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HILDA L. SOLIS
HOLLY J. MITCHELL
LINDSEY P. HORVATH
JANICE HAHN
KATHRYN BARGER

As of: 9/30/2025 9:00:15 PM



**PUBLIC REQUEST TO ADDRESS
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

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The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:				
Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
54-A.		Favor	Sylvie Andrews	The Citizen Evacuation Tracker being proposed needs to be developed with citizen input, and needs to have an analog component that allows neighbors and responders to not only technologically, but also physically, visually designate a residence as "evacuated" vs still in need of assistance. It can't just be the Sheriff tracking who's still in the disaster area.
			Yadi -	Eaton Fire survivor asking for implementing improvements to emergency preparedness and evacuation planning related to wildfire and other natural disasters.
		Other	Michael Tuccillo	
		Item Total	5	
54-C.		Oppose	Kevin Kuzma	The McChrystal Group's After Action Review of Alert Notification Systems was flawed and incomplete. If General McChrystal had received a similar After Action report during his army days, he would have throw it on his desk and demanded names, not the vague and general amnesty that "mistakes were made" that this report puts forward. Before spending more money, we need to better understand what happened and who did what. This report falls short of doing that.
		Item Total	1	
Set Matter-1.	54-A,54-C	Favor	Bernardette Madden	
			Junaid N Nur	
			kara E vallow	We demand an independent report from a RELIABLE source, not Stanley McChrystal
			Lauren Martinez	The McChrystal report is rife with inconsistencies. We need to know what went wrong and who is responsible so that it can be fixed for the future.
			Lori Jackson	On September 25, the McChrystal Group released the After-Action Report, which further underscores the need for immediate action. The people of Altadena & LA County demand an immediate, independent, and comprehensive investigation into the emergency response to the Eaton Fire, including subpoenaing all local responding agencies to publicly release their emergency response data. We deserve answers and action to hold those responsible for the failures of Jan 7 & beyond accountable.
			Shelby C Eidson	I am an Independent Watchdog and a local resident who was impacted by the Eaton Fire. In May, I submitted an independent report on this matter that was shared with LA County leadership. My report went into great detail as to what occurred during the first 24 hours of the fire. In the wake of the McChrystal Report release I have heard from impacted residents that they need to hear more from the Fire Service about what went wrong at the Command Post during the early hours of January 8th, specifically, why there was a delay in

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ordering alerts and sending support to West Altadena. My report uncovered multiple explanations for the chaos that occurred during this time. First, the incident commanders in charge between midnight and 4am were from the County Fire Svs and had not received enough experience-based training running large fires. Specifically, I heard from fire leadership there were delays getting the ICS system going. This contributed to chaos and disorganization. To be clear, I do not fault these individuals but rather find a need for increased experience-based training so that officials put in charge of a fire of this size and scope are better prepared. Second, communication systems, such as radio and dispatch systems, were dysfunctional and responders were unable to reach or communicate effectively with leadership. Messages sent were not necessarily received. In some cases firefighters had to drive all the way to the Rose Bowl to make contact or get assignments from leadership. Third, just as the Command Post was getting organized at the Rose Bowl a frantic call came in from the Jet Propulsion Laboratory. An administrator at JPL told fire leadership that the fire was about to reach the campus and that JPL's fire brigade had lost control and needed assistance. The JPL administrator shared that there was a massive amount of explosives on site and that if the fire reached the campus there would be a blast that would impact everyone within a 10-mile radius. This blast would not only cause a large explosion and shock waves but also massive vapor plumes. Fire leadership had to pivot and direct immediate focus to JPL and La Canada to prevent what would have been a catastrophic disaster. Lastly, the lack of law enforcement personnel and the faulty communication system led to tactical mistakes-some of our most well-equipped firefighters (those with pumps, engines, etc) were sent to do low risk evacuations of facilities far from the firefront rather than being sent to assist residents trapped in burning homes. All this is to say that mistakes were made and LA County Fire and Sheriffs Dept do have some improvements to make such as increased training, improvement of communication systems and tactical decision-making. Also, LA County is the regional agency responsible for Hazmat inspections and management and should have better coordinated with JPL in advance of the fire, as well as shortly after ignition. This would have avoided a frantic, last minute distraction that contributed to loss of life and property in West Altadena. Further, JPL should not be stockpiling this amount of explosives in a suburban neighborhood prone to wildfire. If it weren't for the swift actions of our fire leadership the events of that night would have been much, much worse. I do not feel any one person is responsible for these failings and ultimately found that fire leadership and incident commanders did an admirable job in the face of impossible conditions. I interviewed firefighters who lost their own homes, who carried disabled people to safety, and who had significant health issues after breathing toxic fumes for hours straight. But the County as a whole failed and must do better. The truth of that night will come out so it is best to openly discuss it now in order to rebuild community trust. Residents need to feel some semblance of safety as they begin to rebuild their lives.

