Board of Supervisors

Public Safety Cluster Agenda Review Meeting

DATE: March 4, 2026
TIME: 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
MEETING CHAIR: Anabel Martinez, 1st Supervisorial District
CEO MEETING FACILITATOR: Dardy Chen

THIS MEETING IS HELD UNDER THE GUIDELINES OF BOARD POLICY 3.055.

PLEASE NOTE:
THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD VIRTUALLY ONLY ON MARCH 4, 2026, BEGINNING AT 9:30 A.M.

To participate in the meeting virtually, please call teleconference number 1 (323) 776-6996 and enter the following 169948309# or Click here to join the meeting

For Spanish Interpretation, the Public should send emails within 48 hours in advance of the meeting to: ClusterAccommodationRequest@bos.lacounty.gov

Members of the Public may address the Public Safety Cluster on any agenda item during General Public Comment. The meeting chair will determine the amount of time allowed for each item.
THIS TELECONFERENCE WILL BE MUTED FOR ALL CALLERS. PLEASE DIAL *6 TO UNMUTE YOUR PHONE WHEN IT IS YOUR TIME TO SPEAK.

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. INFORMATIONAL ITEM(S): [Any Informational Item is subject to discussion and/or presentation at the request of two or more Board offices with advance notification]:

A. NONE

3. BOARD MOTION ITEM(S):

SD-5 • Addressing Copper Wire, Catalytic Converter, and Other Non-Ferrous Metal Theft in Los Angeles County

4. PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION ITEM(S):

A. NONE

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

6. ADJOURNMENT

CLOSED SESSION ITEM(S):

CS-1 **CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION**
(Paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9)

Significant exposure to litigation (one case)

7. UPCOMING ITEM(S) FOR MARCH 11, 2026:

A. BOARD LETTER:
Hearing on Recommended Fee Increase for the Junior Lifeguard Program
Speaker(s): Fernando Boiteux (FIRE)

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO EMAIL A COMMENT ON AN ITEM ON THE PUBLIC SAFETY CLUSTER AGENDA, PLEASE USE THE FOLLOWING EMAIL AND INCLUDE THE AGENDA NUMBER YOU ARE COMMENTING ON:

PUBLIC_SAFETY_COMMENTS@CEO.LACOUNTY.GOV

AGN. NO._____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR KATHRYN BARGER March 17, 2026

ADDRESSING COPPER WIRE, CATALYTIC CONVERTER, AND OTHER NON-FERROUS METAL THEFT IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Non-ferrous metal theft, particularly of copper wire and catalytic converters, has escalated across Los Angeles County in recent years, creating widespread disruptions to critical infrastructure, compounding hardships for vulnerable communities, and generating significant financial burdens on public agencies. Despite the passage of AB 476 (Gonzalez), which – as of January 1, 2026 – strengthened Statewide requirements for recyclers and accountability measures, the problem persists at the local level and continues to outpace the systems in place to respond.

Copper wire is essential to powering the County's public infrastructure, including streetlights, traffic systems, emergency communications, and water and sanitation facilities. Catalytic converters contain precious metals that make them attractive targets for theft, often leaving residents with costly repairs and unsafe vehicles. These incidents are not merely property crimes; they undermine public safety, weaken business corridors, interrupt emergency communications, and slow community recovery efforts.

The impacts have been profound across the County. In Altadena, where residents are still rebuilding after the devastating Eaton Fire, deputies have arrested at least 15 individuals connected to the theft of hundreds of pounds of copper taken directly from fire-damaged properties. In northern Los Angeles County, rural communities such as Llano have endured repeated thefts of telephone wire, further destabilizing already limited communications access. Sanitation facilities, including Puente Hills Landfill, have reported persistent attacks on irrigation and electrical supply lines. Puente Hills Landfill spent an estimated $180,000 in just three months on wire-theft repairs. Cities across the San Gabriel Valley, including Arcadia, Claremont, La Cañada Flintridge, La Verne, Monrovia, and Pasadena, have similarly experienced recurring thefts of copper streetlight wiring, telephone cables, and metal from irrigation backflow devices, affecting utility reliability and public health.

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	MOTION
Mitchell	_____
Horvath	_____
Hahn	_____
Barger	_____
Solis	_____

These crimes come at a high cost to citizens and businesses within Los Angeles County. Copper and metal theft repairs have had cumulative repair costs in excess of $100 million dollars since 2020. Some of these costs include the restoration of lighting after seven miles of wire was stolen from the Sixth Street Bridge ($2.5 million) and repairs to damaged roadway infrastructure ($24 million over the past four years). Additionally, AT&T reported over $60 million in costs due to copper theft in California in 2025, with the majority of the costs incurred from thefts in Los Angeles County. These incidents point to a need for a coordinated Countywide strategy that strengthens infrastructure protection, improves departmental coordination, and aligns local practices with evolving State requirements. A proactive, structured approach is essential to reducing repeat incidents, stabilizing critical systems, and supporting community resilience.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors request the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and the District Attorney work in collaboration with the Department of Public Works, other relevant County Departments, utility companies, telecommunications providers, recycling industry representatives, local law enforcement agencies and other stakeholders responsible for maintaining or securing infrastructure and report back in writing within 90 days with a coordinated plan to address copper wire, catalytic converter, and other non-ferrous metal theft across Los Angeles County. The report should include:

1. A comprehensive assessment of impacts to County operations, departmental budgets, public infrastructure, emergency communications, and public-facing services resulting from theft.
2. A forecast of the impact and added costs of these incidents to preparations for the 2026 FIFA World Cup, the 2027 Super Bowl, and the 2028 Summer Olympic and Para Olympic Games in Los Angeles County.
3. Recommendations for cross-departmental strategies that improve prevention, detection, and rapid response to incidents, including operational protocols, infrastructure hardening measures, resource needs, and opportunities for improved data-sharing.
4. An evaluation of best practices from other jurisdictions, such as ordinance models, tip/reward programs, permitting systems, or recycling oversight structures, that have demonstrated effectiveness in curbing theft.

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5. A review of current state law to identify changes that can help strengthen local capacity to deter and reduce theft.
6. A proposal that uses existing resources for improved protection, deterrence, and investigation of non-ferrous metal and other critical infrastructure related crimes.

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