

**MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT FOR FIRE IMPACTED COMMUNITIES**

On January 7, 2025, Los Angeles County endured a series of destructive wildfires, including the Eaton Fire in Altadena, which scorched thousands of acres, destroyed homes and infrastructure, and caused lasting disruption to the lives of residents in the San Gabriel foothill communities. As we mark the six-month anniversary of this devastating event, recovery is far from over; especially for residents still grappling with housing displacement, environmental degradation, and emotional trauma.

The mental health impacts of disasters often intensify in the months following an incident, once the immediate danger has passed and the long process of rebuilding begins. For many individuals and families affected by the Eaton Fire, the emotional toll is only now coming into full view. Increased anxiety, grief, depression, and post-traumatic stress are common responses to catastrophic events of this nature and many survivors face difficulty accessing the mental health services they need.

Due to the increasing need for mental health and supportive services, community-based organizations have stepped up to meet the moment. Providers such as Eaton Health Village and others have rallied to support fire-impacted residents, offering mental health counseling, wellness programming, and navigation support. However, these organizations often lack the physical infrastructure necessary to scale their services or provide care in a consistent, trauma-informed setting. This is particularly true in areas that have lost key facilities or where existing space is no longer viable due to environmental damage or zoning constraints.

At the same time, there may be available spaces; including underutilized buildings that could be leveraged to temporarily or permanently house community mental health and recovery support services in the fire-impacted region. Identifying and activating these assets would directly contribute to the stability and resilience of affected communities. Given the likelihood of long-term recovery needs and the demonstrated commitment of community mental health providers, it is both timely and necessary for the County to assess how surrounding infrastructure can help sustain and expand these essential services for Altadena and other fire-impacted areas.

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**MOTION**

SOLIS	_____
MITCHELL	_____
HORVATH	_____
HAHN	_____
BARGER	_____

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:**

Direct the Chief Executive Office in consultation with the Departments of Economic Opportunity (DEO) and the Department of Mental Health (DMH) and other relevant departments to report back to the Board in writing within 30 days with:

1. An inventory of commercial properties, facilities, or other real estate assets out in the market around Altadena and other communities affected by the January 7, 2025, wildfires that may be suitable for short- or long-term use by community-based mental health and supportive service providers; and
2. Work with the Department of Regional Planning (DRP) to provide an assessment of feasibility, including zoning, infrastructure readiness, and permitting considerations, for making identified properties available for such use; and

**I, FURTHER, MOVE that DMH report back in writing within 30 days on the following:**

1. An analysis of recent and available data depicting the mental health impacts among fire impacted populations and surrounding communities; and
2. A summary of outreach and consultation conducted with local mental health and recovery service organizations, including but not limited to Eaton Health Village, to inform prioritization of facility needs and service delivery models; and
3. Work with DEO to provide updates on progress made towards outreaching to mental health and supportive services organizations to promote and connect them to the LA County Business to Business Space Share, which helps match commercial property owners with those displaced by the January 7 wildfires, particularly the Eaton Fire

KB:tcvs

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