Sofia Vidal

The Mc Crystal report is extremely inaccurate and offensive to the fire survivors of Altadena. As a 30 year resident of Altadena, I request an independent investigation of the grossly inadequate behavior by first



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			responders including the lack of proper evacuation notices specially considering that "abandon order" had taken place many hours before leaving us residents to fight the fires ourselves. The Fire department and all first responses failed us miserably. We deserve better
		Zella Knight	As myself and my family members are disabled victims of the Eaton Fire, I would like to address a critical concern that emerged during the Eaton and Palisades fire and was inadequately addressed in this report. While these fires endangered entire communities, they highlighted once again the persistent inequities that persons with disabilities face during emergencies. When disasters strike, we are all vulnerable. But for individuals with disabilities, the lack of specificity in supports – clear, actionable and accessible assistance turns vulnerability into outright exclusion. Evacuation plans, communication alerts and emergency shelters too often assume a "one size fits all" approach. This leaves behind those who rely on wheelchairs, those who need accessible transportation, those who depend on medical equipment or those who require communication that is sensory friendly and linguistically appropriate. During the Eaton and Palisades fire, families and individuals with disabilities were left to navigate life threatening chaos without tailored supports. Critical questions went unanswered: Who would provide accessible transportation out of evacuation zones? Who would check to see if alert systems were reaching people who are deaf blind or neurodiverse? The absence of detailed disability specific planning meant too many were placed at unnecessary risk. Equally troubling was the lack of engagement in solution-based decision making. One example is the survey question were open ended and not forthright in getting to the core problems such as described above. Decisions about disaster response were made quickly, but rarely with the voices of disabled persons or disability led organizations at the table. Too often, people with disabilities are treated as an afterthought rather than equal partners in shaping policies that directly affect their survival and recovery. Inclusion is not a courtesy; it is a necessity. We cannot afford to repeat these failures. We must move beyond broad promises and into specific measurable supports, Transportation plans that include accessible vehicles, coordinated with first responders. Shelters equipped with accommodations for mobility, sensory and medical needs. Communication systems that are multi-modal visual, auditory, and plain language so no one left uninformed. Emergency planning committees where persons with disabilities hold leadership roles not just advisory seats. Real preparedness means listening, learning, and acting alongside those most impacted. Until decision making processes prioritize disability inclusion, our emergency responses will remain incomplete and unjust. The Eaton and Palisades fire should serve as a turning point. Let us commit, here and now, that no one will be left behind because of disability. Let us build systems that recognize every individual's dignity, safety and right to survival.
	Oppose	Kevin robertson	I would like to request a motion to move this matter to a future Board meeting



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			date. I OPPOSE the matter, due to more time to seek public awareness of the action plan.
		Noel J McCarthy	A review of the Alert Notification System & Evacuation Policies is welcome in context of the catastrophic failure witnessed by thousands in West Altadena. This Needs to be fixed and updated. However - this is but one small aspect of the greater transparently Negligent response to the events of Jan.7-8-9. Simply put - West Altadena was Left to Burn. An unattended, un-fought Fire. What this report makes clear is that there was no Plan. This report-with its wildly inaccurate time line for homes burning West of Lake - conveniently absolves County Leadership, specifically LACFD&LACSD, from the Dereliction of Duty witnessed by so many and by the thousands of destroyed homes and shattered lives. This has created an atmosphere of severe distrust - We Are Not Protected - Why would we evacuate in future catastrophes knowing there will be No "Heros" showing up to Save your home and Community? Chief Marrone in particular has shown himself to be Unfit for Duty. He's continually quoted saying "we're foolish to think we can hire enough fire fighters or buy enough firetrucks to put out a fire like that" and that the only solution is "home hardening, defensible space, fuel management....and we're supposed to let the fire just wash over us? Is this why Chief Marrone's crews didn't even try? Why they cowardly sat in their trucks while people struggled with garbage cans and buckets of water? Is this Why downtown Altadena - the beating heart of Altadena - was engulfed in flames at 9am on 1/8 with not a Firetruck in sight? Understanding the County was overwhelmed and hadn't made a plan for an entirely predicted wind event (not Once in a Lifetime - see 2011) Why was West Altadena automatically (and Continually) at the bottom of the list when it came to sending Resources? This Board has a lot to answer to - far beyond some line-item expenditures for new Alert technology. Let's start with some new Leadership at LACFD - perhaps someone willing to fight fires and Plan to fight fires instead of blaming Architecture and Trees for doing nothing (and literally planning on doing nothing next time) The Trust is gone and needs to be rebuilt. We're not off to a good Start with the McChrystal report. You can't draw conclusions based on incorrect or incomplete Data - (you didnt have a time-stamped information or access to a Department for interviews - so it didnt happen?) So Instead you drew conclusions that conveniently fit your narrative - and allows you to escape litigation. Here's an idea - why not start with an Apology to the people of West Altadena - and we'll go from there. This is just getting started.
		Seth Gold	The report is falls short in unearthing the truth of what happened Jan 7-8.
	Other	Edna Robidas	I was a resident of Altadena, whose apartment and neighborhood burned in the Eaton Fire. I also attended one of the in-person listening sessions held by the McChrystal Group. I am incredibly disappointed that this report very clearly protects the County, rather than providing real answers and accountability around how most of the town never received evacuation warnings or alerts until after the fire was on their streets. If this report isn't the vehicle for providing those answers, then we need to know what will be.



