrees with the recommendation because there are different use cases for employees and consumers that warrant a possible mix of technological solutions. As such, the inventory of EV chargers will continue to be re-evaluated, to make any necessary updates to best meet current demand.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 13.13**

Education is needed for the EV owner to understand how to use the EVCSs. A QR code could be created for EV owners to provide them with the education that they need to make their EV driving and charging experience seamless and enjoyable.

**RESPONSE**

Agree. Consumer education is needed, and this information is currently provided by the County's Internal Services Department (ISD) through the PowerFlex user guide/video(s), signage (as appropriate to each location), and onsite outreach. ISD has hosted several community events to increase awareness, showcase various EV models, and teach users how to use the app and charging stations. Additionally, the County's Department of Public Works (DPW) is in the process of providing a QR Code at EV charging stations, by 2027, to help direct consumers to a website with relevant educational content.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 13.14a**

At 145 N. Broadway Los Angeles (Parking Lot 10), the Committee recommends that either the wall and ground signs be removed, or additional chargers be installed to replace the ones that have been removed.

**RESPONSE**

Agree. This recommendation has already been implemented. The County, through its Internal Services Department (ISD), has removed the EV signs as of July 22, 2024. The ground signs were removed by the end of July 2024.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 13.14b**

At 11705 Alameda St. in Lynwood. Either install EV Chargers where the signs are or remove the signs.

**RESPONSE**

Agree. This recommendation has already been implemented. The County, through its Internal Services Department (ISD), has installed "EV Charging Inside" signs at the parking booth as of July 19, 2024. The existing EV signs are for EV vehicle (preferential) parking, not EV charging.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 13.14c**

At 8300 S. Vermont, Los Angeles. Install an additional 10-20 EVCS.

**RESPONSE**

Agree. This recommendation has already been implemented. The County, through its Internal Services Department (ISD), installed 20 new PowerFlex chargers to replace a broken EVConnect network, which was fully commissioned in January 2024.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 13.15**

ISD and DPW work together to include EVCS when new or upgraded parking facilities are being planned.

**RESPONSE**

Agree. This recommendation has already been implemented. The County's Internal Services Department (ISD) and Department of Public Works (DPW) worked together on the deployment of EV infrastructure at new parking facilities. EVSE (Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment) installation is a code requirement for new parking facilities. ISD and DPW are working together to install chargers in parking lots to achieve compliance with County of Los Angeles Building Code Sections R401.4.1 through R401.4.4 (IRC N1101.15.1 through IRC N1101.15.3).

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 13.16**

Training of parking facilities managers by ISD is recommended. This training would include: Things to watch for like broken or damaged signs, peeling QR codes on EV Chargers, EVs parked at charging stations but not charging their vehicle, gas vehicles parked in EV Charging spots. All problems should be reported to parking management who in turn report to ISD management.

**RESPONSE**

Agree. This recommendation is currently being implemented. The County's Internal Services Department (ISD) has already shared a preventive maintenance checklist for County departments and their facility staff. ISD has conducted onsite training of facility staff and has established an email address ([evsupport@isd.lacounty.gov](mailto:evsupport@isd.lacounty.gov)) for the intake of maintenance issues, such as the ones mentioned in this recommendation. As part of these implementation efforts, ISD will internally clarify roles and responsibilities for oversight, as needed.

# RESPONSE TO THE CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS; CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
OFFICE; DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND CULTURE

## 2023-2024 CIVIL GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ARTISTS AND CIVIC PLACEMAKING: CREATIVE STRATEGISTS SUPPORTING NON- ARTS GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONS

### SUMMARY

"This report focuses on Creative Strategists, artists engaged in a process to support non-arts government functions. This report found that the Creative Strategist program is investing in process-based solutions, legacy frameworks, and forward-looking placemaking projects related to non-arts government functions. The research of this report found a lack of funding, programing staff, and resource infrastructure. The report advocates for a more robust Creative Strategist program as part of cross-sector initiatives and the Countywide Cultural Policy (CCP)."<sup>13</sup>

### **RECOMMENDATION NO. 14.1 (a)**

BOS direct CEO to find funding to meet the staffing needs of the DA&C.

