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ADVANCING THE RESILIENCE OF THE FILM AND TELEVISION INDUSTRY IN LA COUNTY

The Los Angeles County Film and Television Industry (“Industry”) has long been the global leader in entertainment, supporting more than 100,000 jobs and 10,000 entertainment businesses. It is home to seven major film studios, numerous prestigious film schools, and small independent film companies. The County has many competitive advantages over other markets, principally its deep well of talent and developed Industry infrastructure. The County’s varied and stunning topography and year-round clement weather offer excellent natural filming opportunities and conditions. Moreover, Los Angeles itself is the consummate talent in that it can resemble many other places around the globe. Many Industry professionals call the County home and prefer to film here if given the choice.

However, in recent years, the Industry has been hit with multiple devastating economic disruptions, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the 2023 double Hollywood strikes. The strikes created an estimated economic loss of approximately \$4 and \$6 billion respectively. According to the 2025 Otis College Report on the Creative Economy, only 26% of the jobs lost during the strikes have been recovered and production levels continue to decline. The number of overall film, television, and commercial shoot days in Los Angeles County was down by 42% in 2024 compared to 2022. During the past year, the State’s creative economy shed approximately 6,700 jobs, shrinking by about 0.9%. This was not helped by the fact that California’s overall economy has added relatively few jobs in the past year, increasing by just 0.3%. In comparison, employment expanded by 0.9% across the nation’s entire economy.

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FilmLA, the County's contractor responsible for coordinating filming and photography permits, recently reported that 2024 was the second slowest year in 30 years for on-location filming in Greater Los Angeles. Television production has declined by close to 60% since 2022 in Los Angeles County.

Compounding the Industry's challenges in recent years, the devastating Palisades and Eaton Canyon wildfires have further exasperated the Industry's recovery which has displaced Industry workers, damaged critical infrastructure, and disrupted planned shoots, leading to further delays and cancellations. The destruction of iconic filming locations, complete destruction of business districts, and the economic toll on local businesses have only added to the Industry's struggles.

On September 26, 2023, the Board passed the "*Long Term Supports for the Film Industry*" motion directing the Director of Economic Opportunity (DEO), in consultation with FilmLA, to report back in 12 months on a number of strategies to support the Industry.

The report back, entitled "Strategies to Advance the [Resilience of the Film and Television Industry in Los Angeles](#)", was delivered to the Board in March 2025. The report includes program and policy strategy recommendations to incentivize new and continued Industry production. Some of these recommendations include identifying new revenue streams and creating incentive packages, reducing regulatory barriers, revising departmental film policies, creating shared production space and an Evergreen Fund.

The economic realities facing the Industry such as increased costs, reduction in local production due to Covid and the dual strikes, and general difficulty in filming in the Los Angeles area underscores the timeliness of County consideration of these recommendations to support our region's flagship Industry. The report affirms the Industry's economic impact on our region, which includes \$100.6 billion in economic output within the County. Of that, \$62.9 billion represented direct spending related to the Industry, while \$37.7 billion represented secondary spending by businesses and workers upstream in the supply chain. In addition, the California Production Coalition reported that the average location shoot adds \$670,000 and 1,500 jobs a day to a local economy.

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Given the importance of the Industry to the region and state, it is vital that we ensure that County institutes policies that appropriately balance the needs of the Industry with other community needs. Streamlining processes, reducing unnecessary government red tape, and modernizing our contracting and approval processes will help retain filming in the County. According to stakeholder interviews conducted by Beacon Economics, high public safety costs and departmental bureaucracy are becoming a significant burden for film productions in the County. The rates for fire safety and police are higher than in other jurisdictions, which has contributed to reduced filming in the region. Further clarifying the criteria for when a fire safety advisor or fire safety officers are required on set, along with establishing more sensible policies that ensure fire safety on set, will ensure transparency regarding when and why a fire safety officer or advisor is needed.

Additionally, the length of time needed for the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department (LASD) to execute a private entity contract with wet signatures before a deputy can be hired for a shoot can take 10 days or more to execute. This length of time is costly for film and television productions. Under the "Digital and Streamlined Auditing and Contracting for LA County" motion, passed on September 29, 2020, the Board directed all board departments to move towards eliminating paper-based systems in favor of electronic options. Reducing the time needed to sign a paper-based contract will ensure LASD is in alignment with Board directives.

Protections of environmental and ecological areas are an important goal for the County, but the updated Significant Ecological Areas (SEA) ordinance in 2020 have now made filming in these areas more difficult. Any filming within these areas requires a Department of Regional Planning biological review and are now restricted if determined to impact a biological resource even though some areas have previously been utilized for filming. County beaches are also subject to California Coastal Commission approval. Neighboring counties with less regulations are seeing more filming, and it's important for the County to be as competitive as possible. Reviewing environmental regulations at the County, we can ensure we remain a desirable location for productions without compromising environmental standards.

