

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR LINDSEY P. HORVATH

February 10, 2026

**Supporting a Resilient Recovery: Recommendations from the Blue Ribbon Commission on Climate Action and Fire Safe Recovery**

In January 2025, the Palisades Fire devastated communities across Los Angeles County, displacing families, destroying homes, and exposing deep vulnerabilities in the County’s resilience and recovery systems. In response, the County came together with partners to establish a coordinated path forward, and in July 2025 released the *Blueprint for Rebuilding*, a comprehensive roadmap to guide recovery and rebuilding efforts. Developed in collaboration with the State, city partners, residents, community stakeholders, and private industry, the *Blueprint* establishes clear objectives to support a feasible financial path to return, accelerate permitting and inspections, expand the availability of builders and materials to reduce costs, restore critical infrastructure, mobilize the workforce and coordinate service delivery, and bring back everyday services and public assets.

During the first year following the fires, the County appropriately focused on emergency response and immediate recovery needs. The County supported the fastest major debris cleanup in American history and coordinated extensive post-fire after action evaluations. Through the Blueprint’s coordinated efforts, the County made significant

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progress accelerating permit review timelines to three times faster than pre-fire processes, issuing more than 1,100 rebuild permits, providing over \$31 million in household relief grants and more than \$17 million to support small businesses, and launching innovative pilots such as pre-approved plans, AI-assisted plan checks, and self-certification.

The January 2026 one-year anniversary of the Palisades Fire marked a moment for reflection, a recognition of the work that remains unfinished, and an opportunity to strategically plan for the County's future. The Department of Angels' *2026 Los Angeles Fire Recovery Report* highlights ongoing challenges faced by fire survivors, including deepening financial and mental health strain, continued housing displacement, and persistent environmental health concerns. Additionally, 80% of insured survivors report serious challenges with their insurance providers, and nearly half have depleted significant portions of their savings. Despite these challenges, roughly 90% of Palisades and Eaton fire survivors who lost their homes report the intention to rebuild. The County must continue to learn and respond to individuals' needs to advance rebuilding.

Beyond addressing individual recovery needs, the County has a broader opportunity to ensure that rebuilding decisions made today reduce future risk, including for neighbors whose homes and businesses survived the January 2025 fires. While the *Blueprint* has rightly focused on accelerating recovery and helping residents return home, recovery alone is not resilience. The County must ensure that rebuilding efforts do not simply restore what was lost, but that homes, businesses, community infrastructure, and Countywide systems are strengthened to reduce exposure to future climate-driven disasters.

In February 2025, we convened an independent Blue Ribbon Commission to assess lessons learned from the fires and to develop forward-looking policy recommendations to support a resilient, equitable, and sustainable region. Funded in part by a grant from the California Community Foundation, the Commission was intentionally established as an independent body, operating outside of County departments, to provide expert-driven and community-informed recommendations that could guide policy decisions at every level of government, including the County and State. Commission members included local and national experts across water, energy, land use, economic development, finance, insurance, disaster response, public health, and housing. The Commission was supported by a multidisciplinary, world-class research team at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) to ground its work in rigorous analysis, data, and global best practices.

In June 2025, the Commission released its [\*Final Recommendations and Action Plans for Resilient and Sustainable Rebuilding\*](#), informed by UCLA research and analysis. The Recommendations include a cohesive set of policy recommendations focused on the following:

1. Rebuilding in a more resilient, sustainable, equitable manner to better ensure long-term survivability and insurability;
2. Retrofitting at-risk communities, while supporting the well-being of residents, workers, and community members; and
3. Advancing regionwide climate mitigation and resilience measures and investments to reduce risks from other climate shocks and disasters.

The Recommendations were synthesized into 10 thematic categories: Immediate Recovery Needs; Building Codes and Resilience Standards; Vegetation, Urban Landscapes, and Wildlands; Insurance Reforms for Resilient Communities; Land Use and Workforce; Energy System Resilience and Modernization; Water System Resilience and Safety; Community Resilience, Equity, and Health; Finance; and Governance and Accountability. Furthermore, the Commission put forth two principal proposals for governing bodies to coordinate and implement the rest of the Recommendations. The first is a dedicated Resilient Rebuilding Authority to coordinate across agencies, streamline decision-making, and accelerate cost-effective rebuilding. On July 1, 2025, the Board approved a [motion](#) to examine establishing this entity within the County. Second, it recommends creating a Fire Control District with permanent funding to support regional fire mitigation efforts, including buffer zones and building retrofits.

In January 2026, the Blue Ribbon Commission published a [Status Update](#) report and found that 61% of the Recommendations have seen some level of progress, though just a handful had been fully implemented. Several recommendations reported no- or only initial progress, including:

- Promote Water-Efficient and Resilient Landscaping and Water Capture
- Replant and Restore the Burned Wildlands and Maintain Habitat Quality
- Expedite Workforce Training for the Rebuild and Landscape Restoration
- Build Workforce Housing for Construction Workers and Their Families
- Strengthen and Modernize the Electrical Grid with Distributed and/or Bidirectional Energy Resources (DERs), Virtual Power Plants (VPPs)
- Expand Accessible Mental Health Services

- Rebuild Community and Civic Infrastructure with Disaster Readiness
- Provide Dedicated “Resilient Rebuild” Incentives
- Launch a “LA Resilient Rebuilding and Reconstruction Fund” Philanthropic Campaign
- Develop a Housing Financing Product to Provide “Soft Second” Mortgage Products

Together, the *Blueprint for Rebuilding* and the Blue Ribbon Commission’s Recommendations are mutually reinforcing. The Blueprint establishes the operational framework and targeted actions for the County to ensure residents return home and services are restored. The Blue Ribbon Commission, recognizing the increased threat of climate-driven disasters, provides supplemental, more technical policy and advocacy recommendations focused on climate mitigation and resilience, informed by national and international best practice. Without intentional alignment between these efforts, the County risks rebuilding without fully addressing the vulnerabilities of climate change. A formal County review is therefore necessary to identify any additional policy action or advocacy the County should take to ensure a resilient recovery and rebuild.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Sustainability Office, in coordination with all relevant departments, to analyze the Blue Ribbon Commission on Climate Action and Fire-Safe Recovery’s June 2025 *Final Commission Recommendations and Action Plan* and January 2026 *Status Update* and report back within 90 days, in writing and verbally to the Board, with the following:

- a. An analysis of which recommendations in the report are currently being implemented by the County;

- b. Recommendations on which remaining recommendations should be implemented in order to guarantee a resilient and equitable recovery, potential lead County agencies, the necessary steps to complete them, and how recommendations can be incorporated into the *Blueprint*; and
- c. An analysis of which recommendations identified as the responsibility of other government agencies merit advocacy by the County.

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