COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
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KATHRYN BARGER

February 5, 2025

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol
1021 O Street, Suite 900
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom:

We write to request your partnership in accelerating the rebuilding of communities impacted by the unprecedented 2025 January fire disasters in Los Angeles County (County) as we also work to safeguard against the permanent displacement of residents and businesses. Our County Board of Supervisors adopted a motion on January 28, 2025, to advocate for policy modifications that may assist in the recovery and rebuilding of our disaster-impacted communities.

The January 2025 fire disasters have resulted in loss of life, widespread damage, and the destruction of residential structures, businesses, public facilities, and infrastructure. Communities are still dealing with the aftermath, including power outages, downed trees, road closures, rockslides, and debris. As of now, more than 18,000 residences and other structures have been confirmed as damaged or destroyed by the Palisades and Eaton Fires, two of the most devastating fires in state history.

Considering the potential burden of rebuilding costs and avoidable delays, especially for vulnerable communities, we believe that exploring innovative strategies will be crucial in addressing these challenges and ensuring an equitable recovery for our vibrant and historic neighborhoods.

As the County moves forward with the rebuilding process, we will evaluate regulatory standards and statutes that may potentially slow the recovery process and/or increase costs. Throughout this process, we remain committed to working closely with you and the Legislature to address any emerging issues, with the

shared goal of rebuilding our disaster-impacted communities in a manner that prioritizes affordability, equity, and resilience.

The County is dedicated to rebuilding in a way that promotes resilience and supports local affordable housing goals. At the same time, it is important to ensure that the laws intended to increase housing availability and affordability also preserve community character and prevent potential challenges such as gentrification or displacement.

We look forward to continuing our conversations with your Office as we work together to respond to and recover from these devastating disasters in the most effective and seamless way possible.

Thank you for your leadership and continued support of Los Angeles County residents during this emergency.

Sincerely,

KATHRYN BARGER
Chair of the Board
Supervisor, Fifth District

HILDA L. SOLIS
Supervisor, First District

HOLLY J. MITCHELL
Supervisor, Second District

LINDSEY P. HORVATH
Supervisor, Third District

JANICE HAHN
Supervisor, Fourth District

c: Los Angeles County State Legislative Delegation