

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR LINDSEY P. HORVATH

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Implementing Consistent County Standards During Red Flag Days

In recent years, Los Angeles County has seen firsthand the dramatic effect climate change has had on increasing the frequency and magnitude of natural disasters, especially fires in our region. These high wind driven fires like the January 2025 Fires are usually preceded by a Red Flag or a Particularly Dangerous Situation (PDS) warning from the National Weather Service.

According to the National Weather Service, a Red Flag Warning is issued when the combination of dry fuels and weather conditions support extreme fire danger, indicating a high risk of fast-spreading wildfires. An Extreme Red Flag Warning or PDS may also be issued by the National Weather Service. A PDS means that conditions for fire growth and behavior are extremely dangerous due to a combination of strong winds, very low humidity, long duration, and dry fuels.

Given the heightened fire risk that a Red Flag Warning or PDS elicits, it is imperative that road work that blocks evacuation routes and/or could elicit sparks be limited. In the Third District, our high fire severity communities in the Santa Monica

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Mountains, have limited ingress and egress and cannot afford to have roadwork or heavy machines blocking their narrow roads in case a wind driven fire erupts.

We need our County agencies to have a clear, uniform policy for how they engage in roadwork activities during Red Flag Days in high fire severity communities. Additionally, we need to review the requirements the County sets for outside public agencies and private entities who are requesting permits from the County in High Fire Severity Zones (HFSZ) during Red Flag conditions. It is critical that all activities that could result in sparks or limit evacuation access in our HFSZ be limited or postponed during Red Flag conditions.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Office-Office of Emergency Management, in coordination with departments of Public Works, Internal Services, Public Health, Beaches & Harbors, Regional Planning, Los Angeles County Fire Department, and other relevant county departments to report back in writing in 90 days on the following:

1. Analyze the current LA County road work procedure in High Fire Severity Zones during Red Flag Days especially during PDS events.
2. Analyze the road work procedure for neighboring city and county jurisdictions during Red Flag events.
3. Develop a uniform county policy on how County road work including emergency and contracted work should proceed in HFSZ during a Red Flag and/or PDS events, including work requirements and protocols applicable to individuals and agencies that are looking to receive a permit from the County.
4. Identify any other type of work performed by the County that should be limited

during Red Flag and/or PDS events.

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