

AGN. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HILDA L. SOLIS

January 13, 2026

AND HOLLY J. MITCHELL

**Coordination and Celebration of 2026 World Cup FanZones on Los Angeles County Properties**

In June 2022, Los Angeles was named as one of 16 North American host cities for the 2026 FIFA World Cup (World Cup), which is spread out across three host countries--USA, Canada and Mexico. The World Cup is broadly considered the world's largest sporting event by viewership. Locally, the support for soccer has largely been driven by immigrant communities. In the early 1960s, semi-pro soccer teams with immigrant players were abundant in Los Angeles.<sup>1</sup> Today, Los Angeles County (County) is home to three major professional soccer teams: Angel City Football Club, Los Angeles Galaxy, and Los Angeles Football Club. The diverse melting pot that is LA County ensures local teams and football clubs abroad experience a growing, thriving fanbase.

The City of Los Angeles was selected to host eight 2026 World Cup matches,

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<sup>1</sup> <https://spectrumnews1.com/ca/southern-california/inside-the-issues/2023/06/30/examining-soccer-s-popularity-in-la>

**MOTION**

Mitchell	_____
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including the opening match.<sup>2</sup> In order to maximize access to the World Cup matches, while also maximizing opportunities for local small businesses to be directly involved in supporting festivities, the County is planning on hosting two FanZones, at Whittier Narrows Recreation Area and Ervin “Magic” Johnson Park (collectively Host Sites). Hosting the two official FanZones will require agreements with the Los Angeles Sports and Entertainment Commission (LASEC), which is serving the role of the Los Angeles World Cup 2026 Host Committee (Host Committee). These World Cup FanZones will provide a family friendly setting with free access to World Cup television coverage, local food, artistic engagement and music, youth activities, and community-centered programming. These FanZones will allow residents to experience the excitement of the World Cup without having to purchase tickets or travel far from home, while connecting the beauty of an international cultural sporting event to local culture.

The 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games (Games) in Paris are the inspiration for these FanZones. The local Parisian government established a public program with one flagship site and smaller local sites in each "arrondissement" for geographic access, proximity to high-quality transit, connection to the immediate local culture through free arts programming, free concerts, sports, and game activities for youth and all ages. Additionally, the official “look and feel” branding of the 2026 FIFA World Cup

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<sup>2</sup> <https://losangelesfwc26.com/>

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will unify all sites with large watch screens for fan viewing- enhancing participation.

Significant government investment and coordination to support planning and operating of the FanZones is required to ensure these sites are safe, well attended and meet the goals of uplifting local small business opportunity, while reflecting local culture.

With its diverse communities and expansive transit network, the County's diverse unincorporated communities and 88 cities are well-positioned to replicate and expand on Paris's fan zone model. The World Cup presents a timely and valuable opportunity to pilot transit-accessible FanZones in advance of the 2028 Games. With Los Angeles set to host multiple World Cup matches, the County and its partners can pilot FanZones, community partnerships, crowd management, transit connections, and public engagement strategies.

With the World Cup fast approaching, it is paramount that planning for the FanZones is expeditiously coordinated with local jurisdictions and community-based organizations to ensure they reflect the culture and character of our communities, and that any required agreements with LASEC, the Host Committee for the World Cup, are finalized. The County has also secured funding through the Los Angeles Metro Open and Slow Streets Grant Program to provide open street events, where streets will be closed to vehicular traffic, along a 0.57-mile stretch of Santa Anita Avenue near the Whittier Narrows Recreation Area, and along 0.76 miles of Avalon Boulevard from

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Metro's C Line Station to El Segundo Boulevard near Earvin "Magic" Johnson Park.

These open street events are intended to support World Cup FanZone celebrations in Supervisorial Districts One and Two.

Lessons learned from the World Cup FanZones will inform and strengthen the planning and implementation of FanZones for the 2028 Games. This approach follows the best practice established in Paris, where early pilots helped shape a successful 2024 Olympic Games fan experience.

There will be no impact on Net County Costs (NCC) for the planning and implementation of any World Cup Fan Zones in any Supervisorial District. Supervisorial Districts 1 and 2 will be responsible for identifying non-NCC funding sources to fund the Official FanZones in their respective districts.

The operation of two World Cup FanZones at Whittier Narrows Recreation Area and Ervin "Magic" Johnson Park, are within certain classes of project that have been determined not to have a significant effect on the environment in that it meets the criteria set forth in Sections 15301, 15303 (e), 15304, 15311, and 15323 of the State CEQA Guidelines and Classes 1, 3(b), 4, 11 and 23 of the County's Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, Appendix G, because the recommended actions provide for operations and licensing of existing public facilities, new construction of small structures, minor alterations to land, construction or

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replacement of minor or temporary accessory structures, and normal operations of facilities for public gatherings.

The proposed FanZones will not involve the removal of healthy, mature, and scenic trees. Additionally, the proposed FanZones are not in a sensitive environment, and there are no cumulative impacts, unusual circumstances, or other limiting factors that would make the exemption inapplicable based on the record.

**WE, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors suspend Section 22.1 of the Rules of the Board for the limited purpose of considering this motion.

**WE, FURTHER, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Find that the proposed actions are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act, for the reasons stated in this motion and in the record.
2. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), or designee, to:
  - a. Execute Official FanZone Agreements (Agreements), and any necessary amendments, with the Los Angeles World Cup 2026 World Host Committee on County owned sites located at Whittier Narrows Recreation Area and Earvin “Magic” Johnson Park for the organization and staging of the Official World Cup FanZones, subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the Agreements, and authorize the allocation of Supervisorial or department resources necessary to support FanZones at the Host Sites,

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and

- b. Execute agreements to secure identified sponsorships for implementation of the FanZones at the Host Sites.
  - c. Execute agreements to accept any grants for the implementation of the FanZones at the Host Sites.
- 3. Authorize and direct the Directors of Department of Economic Opportunity, Department of Public Works, Department of Parks and Recreation, Department of Arts and Culture, Sheriff, Fire, other relevant County departments, or their respective designees, and California Highway Patrol, in consultation with County Counsel, to:
  - a. Execute agreements or amendments to County existing agreements, including sole-source agreements, when necessary, to implement FanZones at the Host Sites, including the proposed open street events near the Host Sites, so long as using the existing contracts will not reduce the Departments' ability to provide essential County services; and
  - b. Execute and issue any work orders under existing County master agreements, which have been competitively solicited, including, but not limited to, through work order solicitations, to implement FanZones at the Host Sites, including the proposed open street events near the Host Sites,

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so long as using the existing County master agreement contracts will not reduce the Departments' ability to provide essential County services.

4. Authorize County Departments to receive Non-NCC funds to fund the respective FanZones at the Host Sites, and authorize County Departments to use those identified Non-NCC funds to implement FanZones at the Host Sites.

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