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March 03, 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:

**RECOMMENDATION TO CONTINUE THE DECLARED LOCAL HEALTH EMERGENCY FOR  
THE JANUARY 2025 CRITICAL FIRE EVENTS  
(ALL AFFECTED) (3 VOTES)**

**SUBJECT**

The Department of Public Health (Public Health) is recommending that the Board of Supervisors (Board) continue the local health emergency declared on January 10, 2025, in response to the January 2025 Windstorm and Critical Fire Events impacting Los Angeles County (County).

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:**

Adopt and instruct the Chair of the Board to execute the attached Resolution to Continue the Local Health Emergency due to the January 2025 Windstorm and Critical Fire Events.

**PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

The local health emergency declared by the local health officer on January 10, 2025, was ratified by the Board on January 14, 2025, and initially continued by the Board on February 11, 2025, must be reviewed by the Board to determine the need for the local health emergency to remain in effect at least once every 30 days, until it is terminated; and (2) proclaim the local health emergency terminated at the earliest possible date that conditions warrant the termination.

Public Health and the County Health Officer have reviewed the need for the proclaimed local health emergency referenced above to remain in effect and is recommending that the local health emergency be continued. This review included considerations of the extent to which the specified conditions for the proclaimed local health emergency, such as the continued existence of hazardous

fire ash, soot, and debris remaining inside and near the burn areas; the continuation of the final stages of the Phase 2 fire debris removal and disposal process in the Eaton and Palisades burn areas; the ongoing need for federal and/or State financial assistance; and the extent to which departments continue to engage in essential emergency-related activities that are dependent on the local health emergency remaining in effect.

The January 2025 Critical Fire Events are an ongoing local health emergency in the County, which has required an ongoing response to the Palisades and Eaton Fires. These fires have resulted in massive amounts of post-fire health hazards in the form of burned hazardous materials and hazardous ash, soot and fire debris remaining in the burn and surrounding areas. These catastrophic fire events have caused the loss of life, displacement of thousands of residents, widespread damage and destruction to residential structures, businesses, and infrastructure. These devastating post-fire conditions required the combined forces of federal, State and other political subdivisions to combat. To mitigate the risks to health created by the fires, the United States Army Corp of Engineers and others have completed the Phase 1 and Phase 2 of fire debris removal and disposal activities. Currently, there are a limited number of properties that are awaiting fire debris removal and disposal in accordance with federal and State standards for safe removal of hazardous materials and waste.

Given the current and ongoing risks posed by post-fire health hazards during the remaining fire debris removal activities, Public Health recommends that the Board find that the local health emergency be continued.

### **Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

These recommendations support the County Strategic Plan: North Star 2 – Foster Vibrant and Resilient Communities, Focus Area A – Public Health, Strategy i - Population Based Health.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

There is no fiscal impact related to the continuance of this local health emergency, but the proclamation of local health emergency could allow the County to seek recovery of eligible costs from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and State of California. The County will incur costs associated with the response to and recovery from the local health emergency.

### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

California Health and Safety Code Section 101080 and Chapter 2.68 of the Los Angeles County Code requires the Board to review the need for a proclaimed local health emergency to remain in effect at least once every 30 days, until it is terminated. California Health and Safety Code Section 101080 requires the Board to terminate a proclaimed local health emergency at the earliest possible date that conditions warrant.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION**

This action is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because it is excluded from the definition of project under section 15378(b)(5) of the State CEQA Guidelines.

**IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

There is no impact on current services.

**CONCLUSION**

Upon approval by the Board, the Public Health requests that an executed, stamped copy of the attached Resolution be returned to Public Health.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara Ferrer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Barbara Ferrer, PhD, MPH, MEd

Director

BF:db  
#08552

Enclosures

c: Chief Executive Officer  
County Counsel  
Executive Office, Board of Supervisors  
Public Works  
CEO Office of Emergency Management

**RESOLUTION BY THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO CONTINUE THE LOCAL HEALTH EMERGENCY FOR THE JANUARY 2025 CRITICAL FIRE EVENTS**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 101080 of the California Health and Safety Code, the existence of a local health emergency was declared by the County Health Officer on January 10, 2025, and ratified by the Board of Supervisors (Board) on January 14, 2025, due to conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property arising from the January 2025 Windstorm and Critical Fire Events, beginning on January 7, 2025, affecting areas throughout the County of Los Angeles (County); and

**WHEREAS**, the January 2025 Critical Fire Events, beginning on January 7, 2025, are an ongoing local health emergency in the County, whose conditions have included an ongoing response to a number of destructive and wind-driven fires, which include, among others, the Palisades Fire, Eaton Fire, Hurst Fire, Creek Fire, Lidia Fire, and the Kenneth Fire, and post-fire hazards in the form of burned common household hazardous materials and contaminated ash, soot and fire debris remaining in the burn zones and surrounding areas. These conditions are or will likely be beyond the control of the resources of the County and require the combined forces of other political subdivisions and the ongoing need for federal and/or State financial assistance. To the extent which departments continue to engage in essential emergency-related activities that are dependent on the local health emergency remaining in effect; and

**WHEREAS**, there continues to be conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property arising from the January 2025 Critical Fire Events in the County, and to mitigate the risks to health created by the fires and post-fire health hazards, which include the presence of extensive amounts of common household items burned in the wildfires that created contaminated ash and fire debris, must be removed, transported, and disposed of from properties in accordance with federal and State standards, which is an on-going effort; and

**WHEREAS**, Health and Safety Code Section 101080 and Chapter 2.68 of the Los Angeles County Code requires the Board to review the need for a declared local health emergency to remain in effect at least once every 30 days, until it is terminated by the Board at the earliest possible date that conditions warrant; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board has reviewed the need to continue the local emergency for the January 2025 Critical Fire Events, which was already ratified on January 14, 2025, and continued thereafter; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board determines that there continues to exist conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the health and safety of people arising from the local health emergency for the January 2025 Critical Fire Events such that continuation of this local health emergency is warranted.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED** by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles that the local health emergency due to the January 2025 Critical Fire Events in the County continues to exist and is hereby extended for thirty (30) additional days, unless sooner terminated by the Board.

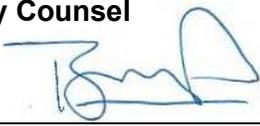
The foregoing resolution was on the *3rd* day of *March 2026*, adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles and ex officio the governing body of all other special assessment and taxing districts, agencies and authorities for which said Board so acts.

**EDWARD YEN**  
**Executive Officer**  
**Board of Supervisors**

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

**DAWYN R. HARRISON**  
**County Counsel**

By  \_\_\_\_\_  
**BLAINE D. McPHILLIPS**  
**Senior Deputy County Counsel**  
**Health Services Division**