



MARK PESTRELLA, Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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IN REPLY PLEASE
REFER TO FILE

January 06, 2026

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:

**WATER RESOURCES CORE SERVICE AREA
APPOINT A RECENT PUBLIC WORKS RETIREE AS A 120-DAY
TEMPORARY EMPLOYEE AND WAIVE THE 180-DAY WAITING PERIOD
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS)
(3-VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Public Works requests that the Board authorize appointment of a recent Public Works retiree, Dr. Iraj Nasseri, as a 120-day temporary employee without reinstatement from retirement and waive the 180-day waiting period under the California Public Employee's Pension Reform Act of 2013.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Certify that it is necessary for recently retired Public Works employee, Dr. Iraj Nasseri, who possesses extensive and unique expertise in hydrology and hydraulics, to immediately return as a 120-day temporary employee to provide critically needed technical leadership and oversight for projects involving hydrology and hydraulics, including the development of a new Post-Fire Mudflow Modeling Process using the United States Army Corps of Engineers HEC-RAS software.
2. Authorize the Director of Public Works to appoint Dr. Iraj Nasseri to serve as a 120-day temporary employee at Public Works without reinstatement from retirement; waive the 180-day waiting period under California Public Employee's Pension Reform Act of 2013; and approve the Director's request that Dr. Iraj Nasseri be employed as a Senior Civil Engineer at a rate of \$84.01 per hour for up to 960 hours of work in each fiscal year.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The purpose of the recommended actions is to immediately appoint Dr. Iraj Nasseri as a 120-day

temporary employee without reinstatement from retirement and to waive the 180-day waiting period. Dr. Nasserri will assist the County in providing technical leadership and oversight and continuity for projects involving hydrology and hydraulics, including the development of a new Post-Fire Mudflow Modeling Process, a critical initiative aimed at improving flood risk prediction and emergency preparedness for potential mudflows in fire-affected watersheds.

Dr. Nasserri retired from County service on October 31, 2025, as a Principal Engineer for Public Works in the Stormwater Engineering Division. Dr. Nasserri brings decades of experience in hydrologic and hydraulic modeling, sediment transport analysis, and postfire flood risk assessment. Dr. Nasserri also served as an expert witness in County legal matters involving flooding and drainage issues. Most recently, his expert opinions were pivotal in the July 2025 dismissal of the Higer v. County of Los Angeles, et al. civil lawsuit. His leadership and technical expertise are essential to the continued implementation of advanced modeling tools such as HEC-RAS, which will be used to simulate mudflow behavior, identify potentially vulnerable locations, and develop mitigation strategies to protect the lives and property of County residents.

Dr. Nasserri's return on a part-time basis will ensure his availability as a subject matter expert to advance this high-priority modeling initiative and support the County's broader flood risk reduction efforts.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

These recommendations support the County Strategic Plan: North Star 2, Foster Vibrant and Resilient Communities, Focus Area Goal C, Public Safety, by strengthening the County's ability to predict and mitigate post-fire mudflow hazards, and Focus Area Goal D, Sustainability, by advancing environmentally sound modeling that promotes watershed resilience. They also align with North Star 3, Realize Tomorrow's Government Today, Focus Area Goal B, Diverse and Inclusive Workforce, and Focus Area Goal F, Flexible and Efficient Infrastructure, by leveraging Dr. Nasserri's expertise to ensure continuity of technical leadership, operational effectiveness, and fiscal responsibility. Appointing Dr. Nasserri as a temporary employee, waiving the 180-day waiting period will maximize public services, safeguard communities, and uphold the County's commitment to innovation and accountability.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Dr. Nasserri will be employed at a rate of \$84.01 per hour for up to 960 hours in Fiscal Years 2026-27 and 2027-28. The cost of the recommended action will be absorbed within Public Works' existing budget and various funds.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Under the California Public Employee's Pension Reform Act of 2013, a County retiree must ordinarily wait 180 days from the date of retirement before returning to work as a temporary employee without reinstatement from retirement (Government Code, Section 7522.56). The recommended action is consistent with California Public Employee's Pension Reform Act of 2013, which allows a person who retires from the County to serve without reinstatement from retirement or loss or interruption of benefits provided by the retirement system, before a period of 180 days following the date of retirement as long as the Board certifies the position is critically needed and the retired person has the skills needed to perform work of limited duration. The request for such an appointment may not be placed on a consent calendar.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

None.

CONCLUSION

Please return an adopted copy of this Board letter to Public Works, Stormwater Engineering Division.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Pestrella". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mark" and last name "Pestrella" clearly distinguishable.

MARK PESTRELLA, PE

Director

MP:SEK:sv

c: Auditor-Controller
Chief Executive Office (Christine Frias)
County Counsel
Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
Human Resources
LACERA