### RESPONSE

Partially disagree. This request for funding would need to go through the County's annual budgeting process. Departmental budget requests are prepared and submitted for consideration to the Chief Executive Office (CEO) annually. Pursuant to California Government Code Section 29040, each budget submission should include a base budget and an official budget request reflecting critical and unmet needs. The Recommended Budget is the first step in the County's multi-part budget process, which includes Public Hearings in May; deliberations leading to Board of Supervisors (BOS) approval of the Adopted Budget in June; and the Supplemental Budget culminating with BOS approval of the Final Adopted Budget in the fall.

For context, the Department of Arts and Culture's (DA&C) budget has increased by \$3.858M and 13.0 positions in the three fiscal years (FY) from FY 2020-21 through FY 2023-24, as seen in the following chart:

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Final Adopted Budget</u>	<u>Budgeted Positions</u>
FY 2020-21	\$15,233,000	39.0
FY 2023-24	\$19,091,000	52.0

<sup>13</sup> 2023-2024 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury Final Report, Artists and Civic Placemaking: Creative Strategists Supporting Non-Arts Government Functions, pp. 307-343.

Additionally, the following are the Net County Cost (NCC) amounts and positions approved for DA&C, from FY 2021-22 through FY 2023-24:

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>NCC</u>	<u>Positions</u>
FY 2021-22	\$1,771,000	3.0
FY 2022-23	\$1,494,000	9.0
FY 2023-24	\$593,000	1.0

Any new requests can be revisited during the County's annual budgeting process and considered along with requests from other departments and Board priorities.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 14.1 (b)**

DA&C should report to BOS and CEO with staffing requirements; with special consideration towards creating foundational program infrastructure and accounting for future opportunities for the Department.

**RESPONSE**

Agree. This recommendation has been implemented by the County's Department of Arts and Culture (DA&C) through the Countywide Cultural Policy Strategic Plan ([https://www.lacountyarts.org/sites/default/files/documents/pdfs/cultural-policy-strategic-plan\\_7-1-f.pdf](https://www.lacountyarts.org/sites/default/files/documents/pdfs/cultural-policy-strategic-plan_7-1-f.pdf)).

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 14.3**

DA&C should use sole source contracts to rehire those Creative Strategists with incomplete and easily revived projects.

**RESPONSE**

Partially disagree. In general, the County's preference is for open competitive solicitations for contracting, rather than sole source contracts. Per Board Policy No. 5100, County Departments are to solicit the maximum number of bids/proposals for a service from the largest relevant market and select contractors on a competitive basis. This is done to ensure equity in the consideration of potential contractors that the County does business with (including business owners who are minorities, women, and/or disabled veterans), while also seeking the best price for the services the County contracts for. The County continues to analyze the potential of designing certain solicitations in a way that smaller community-based organizations (CBOs), businesses, and nonprofits can access contract opportunities. However, DA&C has implemented this finding on a small scale, limited basis for single projects when funding was available.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 14.4 (a)**

BOS should direct CEO to find funding for unaddressed Strategies outlined in the Countywide Cultural Policy Strategic Plan.

**RESPONSE**

Partially disagree. This request for funding would need to go through the County's annual budgeting process, as described in the response to Recommendation 14.1 (a). The County has previously undertaken efforts to find funding for implementing key strategies in the Countywide Cultural Policy Strategic Plan, including increased funding for the Organizational Grant Program (OGP), in support of Strategy 1 (Expand Grants to Organizations Serving Diverse Communities) (<https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/172226.pdf>).

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 14.4 (b)**

BOS should direct CEO to find remaining funding for partially-funded Strategies outlined in the Countywide Cultural Policy Strategic Plan.

**RESPONSE**

Partially disagree. This request for funding would need to go through the County's annual budgeting process, as described in the response to Recommendation 14.1 (a). The County has previously undertaken efforts to find funding for implementing key strategies in the Countywide Cultural Policy Strategic Plan, including increased funding for the Organizational Grant Program (OGP), in support of Strategy 1 (Expand Grants to Organizations Serving Diverse Communities) (<https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/172226.pdf>).

