



LOS ANGELES COUNTY
CONSUMER & BUSINESS AFFAIRS

Board of Supervisors

Hilda L. Solis
First District

Holly J. Mitchell
Second District

Lindsey P. Horvath
Third District

Janice Hahn
Fourth District

Kathryn Barger
Fifth District

July 29, 2025

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

Director

Rafael Carbajal

Chief Deputy

Joel Ayala

**AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AND BUSINESS
AFFAIRS TO RE-EMPLOY A RETIRED COUNTY EMPLOYEE ON
A TEMPORARY BASIS**

**(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS)
(3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

The Department of Consumer and Business Affairs (DCBA) requests the Board’s approval to waive the 180-day waiting period required under the California Public Employees’ Pension Reform Act of 2013 and re-employ a retired County employee as 120-day rehired retiree.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Authorize the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs (DCBA) to waive the 180-day waiting period to immediately re-employ retired County employee, Sari Steel, as a temporary employee, for a 120-day assignment.
2. Approve the request to appoint Ms. Steel to the position of Chief, Consumer and Business Affairs Representative (1669F) within the Office of Cannabis Management (OCM) at a rate of \$85.08 per hour for up to 960 work hours within a fiscal year.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Ms. Steel retired from her position as Senior Deputy Counsel for the Office of the County Counsel on March 29, 2025. She possesses specialized expertise in cannabis regulation, enforcement strategy, and County operations. This experience is vital for the successful enhancement of OCM’s compliance and enforcement-related programs. Ms. Steel will play a vital role in ramping up the



early compliance framework for the County's new commercial cannabis initiative and in strengthening enforcement strategies targeting illegal cannabis activities. With her extensive experience in interagency enforcement coordination and regulatory implementation, she will provide high-level, short-term support to help establish core compliance protocols, enhance cross-agency collaboration, and advise on implementing the County's cannabis nuisance abatement ordinance (pending funding). Her thorough understanding of County processes and the cannabis regulatory landscape makes Ms. Steel exceptionally well-suited for this temporary assignment.

Ms. Steel will provide focused, time-limited support to the OCM in advancing several critical early implementation efforts tied to the County's commercial cannabis initiative. Her primary responsibilities will include developing initial drafts of training and onboarding materials for compliance field staff, including Standard Operating Procedures related to inspections, complaint response, and interagency enforcement coordination. She will also assist in identifying core content and generating a short-term training structure to support early staff development.

In preparation for upcoming Board consideration of amendments to Titles 8 and 22, Ms. Steel will review draft commercial cannabis ordinances to ensure that compliance-related provisions incorporate best practices and lessons learned from comparable efforts. She will support enhancements to the County's interdepartmental enforcement coordination strategy by mapping agency roles and identifying collaboration needs among DCBA's OCM, the Sheriff's Department, County Counsel, the District Attorney's Office, and other partners. She will also participate in related interagency meetings on behalf of OCM.

Additionally, Ms. Steel will contribute to the development of public-facing materials—such as one-pagers and FAQs—to inform communities and unlicensed operators about changes in enforcement practices and compliance expectations. Should funding be approved and OCM be designated as the lead agency for the County's cannabis nuisance abatement ordinance, Ms. Steel will assist with outlining potential ordinance structures and enforcement pathways to support early-stage implementation.

IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN NORTH STARS

Approval of the recommended action is consistent with the County's Strategic Plan North Star 2 which aims to foster vibrant and resilient communities. More specifically, Ms. Steel's work will focus on enhancing public and community safety by addressing and mitigating unlawful cannabis activity, while also strengthening the County's organizational and administrative infrastructure to support effective implementation.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The position will be funded with Net County Cost (NCC) through salary savings within the Office of Cannabis Management. The funding is reflected in the DCBA's operating budget.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The recommended action is consistent with the Public Employee's Pension Reform Act of 2013, which allows a person who retires from the County to serve without reinstatement from retirement or loss or interruption of benefits provided by the retirement system, before a period of 180 days following the date of retirement, as long as the Board certifies the position is critically needed; and the retired person has the skills required to perform work of a limited duration.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES OR PROJECTS

The recommended actions will help advance strategic enforcement coordination against unlicensed cannabis activities, while helping guide and establish the compliance framework for the County's future legal marketplace.

Respectfully submitted,



Rafael Carbajal
Director

RC:AB:BH:fm

- c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
- Chief Executive Officer
- County Counsel
- Auditor-Controller
- Human Resources