

**REVISED MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HOLLY J. MITCHELL
AND LINDSEY P. HORVATH**

June 17, 2025

Supporting Preserving Los Angeles County’s Public Health System

Los Angeles County (County) is a global hub for business, fashion, culture, sports, media, and entertainment. According to the Euromonitor’s 2025 ranking for best cities to visit, Los Angeles ranks #18 worldwide and #2 in the United States. Additionally, Los Angeles International Airport has up to 70,000 flights a month, carrying up to 4 million passengers. These numbers represent a thriving County. They also show the potential public health risks and vulnerability that the County faces especially as it relates to the spread of communicable diseases.

The County’s Department of Public Health (DPH) advances community health and wellness while protecting ten million residents from communicable diseases. In 2024, DPH received over 14,000 confirmed and probable reports of diseases and outbreaks (excluding COVID-19). DPH and its partners reviewed and/or investigated more than 9,700 HIV cases and 28,000 syphilis cases.

DPH’s \$1.8 billion budget is predominantly comprised of federal funding, which supports the salaries of 1,500 permanent County employees. Net County dollars comprise just 14% of DPH’s overall budget. DPH receives significantly less local funding than public health agencies in other large urban jurisdictions. For example, almost 50% of New York City’s public health funding come from local sources. In contrast, our County allocates the majority of its local funding to other public safety programs such as the

- MORE -

MOTION

SOLIS	_____
MITCHELL	_____
HORVATH	_____
HAHN	_____
BARGER	_____

Sheriff, Probation and the District Attorney.

The current federal administration is dramatically re-organizing its Department of Health and Human Services, including its operating divisions and funding. This reorganization eliminates staff positions that support DPH's programs, including positions at the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and results in the termination of various federal grants. On March 25, 2025, DPH received notification of immediate terminations for grants that totaled upwards of \$45 million dollars. The federal administration and Congress have also indicated that they intend to reduce the federal budget by \$1.5 trillion over the next decade. They have directed the House Energy and Commerce Committee to identify \$880 billion in savings which will require massive cuts to programs including Medicaid. Additionally, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has indicated changes in the approval of certain Section 1115 Medicaid waivers, including those that are critical to DPH's Substance Abuse Prevention and Control Bureau's operations.

These federal cuts threaten DPH's ability to prevent and control the spread of infectious diseases and undermine its capacity to fulfill its statutory obligations and protect County residents. The County is a national epicenter for travel and trade. In the coming years, we will host major sporting events including the 2026 NBA All-Star games, the 2027 NFL Super Bowl LXI, and three major international sporting events-- the 2026 World Cup and the 2028 Olympics and Paralympic Games. These large-scale events place County residents at higher risk for emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases such as H5 bird flu, measles, dengue, and tuberculosis. Effective prevention and control of communicable diseases require a trained public health workforce and an infrastructure capable of synthesizing data from hospitals and clinics for real-time surveillance.

These federal cuts also threaten DPH's ability to promote sexual health and reproductive rights and to prevent and treat substance abuse disorders. The cuts jeopardize DPH's ability to respond to public health emergencies, whether from infectious diseases (such as, Hepatitis A, Measles, Covid, HIV, Mpox, Ebola), weather-related events (including extreme heat, wildfires and earthquakes), or acts of terrorism (such as

bioterrorism). Additionally, these reductions undermine DPH's efforts to improve community health and to protect the health and safety of women, children and families through its maternal and child health programs that help ensure all at-risk babies are born healthy.

The past few years have shown both how a public health crisis can have significant harmful impacts on County residents and how DPH plays a critical role in protecting residents and providing relief. As the County takes steps to ensure it remains fiscally solvent, DPH should be viewed as one of the key County departments that ensures public safety, much like the Sheriff's Department. Funding for DPH should be as high a priority as funding for the Sheriff's Department. The County's budget policy discourages backfilling State and federal revenue losses to protect its own fiscal viability. However, given the potential magnitude of federal funding reductions that support mandated public health services, the County will need to help DPH to ensure it can continue providing services that preserve public safety, even with limited resources.

WE THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Support the Department of Public Health's (DPH) submission of a "critical level" unmet needs request for at least \$5M in one-time funding as part of the Supplemental Budget, to protect public safety and preserve the most essential portions of programs and services that would otherwise be lost by federal cuts (much like the Recommended Budget provided \$83.7 million in one-time funds to the Sheriff's Department for various priorities).
2. Direct the Chief Executive Officer to:
 - a. Report back in two weeks on Eestablishing a County Public Health Emergencies Reserve Fund and identify of, at least, \$20M in one-time funding pursuant to the Fiscal Resilience Protocol. The Reserve Fund should be designed to allow the County to effectively respond to public health emergencies, including outbreaks, pandemics, urgent bioterrorism preparedness and response activities, or similar circumstances that jeopardize public health and safety. Potential funding

sources could include, but should not be limited to Measure B, tobacco settlement funds, and fund balance. This reserve will be available for DPH to use to respond to urgent and emergency public health issues, especially in situations where the State or federal government have reduced or eliminated funding, and in situations where the State or federal government are not able to timely or adequately support necessary public health actions.

- b. Work with the Director of DPH to timely realign Net County Cost funds in the Department's budget, as needed, to ameliorate the impacts of federal and State funding reductions with notification to the Board of Supervisors. Work with the Director of DPH to establish the conditions to utilize the public health emergency fund and report back to the Board at Supplemental Budget on those conditions.
- c. Identify potential solutions to help mitigate the impact from possible federal funding cuts to essential DPH programs. Report back to the Board at Supplemental Budget with recommendations on how the County can shift its Public Health funding framework to reflect public safety as a priority in the department's work.

#

(YV/KK/EA)