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 14.4 (c)**

BOS should direct all Department Heads to engage DA&C to incorporate Countywide Cultural Policy goals, such as, but not limited to, allocating resources to engage Creative Strategists and other programs.

**RESPONSE**

Partially disagree. The County's Department of Arts and Culture (DA&C) continues to implement this finding through the Countywide Cultural Policy, with existing funding and staffing resources. Annual reporting on the progress of County Departments and agencies in incorporating the arts in Countywide plans, initiatives and projects for the purposes of greater cultural inclusion and belonging, as outlined in the Countywide Cultural Policy, is already underway (<https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/157546.pdf>). Departments may also submit requests for funding through the County's annual budgeting process, as described in the response to Recommendation 14.1 (a).

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 14.5 (a)**

BOS should direct all Department Heads to explore incorporating Cultural Policy goals, and especially a Creative Strategist, into their operations or service models. Internal surveys, open calls and program evaluations can help make this determination for allocating departmental resources to engage DA&C programming.

**RESPONSE**

Partially disagree. The County's Department of Arts and Culture (DA&C) continues to implement this finding through the Countywide Cultural Policy, with existing funding and staffing resources. Annual reporting on the progress of County Departments and agencies in incorporating the arts in Countywide plans, initiatives and projects for the purposes of greater cultural inclusion and belonging, as outlined in the Countywide Cultural Policy, is already underway (<https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/157546.pdf>). However, the County departments may also submit a request for funding (including funding to meet staffing needs) through the County's annual budgeting process (as previously described in the response to Recommendation 14.1 (a)), as part of this exploration into where this incorporation would make sense in their specific operations and service models.



**RECOMMENDATION NO. 14.5 (b)**

BOS should direct all Department Heads to engage with DA&C for guidance, recommendations, and development during this exploratory period. BOS direct CEO and DA&C to designate anticipated staffing and funding needs to properly interface with other departments regarding the Countywide Cultural Policy.

**RESPONSE**

Partially disagree. The County's Department of Arts and Culture (DA&C) continues to implement this finding through the Countywide Cultural Policy, with existing funding and staffing resources. Annual reporting on the progress of County Departments and agencies in incorporating the arts in Countywide plans, initiatives and projects for the purposes of greater cultural inclusion and belonging, as outlined in the Countywide Cultural Policy, is already underway (<https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/157546.pdf>). The County's Department of Arts and Culture (DA&C) has provided the anticipated funding and staffing needs in Strategy 14 (Administer the Countywide Cultural Policy) of the Countywide Cultural Policy Strategic Plan. County departments may also submit a request for such funding through the County's annual budgeting process (as previously described in the response to Recommendation 14.1 (a)).

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 14.5 (c)**

DA&C should create necessary infrastructure (program availability, educational materials, vendor lists, resource lists, individualized compliance blueprints and inter-departmental relations person). We recognize this recommendation cannot be implemented unless DA&C received additional staff positions.

**RESPONSE**

Agree. However, creation of the necessary infrastructure mentioned (i.e., program availability, educational materials, vendor lists, individualized compliance blueprints, and inter-departmental relations person) will require additional funding, the request for which would need to go through the County's annual budgeting process, as described in the response to Recommendation 14.1 (a).

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 14.6**

DA&C should expand preparatory period timelines from six to twelve months, given the project's scope. Build in clause to allow for additional time if necessary, recognizing that Creative Strategists should be engaged for a minimum of two years.

**RESPONSE**

Agree. Contracts with Creative Strategists and host departments have already included clauses to allow for such additional time, if necessary. Strategy 15 (Place Creative Strategists in Residence in County Departments to Address Social Challenges) of the Countywide Cultural Policy Strategic Plan details the staffing and funding needs for this recommendation. However, any request for such funding would need to go through the County's annual budgeting process, as previously described in the response to Recommendation 14.1 (a).

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 14.7 (a)**

BOS should direct CEO to find funding to meet the staffing needs for DA&C's cross-sector work to enable the necessary infrastructure to be set in place.