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Margaret Starbuck	While I'm glad a report was completed, I am deeply disappointed in the lack of accountability and investigation in this report. I ask that the board commission another independent report that will reveal what actually caused the delay of evacuation order to West Altadena and the severe loss of life. The report does not name who was actually responsible for the decision making during the fires or explain what actually went wrong, which is ridiculous! The report questions the authenticity of 911 calls from desperate West Altadena residents, which is unconscionable when there is plenty of documentation about when the fire arrived in West Altadena and the complete devastation the fire caused there. What it does reveal is the bureaucratic communication breakdown that led to the office of emergency management, sheriffs department and fire officials having no central communication system WHICH IS TERRIFYING and makes me really worried about the future survivability of our county and cities. Please commission a new report that is independent, will actually force officials to take responsibility and will not blame and cast doubt upon victims.
Marisol Espino	I lost my childhood home of 29 years in Janes Village during the January fires. Nineteen of our neighbors were killed, eighteen of them from West Altadena. This was one of the most devastating nights in the history of our community, and yet the recently released after-action report fails us entirely. The report is intentionally misleading, filled with excuses, and deeply lacking in accountability. It does not tell the truth about what happened to West Altadena. Instead, it erases our stories, silences our trauma, and minimizes the pain of families who lost everything. We are not asking for an "off with your heads" approach, as you, Supervisor, have described community demands. What we are asking for is honesty, accountability, and acknowledgement of what truly happened that night. Because what happened was this: We never received warning that we were in danger, even when our power was still on. West Altadena began catching fire at approximately 10:50 p.m., but no evacuation orders were issued to us. The few evacuation orders that did eventually arrive came far too late—long after homes were already burning. Firefighters did not arrive in West Altadena until it was already too late for many families, and in some cases, they never came at all. Meanwhile, Monrovia and Arcadia received early warnings and evacuation orders long before West Altadena. The explanation that the "wind was blowing east" does not excuse the failure to warn West Altadena residents, especially when calls were coming in from our community. Between 10:00 p.m. and midnight, at least 14 separate calls reported that



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homes in West Altadena were burning. Yet not a single incident commander thought it necessary to issue an evacuation warning or order to our community.

That is not a natural disaster. That is a failure of leadership and coordination, and it cost lives.

The report makes no serious attempt to grapple with this reality. Instead, it presents generic justifications and excuses that do not apply to what happened in West Altadena. It reduces our experiences to a footnote, as if our lives and our losses were somehow less significant than those in other parts of the county. That erasure is unacceptable.

We want accountability. We want answers. We want the names of the incident commanders who made these decisions—or failed to make them. We want a report that reflects the truth, not a sanitized version designed to shield agencies from responsibility.

Accountability does not mean scapegoating individuals for the sake of appearances. It means acknowledging systemic failures, identifying the leaders and commanders who made critical choices, and making sure those mistakes are never repeated. Without that, there is no healing, no learning, and no justice for the people we lost.

When you erase our stories, you silence the 19 neighbors who never made it out alive. You silence the families who ran for their lives without warning. You silence the families who will live without their loved ones, and the elders who perished because no one told them to leave.

Our pain is not an inconvenience to be written out of a report. It is the reality of what happened that night. It deserves to be acknowledged fully, honestly, and with compassion.

