

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS LINDSEY P. HORVATH AND
KATHRYN BARGER

January 21, 2025

Seeking State and Federal Assistance for the Los Angeles County Wildfires

On January 13, 2025, Governor Gavin Newsom announced an expansion of the special session of the California Legislature which he convened in November to include emergency funding to further boost response and initial recovery efforts for the 2025 Los Angeles County (County) Fires. Governor Newsom is proposing the State provide at least \$2.5 billion in additional funding for ongoing emergency response efforts and to jumpstart recovery efforts in the County. The funding will support recovery and cleanup, additional wildfire preparedness statewide, and reopening schools shuttered by the fires. In addition, the Governor has issued a series of executive orders that will expedite response and recovery efforts. We are thankful for his swift action to support our impacted communities.

Furthermore, President Biden has pledged 100% federal backing for debris

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removal and emergency protective measures for six months. In response, Congress is currently considering a series of bills developed to address the 2025 Los Angeles County Fires disaster. The County's voice must be present at the table in order for state and federal legislative efforts to be responsive and provide what our County needs in this time of crisis.

Funding and legislative relief for emergency response and recovery assistance is sorely needed to meet the needs of this unprecedented catastrophe, and at a minimum should include, but not be limited to:

- Housing and financial relief for victims of the fire (including an assessment of mortgage assistance through forbearance and low interest loans);
- Debris management and subsequent environmental rehabilitation;
- Assistance for businesses and workers;
- Rebuilding efforts;
- Wildfire prevention and home hardening;
- Resiliency of our water infrastructure;
- Resiliency of our power infrastructure through undergrounding utilities in high fire risk areas; and
- Resiliency of communications infrastructure, including ensuring wireless communication provider compliance with resiliency and service quality obligations within high fire risk areas.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Office - Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations Branch to take all necessary

actions, including sending 5-signature letters to seek funding be directly allocated to local agencies in Los Angeles County for the 2025 wildfires emergency response, recovery, and wildfire prevention efforts as listed in the preamble be sent to:

1. President Donald J. Trump, with a copy to the Los Angeles County Congressional Delegation and relevant Federal agencies; and
2. Governor Gavin Newsom, with a copy to Senate President pro Tempore Mike McGuire, Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas, the Los Angeles County Legislative Delegation, and relevant state agencies.

WE, FURTHER, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Office - Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations Branch:

1. Consult with the departments of Public Works, CEO Office of Emergency Management, Department of Economic Opportunity, including all relevant departments to identify legislative and/or budgetary requests that are critical for the expeditious recovery of the affected communities, including wildfire prevention efforts; and
2. Take the appropriate legislative advocacy actions to support all response and recovery programs and funding for the Los Angeles County wildfires, including funding for prevention and efforts to support recovery.

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