**RESPONSE**

Partially disagree. This request for funding would need to go through the County's annual budgeting process, as described in the response to Recommendation 14.1 (a).

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 14.7 (b)**

DA&C report to BOS and CEO with staffing requirements to fully-support the cross-sector division; ensure special consideration regarding potential opportunities for future expansion.

**RESPONSE**

Agree. This recommendation has been implemented by the County's Department of Arts and Culture (DA&C) through the Countywide Cultural Policy Strategic Plan ([https://www.lacountyarts.org/sites/default/files/documents/pdfs/cultural-policy-strategic-plan\\_7-1-f.pdf](https://www.lacountyarts.org/sites/default/files/documents/pdfs/cultural-policy-strategic-plan_7-1-f.pdf)). DA&C also updates the BOS quarterly on the Creative Strategist Program as a whole. Any requests for the funding to fulfill these staffing requirements would need to go through the County's annual budgeting process, as described in the response to Recommendation 14.1 (a).

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 14.7 (c)**

BOS and CEO should refer to Strategy 15 in DA&C's 2022 Countywide Cultural Strategic Plan for funding and staffing considerations.

**RESPONSE**

Agree. Strategy 15 (Place Creative Strategists in Residence in County Departments to Address Social Challenges) in the Countywide Cultural Strategic Plan sets forth the resource needs for one-time and ongoing costs for implementation. However, any request for such funding would need to go through the County's annual budgeting process, as previously described in the response to Recommendation 14.1 (a).

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 14.8**

BOS should direct CEO to find funding to adopt DA&C's Strategic Plan Strategy 15.

**RESPONSE**

Partially disagree. While Strategy 15 (Place Creative Strategists in Residence in County Departments to Address Social Challenges) in the Countywide Cultural Strategic Plan sets forth the resource needs for one-time and ongoing costs for implementation, any request for such funding would need to go through the County's annual budgeting process, as previously described in the response to Recommendation 14.1 (a).

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 14.9 (a)**

BOS and CEO assist departments in reallocating funding and resources to engage a Creative Strategist in their priority projects. Direct departments to find outside sources, if necessary, with consultation with DA&C.

**RESPONSE**

Partially disagree. Exploration of this reallocation of funding would need to go through the County's annual budgeting process, as described in the response to Recommendation 14.1 (a) if County Departments are interested in engaging a Creative Strategist in their priority projects. The exploration of outside (non-County) sources of funding can be done on an ongoing basis, whenever County Departments decide to engage a Creative Strategist in one or more of their priority projects.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 14.9 (b)**

BOS direct all departments to allocate resources to use the Creative Strategist program as intended.

**RESPONSE**

Partially disagree. This resource allocation request would need to go through the County's annual budgeting process, as described in the response to Recommendation 14.1 (a).

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 14.10 (a)**

Our Committee understands that fully funding the Strategic Plan and/or the Creative Strategist program cannot happen overnight. In the interim, BOS direct CEO to find funding to rehire via sole source contract process Creative Strategists identified by DA&C whose projects would benefit from expansion into all five districts.

**RESPONSE**

Partially disagree. In general, the County's preference is for open competitive solicitations for contracting, rather than sole source contracts, as previously described in the response to Recommendation 14.3. Additionally, this request for funding would need to go through the County's annual budgeting process, as described in the response to Recommendation 14.1 (a).

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 14.10 (b)**

Our Committee understands that fully funding the Strategic Plan and/or the Creative Strategist program cannot happen overnight. In the interim, DA&C should review the completed Creative Strategist residencies and assess which projects could be re-implemented.

**RESPONSE**

Agree. However, this recommendation cannot be implemented without additional funding and any request for such funding would need to go through the County's annual budgeting process, as described in the response to Recommendation 14.1 (a).

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 14.11**

BOS should direct CEO to find funding for a non-arts funding grant writer staff position. Much of the Countywide Cultural Policy situates DA&C in the role of arts facilitator or cultural programming administrator, not as a creative entity itself.