To move forward, we demand:

A new report to include an accurate, truthful account of what happened in West Altadena.

Identification of the incident commanders responsible for decisions regarding evacuation warnings and firefighting deployment that night.

A public acknowledgement from county leadership that the failures in West Altadena were unique, devastating, and preventable.

Concrete commitments to fix communication, evacuation, and response protocols so that no other community is left to burn in silence.

We are not asking for vengeance. We are asking for justice, transparency, and respect. We are asking for the truth to be put on record. Without that, this



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	report is not just inadequate—it is harmful. It retraumatizes survivors by denying their lived experience and undermines trust in the very institutions that are supposed to protect us. I urge you: do not let this report stand as the final word on what happened. Do not let the deaths of our neighbors be reduced to statistics, and do not allow West Altadena to be erased from this history. We deserve more. Our community deserves more. And the memory of those we lost demands more. Please stand with us by rejecting this misleading report, demanding revisions, and ensuring that the truth of West Altadena is finally acknowledged. Only then can we begin to heal. Thank you.
Michael Tuccillo	
Sarah A Hartzog	In regarding to city planning and fire hardening requirements from the county for new construction: we are required to upgrade our water lines, install interior sprinklers but the three private water companies are not required to upgrade their systems to be able to meet the demand of OUR new systems (all at a cost to us as homeowners). This makes no logical sense. I implore the board to consider this disconnect and mandate that the water companies be forced to comply as well. If these private companies do not upgrade their systems we are investing in an absolutely useless system and the board and county WILL be complicit.
Sarah A Hartzog	I'm listening in to the board members talk and I am apoplectic. The fact that supervisor Solis got an evacuation in El Monte while I NEVER received an evacuation alert in Altadena, speaks to the failures of technology you say will save us. The sheriff saying that his deputies conducted evacuations is so insulting. NOT ONE of my neighbors, in a WIDE network of residents from west of lake saw a single officer helping with evacuations. I spoke with a woman this morning who gave anecdotal evidence of seeing a patrol car driving down the street, no lights no bullhorn, ZERO interaction with the community. The refusal to accept meaningful accountability adds yet another insult to our injuries. You talk about how systems will be improved in the future but I'm not hearing any actual plans; just more passing blame around to eachother. DO BETTER.
Shannon Larsuel	This report by the McCrystal group is completely and utterly insufficient. Rather than answering the questions Altadena residents have been asking for months, this report unearthed even more questions and concerns. The fact that the report opens by stating it does not seek to "investigate wrongdoing or assign blame" is evidence enough that the report holds no teeth. As a community member with lived experience and knowledge from others in the community, I cannot help but believe that the timeline of the Eaton Fire presented in the report is nothing more than a falsity. The report does not in any way meaningfully engage with community members and their anecdotal stories and evidence such as photos and videos as well as reports from home security systems. I am calling on Attorney General Rob Bonta to conduct a

				truly independent and thorough investigation to hold public agencies accountable for their failures during the Eaton Fire. Only a truly independent investigation with subpoena powers will present the full truth of the failures that lead to the death of more than 19 community members and the loss of thousands of homes.
			Sylvie Andrews	New technology is only as good as the training of the people implementing it, and is only as good as the strategic, procedural and supportive structures built around it. It's not enough to say that "technology will save us all" if you are rushing implementations, training too few people, or not staffing appropriately to support the tech. Maybe OEM should be funded and budgeted more like our \$4B sheriff department. I'm glad you're talking about helping them. Please also don't forget about the old methods like door knocks, sirens and phone trees, because I'm worried you were over-reliant on tech during the Eaton Fire. You can't say we were refusing to leave if you never successfully warned us in the first place. Human boots on the ground and eyes on the fire's boundaries will never be replaced by technology.
			Yadi -	Eaton Fire survivor asking for implementing improvements to emergency preparedness and evacuation planning related to wildfire and other natural disasters. Tech companies must robustly test their systems, provide adequate training and support, and BE ACCOUNTABLE for their technologies! The public deserves no less.
		Item Total	20	
Grand Total			26	

From: [ExecutiveOffice](#)
To: [PublicComments](#)
Cc: [First District](#); [Holly J. Mitchell](#); [Third District](#); [Supervisor Janice Hahn \(Fourth District\)](#); [Barger, Kathryn](#)
Subject: Fw: 9.30.2025 Board of Supervisors Meeting - Rep. Judy Chu Letter
Date: Monday, September 29, 2025 3:35:21 PM
Attachments: [Letter to Board of Supervisors re L.A. County Wildfires Independent After-Action Report FINAL.pdf](#)

