

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS KATHRYN BARGER AND
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JANUARY 28, 2025

**AFTER ACTION REPORT FOR THE JANUARY 2025 WINDSTORM AND CRITICAL
FIRE EVENTS**

The January 2025 windstorm and critical fire events are set to be one of the largest natural disasters in U.S. history, and one of the most destructive disasters in Los Angeles County. Severe windstorms resulted in multiple wind-driven destructive fires, with the Eaton and Palisades Fires devastating communities with significant loss of life and structures. As of January 20, 2025, the Eaton and Palisades fires resulted in 27 confirmed deaths and more than 15,000 structures destroyed.

Protection of life is always the top priority for first responders during a fire. Los Angeles County Departments worked together with other emergency partners, to assess the trajectory of the fire, weather conditions, and topography in order to identify threatened areas to initiative effective evacuation orders and effectively fight the fire – ensuring the safety of residents and providing for structure defense where possible. Questions have arisen about the process used for evacuations, and the partners involved in issuing evacuation orders.

A review and assessment of existing emergency notification systems must be conducted to understand what was done and what the County should do moving forward. This analysis and report should be conducted by a third party to ensure an independent review.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct County Counsel, in consultation with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD), Los Angeles County Fire Department (Fire), and the Chief Executive Office's Office of Emergency Management (CEO-OEM), to retain a consultant with subject matter expertise, to review the evacuation policies and emergency alert notification systems utilized by the County and its partners in responding to the Palisades and Eaton Fires; to review what the County, including LASD, Fire, and CEO-OEM, did in terms of the evacuation efforts;

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and prepare and present a progress report back to the Board in writing in 90 days, and every 90 days thereafter until the consultant has completed a comprehensive review, subject to review by County Counsel.

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