*Although, through our many inquiries, our Committee would argue for an unofficial classification based on the ingenuity and artistic approach current staff use to problem solve.*

**RESPONSE**

Partially disagree. Finding the funding for such staffing is done through the County's annual budgeting process, as described in the response to Recommendation 14.1 (a).

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 14.12**

BOS and DA&C should direct Los Angeles County Arts Commission (LACAC) to assemble a working group to explore potential outside financial opportunities; fundraising, fund-matching, grant partners etc...

*Commissioners can utilize their professional experience working in the County's creative economy to guide the Department towards guaranteed sources.*

**RESPONSE**

Partially disagree. The County's Department of Arts and Culture (DA&C) does not have authority to direct LACAC to create a workgroup to explore potential outside funding opportunities. However, the BOS can direct LACAC to investigate such alternative funding sources through the assembly of such a working group, which DA&C can request and provide support to. In the interim, the Civil Grand Jury report was shared with the LACAC, for the Commissioners to review, should they independently decide to assemble such a working group, before receiving such direction.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 14.13**

BOS should direct CEO to find funding for cross-sector continuity staffing position.

**RESPONSE**

Partially disagree. Finding the funding for such staffing is done through the County's annual budgeting process, as described in the response to Recommendation 14.1 (a).

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 14.14**

DA&C and LACAC should explore expanding relationships with major studio entertainment foundations and explore cross-sector collaboration.

**RESPONSE**

Agree. The exploration of expanding such relationships and collaboration will occur, as such opportunities arise.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 14.15 (a)**

DA&C should build out a paid 'item menu' of specialized services (ex. Cross-sector local jurisdictional exchange); including but not limited to expansion of impact and grant-matching.

**RESPONSE**

Agree. This recommendation is already being implemented and will continuously be implemented in both the Creative Strategist program and other cross-sector initiatives and programs where County's Department of Arts and Culture (DA&C) is partnering with other County departments. This includes the Arts Education and Youth Development Division programs where DA&C is developing partnerships, leveraging public and private funds (including non-arts funding sources), contracting with community-based organizations, and delivering arts for youth with the County departments and Offices, including Probation, Child and Family Services, Office of Child Protection, Mental Health, Parks, and other County partners.

DA&C will explore re-communicating its current opportunities and services to fellow County departments whenever staffing resources are available via the Cultural Policy. If there are any staffing needs, a request for funding may be submitted through the County's annual budget process.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 14.15 (b)**

DA&C should direct LACAC to investigate alternative funding sources (Galas, benefits, bond measures, percentage tax allocations).

**RESPONSE**

Partially disagree. The County's Department of Arts and Culture (DA&C) does not have the authority to direct LACAC to investigate alternative funding sources. However, the BOS can direct LACAC to investigate such alternative funding sources, which DA&C can request and provide support to. In the interim, the Civil Grand Jury report was shared with the LACAC, for the Commissioners to review, should they independently decide to investigate such funding sources, before receiving such direction.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 14.16**

Regarding DA&C's need for an entrepreneurial pivot, BOS should direct all departments to consult with DA&C to evaluate whether a Creative Strategist shall be utilized or engaged for any and all proposed third-party consulting contracts.

*Adding an artist would provide grassroots, people-focused engagement as a compliment to the top-down, analytical lens of a FUSE Fellow's report recommendations. Their pairing would directly support the Cultural Policy's robust vision for the future of County governance.*

**RESPONSE**

Partially disagree. Adding a Creative Strategist could be beneficial and complement some FUSE fellowships. However, it is unclear whether tying this requirement to every third-party consulting contract (or every FUSE fellowship) is the most effective or efficient way to expand the Creative Strategist program and its impact. Further analysis of the specific contracts where such an evaluation (of Creative Strategist engagement) could be beneficial would be needed. There may be situations when this sort of engagement could be useful in a consulting contract,

but applying such an evaluation to “any and all” consulting contracts may not be the best approach and would likely result in a devastating bottleneck in the County’s contracting process. As written, this recommendation will not be implemented since it is not reasonable at this time, but Creative Strategist engagement can potentially be explored during a future County budget cycle.

