

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR KATHRYN BARGER

JANUARY 13, 2026

**SUPPORTING URGENCY TO REBUILD LA COUNTY PARKS FOLLOWING THE
JANUARY 2025 WINDSTORM AND CRITICAL FIRE EVENTS**

On January 28, 2025, the County of Los Angeles (County) Board of Supervisors approved a Board Motion by Supervisors Kathryn Barger and Lindsey P. Horvath to delegate authority to County departments to rapidly address the January 2025 Windstorm and Critical Fire Events.

The County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation (LA County Parks) sustained over \$250 million in fire damage from the Eaton Fire and Hughes Fire. These catastrophic events caused widespread damage and destruction across the County and action is necessary to mitigate the loss and damage to public services as a result of the emergency. The fires left behind burned landscapes, destabilized slopes, and destroyed or damaged structures and amenities essential to park safety, public health and community well-being.

Parks are vital public assets that support physical and mental health, provide safe gathering spaces, and serve as critical ecological buffers that protect neighborhoods in the Wildland Urban Interface. Rapid restoration is therefore essential to community stability and resilience.

Assisted by the authority of the January 28, 2025 Board Motion, LA County Parks worked urgently to fund, restore, and reopen parks with minimal damage, including Loma Alta Park and Altadena Triangle Park. However, several parks remain closed due to extensive damage, including Charles White Park, Charles S. Farnsworth Park, Altadena Golf Course, and Eaton Canyon Nature Center and Natural Area, as well as local trails. The Hughes Fire also caused extensive damage at Castaic Lake State Recreation Area – impacting the main boat launch ramp, road infrastructure, and kiosks – resulting in prolonged closures that have restricted public access to lake recreation and reduced revenue.

MOTION

MITCHELL	_____
HORVATH	_____
HAHN	_____
BARGER	_____
SOLIS	_____

The LA County Parks Foundation (Foundation), a non-profit foundation dedicated to supporting the mission of LA County Parks, played an instrumental role in the rapid recovery of Loma Alta Park, which was reopened in less than three months. The reopening of Loma Alta Park restored critical community access to recreational spaces, strengthened local resilience following the disaster, and provided a safe, revitalized environment for families and residents to reconnect and heal. The Foundation has demonstrated the capacity to accelerate implementation and meet grantor timelines. Loma Alta Park serves as an example of how LA County Parks can partner with the Foundation to expedite the restoration of parks and meet grantor requirements to invest quickly and reopen parks to the community.

Conservation Corps also played a critical role immediately after the fires to provide site services such as brush and debris clearance, tree trimming and removal, and trail repairs through existing as-needed service agreements with LA County Parks. For more than a decade, LA County Parks has used these service agreements to implement landscape, trail, and other site work at parks while supporting equitable opportunities for young people through training, work, education and support. Through its post fire restoration experience, LA County Parks has identified an urgent need to support local workforce development and conservation training for fire-impacted youth in the Altadena-Pasadena communities. This agreement will allow LA County Parks to contract with Outward Bound Adventures (OBA) to hire Altadena low-income, systems-involved youth of color impacted by the Eaton Fires. Working with OBA youth on Altadena park recovery projects will create opportunities for youth to gain job skills and training supporting career pathways. OBA has a long history of partnering with the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service and State Parks resulting in career pathways for youth of color, systems-involved youth from Altadena/Pasadena community. This is a best practice framework for the rebuilding and recovery of Altadena.

In partnership with the Foundation, LA County Parks has secured an unprecedented \$60 Million in philanthropic and government funding to support the restoration of fire damaged parks. Of the \$60 million, \$26.7 million comes from recently secured funds from the State of California and \$9.9 million is from recently committed funds from public agencies such as the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy. Additional requests to public and private partners to support park recovery and reconstruction are actively ongoing.

Reconstruction of Charles White Park would include a whole park restoration with landscaping, sport courts, public art, community building, playgrounds and water play areas, exercise zones, and picnic areas. Eaton Canyon would include ecological restoration, trails, outdoor spaces, landscaping, nature center, tree propagation, greenhouses, and irrigation. Farnsworth Park would include a reflection garden, walking paths, trees and landscaping, restroom replacement, outdoor spaces, utilities and picnic areas. Altadena Crest Trail would include trail restoration and repair. Castaic Lake would include campground renovation, paving, kiosks, tree planting, and picnic areas. LA County Parks continues to pursue additional funding for each of these projects, but a fast-track, phased delivery by the Foundation will enable accelerated progress toward reopening amenities to the community.

