

34 August 5, 2025

County of Los Angeles

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Dawyn R. Harrison  
County Counsel



EDWARD YEN  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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**Board of Supervisors**

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Supervisor, Second District

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Supervisor, Third District

Janice Hahn  
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Supervisor, Fifth District

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

Dear Supervisors:

**AUTHORIZE THE IMMEDIATE REEMPLOYMENT OF A RETIRED  
COUNTY EMPLOYEE AS A 120-DAY TEMPORARY EMPLOYEE  
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)**

**SUBJECT**

The Office of the County Counsel is requesting that the Board of Supervisors (Board) grant an exception to the 180-day waiting period required under the California Public Employees' Pension Reform Act of 2013 (PEPRA) for retired County employee Charles M. Safer to return, without reinstatement from retirement, as a 120-day temporary employee to assist in providing critically-needed legal services to the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro).

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:**

1. Authorize County Counsel to immediately reemploy, without reinstatement from retirement, recent County retiree Charles M. Safer as a 120-day temporary employee.
2. Certify that Mr. Safer's temporary reemployment is necessary to fill a critical need at County Counsel; and waive the 180-day waiting period under PEPRA.
3. Approve the request to allow Mr. Safer to immediately return as a 120-day temporary employee at the salary level commensurate with his salary prior to retirement, for up to 960 hours per fiscal year.



### **PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Effective March 31, 2025, then-Assistant County Counsel Charles M. Safer retired after more than 30 years of active County service. From 2006 through March 2025, Mr. Safer was the Division Chief of County Counsel's Transportation Division, where he served as the lead day-to-day legal advisor to Metro, and directly managed Transportation Division attorneys and staff. Subject to your Board's approval, Mr. Safer will return to work, on a temporary basis, to augment County Counsel's provision of legal services to Metro on certain high-level, discrete tasks and will be overseen by Assistant County Counsel Quinn Tang.

Metro is currently engaged in a variety of significant and pressing matters that Mr. Safer was heavily involved with before he retired, including (among others): the neutral evaluation process for several major construction claims pertaining to Metro rail lines (in which high-dollar claims are at issue); contracting/funding-related issues involving the Federal Transit Administration; funding-related issues pertaining to Measure R and M, and Props A and C; and procurement, contracting, and planning matters for the upcoming 2028 Olympics in Los Angeles. Given Mr. Safer's extensive institutional knowledge and expertise pertaining to these Metro matters, coupled with Metro's commensurate needs in these time-sensitive areas, a critical need exists for Mr. Safer to return to temporarily fill the requested position. Mr. Safer will also provide sufficient information to the other attorneys in the Transportation Division, as requested by Ms. Tang, so Mr. Safer's 120-day status does not need to extend indefinitely.

In summary, County Counsel requests Mr. Safer be reemployed as a 120-day temporary employee and that the 180-day waiting period under PEPRA be waived. It is further requested that Mr. Safer's appointment be effective immediately, at an hourly rate of \$163.13 (Assistant County Counsel, Step 18), for up to 960 hours per fiscal year.

### **Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

The recommended actions support Goal 1, Operational Effectiveness/Fiscal Sustainability, of the County's Strategic Plan, maximizing public services by temporarily employing experienced former employees, and promoting sound and prudent fiscal practices by reducing overtime and training costs.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

Metro's Chief Executive Officer has requested that County Counsel facilitate Mr. Safer's temporary employment as outlined above; Metro will reimburse the County's costs thereof.

**FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

As specified in Government Code section 7522.56, PEPR provides that a County retiree must usually wait 180 days from the date of retirement before returning as a temporary worker. An exception to this rule applies if the Board certifies, at a public meeting, that the employee's immediate appointment is necessary to fill a critically-needed position; such requests may not be placed on the consent calendar. The pending request fully complies with PEPR requirements.

**IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

This action will help ensure that critical needs of County Counsel, and its Metro client, are met.

**CONCLUSION**

If there are any questions or any need for additional information, please contact my office.

Respectfully submitted,



DAWYN R. HARRISON  
County Counsel

DRH:RCC:mag

c: Fesia A. Davenport  
Chief Executive Officer

Edward Yen, Executive Officer  
Board of Supervisors

Stephanie Wiggins, Chief Executive Officer  
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Santos Kreimann, Chief Executive Officer  
Los Angeles County Employees Retirement Association