# RESPONSE TO THE CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS; CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
OFFICE; DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS; FIRE DEPARTMENT; INTERNAL  
SERVICES DEPARTMENT; MEDICAL EXAMINER

## 2023-2024 CIVIL GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EARTHQUAKE SAFETY READINESS: HOW TO SURVIVE THE BIG 'ONE'!

### SUMMARY

"This report focuses on earthquake preparedness. The Committee found many useful studies, projects, and maps that explain what is already known about earthquakes and how some steps have already been taken towards mitigating their impact, especially in the area of retrofitting of buildings. This report ends with recommendations so that agencies and cities can be better prepared for earthquakes than they are today."<sup>14</sup>

### **RECOMMENDATION NO. 15.1**

County should draft an ordinance for retrofitting soft-story first floor buildings.

### RESPONSE

Partially disagree. This recommendation requires further analysis for implementation. In 2022, the County adopted an ordinance with provisions for voluntary seismic improvements to wood-frame residential buildings with soft stories. Currently, the County, through its Department of Public Works (DPW), is performing an inventory analysis for soft-story structures (specifically, all wood-framed multi-unit residential soft-story buildings in the unincorporated areas of the County of Los Angeles, under County of Los Angeles jurisdiction), which is targeting completion in January 2026.

The results of the inventory analysis will be used to guide public policy on mandating retrofit for soft-story buildings in the unincorporated areas of the County. DPW will provide the Board of Supervisors (BOS) with analysis and policy recommendations, and the BOS will consider how best to proceed, in terms of the drafting and implementation of such an ordinance. Additionally, it should be noted that all references in the findings of this investigative report to the term "non-ductile cement" should be updated to the term "non-ductile concrete."

### **RECOMMENDATION NO. 15.2**

County should extend the proposed non-ductile retro-fit to buildings of every height, not just those over 75 feet.

### RESPONSE

Partially disagree. Extending the ordinance to all buildings will require further analysis and may have significant financial impacts to the County and its residents. An inventory analysis of all non-ductile concrete buildings in the County's unincorporated jurisdiction would be needed. The results of the inventory analysis

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<sup>14</sup> 2023-2024 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury Final Report, Earthquake Safety Readiness: How to Survive the Big 'One'!, p. 358.

could then be used to guide public policy on extending the non-ductile concrete building retrofit ordinance to buildings of every height in the unincorporated areas of the County.

The timeframe required to produce such an inventory analysis, determine the economic impact of extending the proposed mandatory retrofit ordinance to all non-ductile concrete buildings, and develop economic incentives for building owners will exceed 6 months. Additionally, it should be noted that all references in the findings of this investigative report to the term “non-ductile cement” should be updated to the term “non-ductile concrete.”

In the County, high-rise non-ductile concrete buildings over 75 feet in height pose a greater risk, so the County is already addressing these first. It is anticipated that an ordinance related to this matter will be submitted for approval by the BOS by the end of the year (2024). The County is also developing a multi-year seismic retrofit program to address all multi-story County-owned non-ductile concrete buildings, even those below 75 feet.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 15.3**

LAC PW should complete design phase for earthquake safety retrofit for Hall of Administration.

**RESPONSE**

Partially disagree. This recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future. The design phase is underway and is currently at 90 percent of the Construction Documents.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 15.4**

Once the design phase for the earthquake safety/seismic retrofit is complete for the Hall of Administration LAC PW should develop a project schedule.

**RESPONSE**

Partially disagree. This recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future. A project management team has already been hired to facilitate the design process, and a project schedule is in development.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 15.5**

Once the design phase for the Hall of Administration is complete LAC PW should obtain a cost estimate.

**RESPONSE**

Agree. This recommendation has been implemented. A preliminary cost estimate was developed by the Construction Manager At-Risk (CMAR). The CMAR was selected, and the BOS approved the pre-construction services contract in July 2022. The CMAR has been assisting DPW and the project design team in developing cost estimates throughout the design phase.



**RECOMMENDATION NO. 15.6**

Once the cost estimate is complete LAC PW should develop a Request for Proposal (RFP) to gain detailed cost estimates. Once the RFP is complete LAC CEO should solicit bids for Hall of Administration retrofit project and chose winning bidder.

