## **MOTION BY SUPERVISOR JANICE HAHN**

## Prioritizing Funding for Homekey+ Housing Project in Supervisorial District Four

In July 2020, Governor Gavin Newson announced the Homekey Program (Homekey) which made funding available for local jurisdictions to purchase and rehabilitate hotels and other properties to develop housing for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. The California State initiative was launched to create housing, including permanent supportive housing (PSH) and interim housing. On March 5, 2024, California voters approved Proposition 1, which includes the Behavioral Health Infrastructure Bond Act. Building on the success of the original Homekey program in expediting the development of housing, over \$2 billion of Proposition 1 bond funding was allocated to Homekey+, a program for PSH projects for individuals experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness, particularly Veterans and individuals with behavioral health challenges. The program supports diverse capital investments such as those for new construction, rehabilitation, and conversions of existing buildings, with a specific Tribal Homekey+ program designed to meet the unique needs of California Tribes.

The County of Los Angeles (County), through the Los Angeles County Development Authority (LACDA), submitted applications for a total of six projects in April and May 2025, in conjunction with partner agencies to the State. Through these

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applications, the County was seeking approximately \$143 million in Homekey+ funding.

One of the sites applied for was the Extended Stay America hotel located in the City of Torrance, which would have been turned into 120 units of PSH.

The proposed project was subsequently withdrawn for Homekey+ with the goal of developing a similar project in Torrance or nearby. It is essential that resources and funding approved for the Torrance site be used to address the housing needs of the Fourth Supervisorial District.

The proposed action is not a project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because the action is excluded from the definition of a project by Section 15378 (b) of the State CEQA guidelines. The proposed action is an administrative activity of government which will not result in direct or indirect physical change to the environment.

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

- Direct the Director of the Department of Mental Health to set aside up to \$12 million in capital matching funds and the funding for up to 98 rental subsidies previously committed to the Torrance Homekey+ application for a new Homekey+ site as identified by the Fourth Supervisorial District;
- 2. Authorize the Los Angeles County Development Authority, through its Executive Director, or his designee, as the agent of the County, in coordination with the Department of Mental Health, to review any proposal for a Homekey+ in the Fourth Supervisorial District, and if appropriate, take all necessary actions, including the execution of any necessary documents, to submit a Homekey+ application to the California Department of Housing and Community Development on behalf of the County; and

3. Find that approval of this action is not subject to the provisions of CEQA because the action will not have the potential of causing a significant effect on the environment.
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