Several ideas warrant additional research and information to better identify the costs, benefits, and effectiveness of policies, including examining current fees, policies and regulations, sales tax exemption, funding an Evergreen Fund and a production soundstage. An evergreen fund is a strategic financial mechanism designed to provide ongoing, sustainable funding for specific initiatives. The fund would be structured to replenish its capital over time, allowing for continuous reinvestment. This type of fund would be a public-private endeavor, utilizing grants if possible and dedicated to funding innovative technology start-ups in the film and television production industry.

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The motion picture and video industry contribute substantially to the tax bases of the County and State tax revenues in California. Industry related spending in 2022 generated an estimated \$516.2 million in tax revenues for the County, including \$460.7 million in property taxes, \$26.3 million in sales taxes, and \$29.2 million in other taxes and fees, such as special assessments. Financial incentives for the industry may be net beneficial if it increases film production.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the LA County Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) and its LA County Film Office, in collaboration with the County departments listed below, and in consultation with industry stakeholders, to report back in writing in 120 days with progress made to:

1. Partner with CEO, Department of Regional Planning (DRP), LA County Fire Department (Fire Department), Department of Public Works (DPW), Department of Beaches and Harbors (DBH), Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), and Sheriff Department (LASD) to review existing film permitting policies, fees, procedures, minimum staffing requirements, and regulations and to identify any areas that can be streamlined, or eliminated to improve permitting policies and procedures for productions and reduce costs for productions. The report back should include recommendations for enhancements and changes to film permitting policies, procedures, and zoning regulations as well as comparison to other competing states such as Georgia, New York, New Jersey and Texas.
2. Work with the LASD and County Counsel to encourage usage of electronic signatures to reduce the approval time of private entity contracts required to hire LASD Deputies from approximately 10 days down to no more than seven days and to establish a plan to further reduce the approval time.
3. Collaborate with the Fire Department to clarify and simplify the criteria for when a Fire Safety Officer or Fire Safety Advisor is required on set in local film, TV, and theatrical productions, and clearly communicate the process to Industry stakeholders.

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WE, FURTHER, MOVE, that DEO and its LA County Film Office, and in consultation with industry stakeholders, report back in writing in 120 days on the feasibility of the following proposed strategies that may require additional funding and capacity for full execution:

1. Consult with the Center for Strategic Partnerships and Department of Arts and Culture, to explore potential funding partners to launch the recommended pilot \$80 - \$100 million public-private Evergreen Fund with a focus on new Industry technology start-ups in the film and television industry. The examination would include refining the purpose and structure of the Fund, assessing potential industry and workforce impacts of options, developing strategy that ensures equity and language access, identifying any possible funding sources such as State, Federal, and public private partnerships, investment criteria, organizational and management structure of the Evergreen Fund and oversight criteria.
2. Consult with the CEO-Real Estate Branch, Department of Arts & Culture, and appropriate local film schools and industry leaders regarding the development of a new technology-based production facility that provides commercial production space and also serves as a training environment for new industry workers to gain experience, access to shared production space, and hours. The analysis should review any available vacant or underutilized land or physical properties that may be viable for the development of such a facility. The report should assess strategic opportunities to be a leader in particular technology, projected costs to build, potential scope, operating model, revenue models, and eligibility criteria for potential tenants.
3. Consult with Film LA to identify Unincorporated Areas of Los Angeles County that are highly filmed, then develop strategy to bring awareness and education to those communities in multiple languages about the positive impact of filming on local economies and neighborhoods.

WE, FURTHER, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct DPW and DBH to report back to the Board in writing in 15 days with a comprehensive list of fees for filming at each location and road use, the total revenues received annually from these fees, and the impact and feasibility of a one-year moratorium on charging these fees.

WE, FURTHER, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Office, in coordination with the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) LA County Film Office, and in consultation with Film LA, to review County Facility use fees, including day-use, set-up, and strike fees for filming and report back in 15 days with a comprehensive list of fees and the financial impact and feasibility of a one-year moratorium on charging these fees on County Departments' budgets.

WE, FURTHER, MOVE, that the Board of Supervisors direct DPR to work with Film LA to accommodate filming during hours of operation at County Regional Parks and Local Parks.

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WE, FURTHER, MOVE, that CEO-Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations continue to advocate in support of keeping film and television production in LA County and support legislation or policies that could provide a sales tax exemption for entertainment production companies filming in the State of California.

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