**RESPONSE**

Partially disagree. This recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future. The CMAR has been assisting DPW and the project design team in developing detailed cost estimates. The BOS approved the CMAR contract for pre-construction services in July 2022, and the construction contract will go the BOS for approval once the design is complete and the final guaranteed maximum price has been developed by the CMAR.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 15.7**

LAC CEO should develop and earthquake recovery/resilience plan.

**RESPONSE**

Agree. This recommendation has been implemented. The County has two plans, a Concept of Operations and Earthquake Annex that address earthquake recovery and resilience. The Los Angeles County Operational Area Emergency Response Plan addresses multi-hazards that could occur in the County and specifies steps to address short- and long-term recovery. The Earthquake Annex that sought input from community groups, local jurisdictions, private sector, and all levels of government addresses earthquake assumptions, response, and recovery operations. The Concept of Operations Plan addresses immediate actions to be taken immediately following an earthquake by government officials, monitoring, responding, and recovering from the earthquake.

Los Angeles County Operational Area Recovery Framework discusses organization, coordination with State and Federal partners, information collection, analysis, communication, and transition to long term recovery. It addresses the restoration of essential services in the County.

The County of Los Angeles All-Hazards Mitigation Plan addresses an earthquake identification profile that addresses the major fault lines in the County and the magnitude range for each of those faults. It takes account of the seismic hazard impact on land areas, and it identifies the seismic hazard impact on vulnerable populations, which assists in decision making in restoring lifelines in a community. This plan also engages various levels of government and community partners through community meetings.

Each of these plans have elements of restoring, rebuilding, repairing damages, and reestablishing services to the community, all important elements of recovery.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 15.12**

The Medical Examiner should make/update their emergency plans to include no ground access to the Antelope Valley (Lancaster, Palmdale). Where will autopsies and exams be done? Where will mutual aid volunteers from other medical examiners work, eat, park their vehicles? How can people work without water or electricity?

**RESPONSE**

Agree. This recommendation is in the process of being implemented. A senior disaster service analyst has been requested in the current (FY 2024-2025) budget and this analyst will be the coordinator for emergency response, including the planning and development of the Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP), Building Emergency Plan (BEP), Department Operation Center (DOC) activation protocols, and the development of a Countywide Mass Fatality Plan (MFP).

The plans require the design, coordination, and sustaining of remote refrigerated storage of decedents and remote storage of decedent property, alternate options for medical examinations, toxicological testing, and transportation of decedents. They will address generator capabilities, establishing mobile options (including mobile sleeping quarters and base camps), Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Teams (DMORT) operations, Coroner/Medical Examiner Mutual Aid, and coordination of assistance through the department emergency operations center. DMORT was activated during the recent Maui fires, an example of a situation where coordination could be improved with the presence of a senior disaster service analyst.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 15.13**

The County should buy enough radio or satellite phones so that each agency and city referenced in the Responses section has at least two phones. ISD should track who the phones are assigned to, provide video or written training for how to use the phones, and ask that the agency or city use them in their annual ShakeOut Drill as well as report their success/failure to ISD each year.

**RESPONSE**

Partially disagree. This recommendation is in the process of being implemented. The County's Internal Services Department (ISD) has provided emergency radio equipment and training resources to other County departments and has also supported the distribution of an additional 188 radios to various incorporated cities within the County.

The ISD Radio Systems shop is responsible for the programming and banding of all County Wireless Integrated Radio System (CWIRS) radios issued to the County departments. In addition, ISD provides radio maintenance, standard operating procedures (SOP), and training support for these departments. Each department has a designated Department Emergency Coordinator (DEC) that is responsible for the tracking, general upkeep, and testing of their department issued CWIRS radios.

The 188 CWIRS radios that were issued to incorporated cities were issued to city emergency operations centers (EOCs), city emergency coordinators, and Disaster Management Area Coordinators (DMACs). At least two radio units were provided per entity and each city's EOC and/or DMAC is responsible for the tracking, general

upkeep, and testing of the CWIRS radios they were issued. Whenever requested, ISD provides support for these 188 radios and multiple DMACs conduct testing monthly with their jurisdictional cities.