From: Jacobs, Lauren <Lauren.Jacobs@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2025 2:46 PM
To: ExecutiveOffice <ExecutiveOffice@bos.lacounty.gov>
Cc: Hanley, Maddy <Maddy.Hanley@mail.house.gov>; Silberberg, David <David.Silberberg@mail.house.gov>; Robles, Enrique <Enrique.Robles@mail.house.gov>
Subject: 9.30.2025 Board of Supervisors Meeting - Rep. Judy Chu Letter

To Whom It May Concern

Please see attached a letter on behalf of Rep. Judy Chu to the Los Angeles Board of Supervisors in advance of tomorrow's (9/30) Board Meeting.

Please confirm receipt of this letter. Thank you!

Lauren Jacobs (she/her)
Legislative Assistant
Rep. Judy Chu (CA-28)

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

**COMMITTEE ON
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September 29, 2025

Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
500 West Temple Street
Room 383
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: L.A. County Wildfires Independent After-Action Review

Dear Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors,

I write in advance of the Board's motion to adopt and implement the recommendations of the January 2025 Eaton and Palisades Fire Independent After-Action Review. I support this motion, as the report provides important insight into the systemic failures that contributed to evacuation delays and outlines urgently needed reforms. At the same time, I request that the County address unresolved questions, particularly why West Altadena residents, who suffered the greatest losses, did not receive the timely warnings and response they so desperately needed and deserved.

The Eaton Fire was the second most destructive fire in California's history, taking the lives of 19 of our neighbors, decimating 9,500 structures, and displacing over 20,000 people throughout Altadena and Pasadena. But it was West Altadena that was hit hardest, with 18 of the 19 deaths occurring in this community. Yet the Independent After-Action Review mentions these individuals only once. Their lives should be at the forefront of this report, and I therefore request that the County conduct a more comprehensive account and analysis of how these deaths occurred and what specific actions officials could have taken to prevent them.

After the fire broke out, residents east of Lake Avenue were told to evacuate as early as 7:26 p.m. Yet residents west of Lake Avenue, where the greatest loss of life occurred, did not receive an evacuation alert until 3:25 a.m. With no warnings, many people went to bed or waited too long to arrange help if they were physically unable to leave on their own. Concerningly, the report acknowledges that the first 911 call reporting a fire in West Altadena – in an area where structural damage was subsequently confirmed – was received just before 1:00am on January 8th, more than two hours before the evacuation order was issued. Despite verified calls for help from this region and visible dangers, the report does not explain why officials concluded it was safe to wait until 3:25 a.m. to issue the order, or who was responsible for that decision. This highlights the urgent need to clarify and document evacuation authority so there is no ambiguity about who has the power to act and how quickly warnings must be delivered.

The report also describes two instances where officials recommended evacuation orders for West Altadena to their Unified Command, but in both cases, those recommendations were either not recalled or poorly documented. These gaps leave an incomplete record of how decisions were made in real time and underscore the need for stronger training, planning, and recordkeeping protocols to ensure that recommendations are properly documented, reviewed, and acted upon.

Further, the report highlights that many residents never received warnings of danger because alerts required residents to opt in beforehand or click a link to see the full message. Warnings must be immediate, automatic, and complete, and requiring residents to sign up in advance or navigate multiple steps during a fire puts lives even further at risk. This underscores the importance of modernizing situational awareness, improving interoperability among agencies, and strengthening community engagement so alerts are reliable and accessible to all.

It is possible that an Office of Emergency Management could have addressed these issues before these tragic fires. That is why it is disturbing that this office, which is in charge of the safety of the 10 million people of Los Angeles County, is severely understaffed and undertrained.

I strongly urge the County to fully implement the recommendations outlined in this report, but also address the above unresolved questions. The County must clarify evacuation authority and documentation, strengthen training and coordination across agencies, and address resource shortfalls by filling vacancies, updating equipment, and ensuring adequate staffing. It must also modernize situational awareness and interoperability so all agencies share real-time data, and improve public communication so warnings are immediate, automatic, and accessible without opt-ins or extra steps during an emergency. These are lifesaving measures that must be implemented with urgency and accountability.

Should the Board adopt this report, I request that the County provide regular updates on its progress in implementing these recommendations so that the public can have confidence that these systemic failures are being addressed in a timely and transparent manner. We owe it to the victims, survivors, and their families to ensure that these evacuation delays and failures are never repeated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judy Chu". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Judy Chu
Member of Congress