Philanthropy and government funders require expedited and timely implementation of park projects to ensure the recovery momentum continues. A funding agreement

between LA County Parks and the Foundation will enable efficient and timely deployment of resources for continued recovery. The Foundation's role will be to act as the delivery partner responsible to fulfill the project scope of work as the sole contracting and fiscal agent, hiring consultants and contractors to perform the design and construction work. LA County Parks will establish the project scope of work consistent with grant requirements and County standards, and determine schedule requirements, monitor progress, and accept the work upon completion.

As the County transitions from emergency response to long-term recovery, it is imperative to maintain urgency so that LA County Parks can continue to respond to and recover from the January 2025 Windstorm and Critical Fire Events.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Find that the approval of an appropriation adjustment and the delegations to the Director of Parks herein are not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because they are organizational and administrative activities of government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment and involve the creation of government funding mechanisms, which do not involve any commitment to a specific project that may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment. Further find that proposed Funding and Donation Agreement with the Foundation and the applications for State Specified Grant funds authorized by the Resolutions herein for recovery projects including at Charles White Park, Hughes Fire Recovery at Castaic Lake, Eaton Canyon Natural Area and Nature Center, and Charles S. Farnsworth Park are within the scope of the Board's finding of exemption in the January 28, 2025 Board Motion; and are also statutorily exempt from CEQA pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080(b) (2), (3), and (4), and State CEQA Guidelines Section 15269 (b) and (c) since they consist of emergency repairs to public facilities necessary to maintain service, projects undertaken to maintain or restore property or facilities damaged or destroyed as a result of a disaster in a disaster stricken area in which a state of emergency has been proclaimed and specific actions to prevent or mitigate an emergency; Find that the projects are also categorically exempt based on State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15301, 15302, 15303 , 15304 and 15311 and Classes 1, 2, 3, 4 and 11 of the County of Los Angeles Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, Appendix G. In addition, based on the records of the proposed projects, find that none of the Exceptions to the use of categorical exemptions found in State CEQA Guidelines section 15300.2 are applicable. Approval of the actions herein related to Projects is also subject to the suspension of CEQA included in the Executive Orders issued by the Governor related to the LA County Fires. Upon the Board's approval of the actions herein, LA County Parks will file a Notice of Exemption with the County Clerk and with the State Clearinghouse in the Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation pursuant to section 21152 of the California Public Resources Code and will post the Notice to Parks' website in accordance with section 21092.2.
2. Pursuant to Government Code 26227, find that the appropriation and transfer of up to \$40 million of grant funds to the LA County Parks Foundation (Foundation) for the repair and restoration of fire damaged parks is necessary to meet the social needs of the County.

3. Authorize the Director of Parks and Recreation, or her designee, to execute Funding and Donation Agreement(s), approved as to form by County Counsel, with the LA County Parks Foundation to transfer up to \$40 million in grant funding to the Foundation to support the Foundation's restoration, construction, and repair of parks damaged by the wildfires and accept from the Foundation donated services and improvements for the restoration, construction and repair of parks damaged by the wildfires.
4. Adopt the three resolutions necessary to complete the application process for State Specified Grant Funds authorized by Proposition 4 (Climate Bond) and allocated by SB 105 (Chapter 104): Budget Act of 2025, Item # 3790-102-6093, (1) 1.(e) \$5,500,000 is available for the Charles White Park; Item # 3790-102-6093, (1)1.(g) \$5,000,000 is available for the Hughes Fire Recovery at Castaic Lake; and, Item # 3790-102-6093, (1) 1. (d) \$16,200,000 is available for the Eaton Canyon Natural Area and Nature Center.
5. Approve the attached appropriation adjustment to increase the Department's Services and Supplies appropriation in the amount of \$40 million in the Department's Operating Budget, fully offset by grant revenue. Additional appropriation for future secured funding may be provided through the County budget process.
6. Delegate authority to the Director of Department of Parks and Recreation, or her designee, to act as agent of the County to apply for grants, execute grant agreements and amendments, and submit payment requests, which may be necessary for the completion of the project grant scope(s).
7. Authorize a sole source contract with Outward Bound Adventures to perform recovery and restoration work at parks and trails in the Altadena and Pasadena fire zones, including landscaping, maintenance projects, horticultural services, water conservation projects, energy conservation projects, trail work, habitat restoration, and other services, subject to prior determination, if appropriate, by the Director that the work is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act, for a period of five years in an amount not to exceed \$5,000,000 per year. Find that a sole source contract is in the County's best interest for the forgoing reasons and it is not feasible to competitively solicit for these services in a reasonable time period. Find that it is impossible to recruit personnel to perform such service for the period of time such service is needed by the county.
8. Direct the Director of Parks and Recreation, or her designee, to provide annual reports to the Board, including but not limited to, the use of accepted funds and progress of project implementation, related to fire recovery and rebuilding efforts in this motion.