Additional analysis would be necessary to understand long-term cost share, authority, and practical implementation of providing satellite phones to all County departments and incorporated cities. This could be done as part of the annual budget process for the County.

#### **RECOMMENDATION NO. 15.15**

If there is a lot of damage to buildings, more building inspectors would be needed. Plan for how temporary inspectors will be obtained and how they will be assigned, keeping in mind that businesses in the medical field should be inspected first, followed by those who were enrolled in the Back to Business program.

#### **RESPONSE**

Agree. This recommendation has been implemented. In the event of a major disaster, the County's CEO - Office of Emergency Management (CEO-OEM) will activate County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works' (DPW) County Building Evaluation Team (CBET) to conduct safety evaluations of County owned and leased buildings. Acute care hospitals and skilled nursing facilities will be inspected by the California Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI). Inspections of private commercial and residential buildings will be conducted by local building officials, including DPW for the unincorporated areas of the County of Los Angeles. If local jurisdictions and agencies do not have enough building inspectors, Safety Assessment Program (SAP) certified evaluators may be requested through the County to the California Office of Emergency Services.

#### **RECOMMENDATION NO. 15.16**

All Fire Departments within the county should grow their CERT training so that one out every 2,000 residents in their jurisdiction is trained each year. Repeat this level of training for at least three years. Attempt to conduct 30% of the training in languages other than English. Add "refresher" classes for those who were previously trained. (When responding, please indicate the languages that would be included.) By August 1<sup>st</sup> each year, report the number of trainees and the language in which they were trained during the previous 12 months to the County's Chief Sustainability Office (in the Department of the County CEO). The Department of Sustainability should include this information in their annual reports.

#### **RESPONSE**

Agree. The Consolidated Fire Protection District of Los Angeles County (Fire District) has partially implemented this recommendation, but it will not be implementing the portions that are non-jurisdictional to the Fire District.

The Fire District is a dependent special district and one of 29 fire departments within the County of Los Angeles. The Fire District provides fire protection and life safety services to 60 contract cities and all unincorporated areas of the County, including the City of La Habra (located in Orange County). The Fire District serves a population of 4 million residents across 2,311 square miles.

The Fire District was an early adopter of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training program and has been training residents and communities for two decades. The Fire District currently offers a minimum of two CERT training programs in each of its nine field divisions each fiscal year, training over 700 residents annually.

Beginning in FY 22-23, the Fire District expanded CERT class offerings to the Department's Explorers (youth 15-20 years of age), and beginning in FY 23-24, to the Junior Lifeguards (youth 9-17 years of age). The Fire District offers CERT classes in English and Spanish and will be teaching its inaugural Mandarin CERT class in October of 2024. CERT classes are offered in-person and via the hybrid model.

- FY 22-23: 27 CERT Classes | 720 residents trained.  
25 English and 2 Spanish classes.
- FY 23-24: 26 CERT Classes | 750 residents trained.  
24 English and 2 Spanish classes.
- FY 24-25: 26 CERT Classes (est.) | 800 residents trained (est.).  
23 English, 2 Spanish, and 1 Mandarin class.

Beginning in calendar year 2025, the Fire District will expand CERT refresher courses and drills beyond Division 5 (Lancaster and Palmdale) to include additional opportunities for CERT participants in all field divisions. The Fire District's goal is to expand the availability of CERT trainings as funding becomes available and they can reestablish the Public Education Unit.

In addition to CERT, the Fire District will be offering the Listos ("Ready") program in our communities beginning in FY 25-26. Listos is a public education program that helps people, families, and communities prepare for emergencies and disasters. The program's goal is to provide vulnerable populations with information about disaster readiness and preparedness skills. Listos uses a culturally and linguistically appropriate teaching style and partners with trusted organizations in the target community. The program's curriculum is tailored to the specific needs of the communities being served.

By August 1<sup>st</sup> of each year, the Fire District will provide the County's Chief Sustainability Office the number of trainees and the language in which they were trained for the prior 12 months.