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March 11, 2025

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

Dear Supervisors:

**RECOMMENDATION TO CONTINUE THE DECLARED LOCAL HEALTH
EMERGENCY FOR THE JANUARY 2025 CRITICAL FIRE EVENTS
(ALL AFFECTED) (3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

The Department of Public Health (Public Health) is recommending that the Board of Supervisors (Board) continue the local health emergency declared on January 10, 2025, in response to the January 2025 Windstorm and Critical Fire Events impacting Los Angeles County (County).

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

Adopt and instruct the Chair of the Board to execute the attached Resolution to Continue the Local Health Emergency due to the January 2025 Windstorm and Critical Fire Events.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The local health emergency declared by the local health officer on January 10, 2025, was ratified by the Board on January 14, 2025, and initially continued by the Board on February 11, 2025, must be reviewed by the Board to determine the need for the local health emergency to remain in effect at least once every 30 days, until it is terminated; and (2) proclaim the local health emergency terminated at the earliest possible date that conditions warrant the termination.

Public Health and the County Health Officer have reviewed the need for the proclaimed local health emergency referenced above to remain in effect and is recommending that the local health emergency be continued. This review included considerations of the extent to which the specified conditions for the proclaimed local health emergency, such as the continued existence of hazardous materials, hazardous waste in the form of fire ash, soot, and debris remaining inside and near the burn areas; the ongoing need for federal, State and local emergency response and recovery operations to implement and complete a large scale urban wildfire debris removal and disposal response; the ongoing need for federal and/or State financial assistance; and the extent to which departments continue to engage in essential emergency-related activities that are dependent on the local health emergency remaining in effect.

The January 2025 Critical Fire Events are an ongoing local health emergency in the County, which has required an ongoing response to several destructive and wind-driven fires, especially the Palisades and Eaton Fires. These fires have resulted in massive amounts of post-fire health hazards in the form of burned hazardous materials and hazardous ash, soot and fire debris remaining in the burn and surrounding areas. These catastrophic fire events have caused the loss of life, displacement of thousands of residents, widespread damage and destruction to residential structures, businesses, and infrastructure. These conditions are beyond the control of the resources of the County and require the combined forces of federal, State and other political subdivisions to combat. To mitigate the risks to health created by the fires, post-fire health hazards must be removed from properties in accordance with federal and State standards for safe removal of hazardous materials and waste.

Given the current risks posed by post-fire health hazards, Public Health recommends that the Board find that the local health emergency be continued.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

These recommendations support the County Strategic Plan: North Star 2 – Foster Vibrant and Resilient Communities, Focus Area A – Public Health, Strategy i - Population Based Health.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

There is no fiscal impact related to the continuance of this local health emergency, but the proclamation of local health emergency could allow the County to seek recovery of eligible costs from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and State of California. The County will incur costs associated with the response to and recovery from the local health emergency.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

California Health and Safety Code Section 101080 and Chapter 2.68 of the Los Angeles County Code requires the Board to review the need for a proclaimed local health emergency to remain in effect at least once every 30 days, until it is terminated. California Health and Safety Code Section 101080 requires the Board to terminate a proclaimed local health emergency at the earliest possible date that conditions warrant.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

This action is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because it is excluded from the definition of project under section 15378(b)(5) of the State CEQA Guidelines.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

There is no impact on current services.

CONCLUSION

Upon approval by the Board, the Public Health requests that an executed, stamped copy of the attached Resolution be returned to Public Health.

Respectfully submitted,



Barbara Ferrer, PhD, MPH, MEd
Director

BF:db
#08090

Enclosure

c: Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
Public Works
CEO Office of Emergency Management

RESOLUTION BY THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO CONTINUE THE LOCAL HEALTH EMERGENCY FOR THE JANUARY 2025 CRITICAL FIRE EVENTS

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 101080 of the California Health and Safety Code, the existence of a local health emergency was declared by the County Health Officer on January 10, 2025, and ratified by the Board of Supervisors (Board) on January 14, 2025, due to conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property arising from the January 2025 Windstorm and Critical Fire Events, beginning on January 7, 2025, affecting areas throughout the County of Los Angeles (County); and

WHEREAS, the January 2025 Critical Fire Events, beginning on January 7, 2025, are an ongoing local health emergency in the County, whose conditions have included an ongoing response to a number of destructive and wind-driven fires, which include, among others, the Palisades Fire, Eaton Fire, Hurst Fire, Creek Fire, Lidia Fire, and the Kenneth Fire, and post-fire hazards in the form of burned common household hazardous materials and contaminated ash, soot and fire debris remaining in the burn zones and surrounding areas. These conditions are or will likely be beyond the control of the resources of the County and require the combined forces of other political subdivisions and the ongoing need for federal and/or State financial assistance. To the extent which departments continue to engage in essential emergency-related activities that are dependent on the local health emergency remaining in effect; and

WHEREAS, there continues to be conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property arising from the January 2025 Critical Fire Events in the County, and to mitigate the risks to health created by the fires and post-fire health hazards, which include the presence of extensive amounts of common household items burned in the wildfires that created contaminated ash and fire debris, must be removed, transported, and disposed of from properties in accordance with federal and State standards, which is an on-going effort; and

WHEREAS, Health and Safety Code Section 101080 and Chapter 2.68 of the Los Angeles County Code requires the Board to review the need for a declared local health emergency to remain in effect at least once every 30 days, until it is terminated by the Board at the earliest possible date that conditions warrant; and

WHEREAS, the Board has reviewed the need to continue the local emergency for the January 2025 Critical Fire Events, which was already ratified on January 14, 2025, and continued thereafter; and

WHEREAS, the Board determines that there continues to exist conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the health and safety of people arising from the local health emergency for the January 2025 Critical Fire Events such that continuation of this local health emergency is warranted.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles that the local health emergency due to the January 2025 Critical Fire Events in the County continues to exist and is hereby extended for thirty (30) additional days, unless sooner terminated by the Board.

The foregoing resolution was on the *11th* day of *March 2025*, adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles and ex officio the governing body of all other special assessment and taxing districts, agencies and authorities for which said Board so acts.

EDWARD YEN
Executive Officer
Board of Supervisors

By _____
Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

DAWYN R. HARRISON
County Counsel

By  _____
BLAINE D. McPHILLIPS
Senior Deputy County Counsel
Health Services Division