Resolution Form

Resolution Number: _____

RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, APPROVAL OF APPLICATION(S) FOR SPECIFIED GRANT FUNDS authorized by Proposition 4 (Climate Bond) and allocated by SB 105 (Chapter 104): Budget Act of 2025, Item # 3790-102-6093, (1)1.(g) \$5,000,000 is available for the Hughes Fire Recovery at Castaic Lake.

WHEREAS, Department of Parks and Recreation has been delegated the responsibility by the Legislature of the State of California for the administration of a grant to the COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION, setting up necessary procedures governing application(s); and

WHEREAS, said procedures established by Department of Parks and Recreation require the applicant's Governing Body to certify by resolution the approval of project application(s) before submission of said applications to the State; and

WHEREAS, the applicant will enter into a contract with the State of California to complete project(s) as outlined in Budget Item 3790-102-6093, (1)1.(g) \$5,000,000 is available for the Hughes Fire Recovery at Castaic Lake.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES BOARD OF SUPERVISORS hereby:

1. Approves the filing of project application(s) for specified grant project(s); and
2. Certifies that said applicant has or will have available sufficient funds including those provided by this grant, prior to commencement of project work utilizing specified grant funds, to complete the project; and
3. Certifies that the applicant has reviewed, understands, and agrees to the General Provisions contained in the contract shown in the Procedural Guide; and
4. Delegates the authority to the Director, Chief Deputy Director, Deputy Director of Planning and Development, and Administrative Deputy Director to conduct all negotiations, sign and submit all documents, including but not limited to applications, agreements, amendments, and payment requests, which may be necessary for the completion of the project grant scope(s); and
5. Agrees to comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws, ordinances, rules, regulations and guidelines.

Approved and adopted the ____ day of _____, 20____.

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution Number _____ was duly adopted by the COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES BOARD OF SUPERVISORS following a roll call vote:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

(Clerk)

Resolution Form

Resolution Number: _____

RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, APPROVAL OF APPLICATION(S) FOR SPECIFIED GRANT FUNDS authorized by Proposition 4 (Climate Bond) and allocated by SB 105 (Chapter 104): Budget Act of 2025, Item # 3790-102-6093, (1) 1.(e) \$5,500,000 is available for the Charles White Park.

WHEREAS, Department of Parks and Recreation has been delegated the responsibility by the Legislature of the State of California for the administration of a grant to the COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION , setting up necessary procedures governing application(s); and

WHEREAS, said procedures established by Department of Parks and Recreation require the applicant's Governing Body to certify by resolution the approval of project application(s) before submission of said applications to the State; and

WHEREAS, the applicant will enter into a contract with the State of California to complete project(s) as outlined in Budget Item 3790-102-6093, (1) 1.(e) \$5,500,000 is available for the Charles White Park.

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2. Certifies that said applicant has or will have available sufficient funds including those provided by this grant, prior to commencement of project work utilizing specified grant funds, to complete the project; and
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5. Agrees to comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws, ordinances, rules, regulations and guidelines.

Approved and adopted the ____ day of _____, 20____.

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution Number_____ was duly adopted by the COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES BOARD OF SUPERVISORS following a roll call vote:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

(Clerk)

Resolution Form

Resolution Number: _____

RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, APPROVAL OF APPLICATION(S) FOR SPECIFIED GRANT FUNDS authorized by Proposition 4 (Climate Bond) and allocated by SB 105 (Chapter 104): Budget Act of 2025, Item # 3790-102-6093, (1) 1. (d) \$16,200,000 is available for the Eaton Canyon Natural Area and Nature Center.

WHEREAS, Department of Parks and Recreation has been delegated the responsibility by the Legislature of the State of California for the administration of a grant to the COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION, setting up necessary procedures governing application(s); and

WHEREAS, said procedures established by Department of Parks and Recreation require the applicant's Governing Body to certify by resolution the approval of project application(s) before submission of said applications to the State; and

WHEREAS, the applicant will enter into a contract with the State of California to complete project(s) as outlined in Budget Item 3790-102-6093, (1) 1. (d) \$16,200,000 is available for the Eaton Canyon Natural Area and Nature Center.

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5. Agrees to comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws, ordinances, rules, regulations and guidelines.

Approved and adopted the ____ day of _____, 20____.

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution Number _____ was duly adopted by the COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES BOARD OF SUPERVISORS following a roll call vote:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

(Clerk)