AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR LINDSEY P. HORVATH March 17, 2026

Assessment of a Regional Wildfire Mitigation Joint Powers Authority for the Santa Monica Mountains

The January 2025 Fires burned over 23,000 acres of the beautiful Santa Monica Mountains and left thousands of homes damaged or destroyed. Ownership of and jurisdiction over land in the Santa Monica Mountains belongs to a variety of public agencies including National Parks, State Parks, Los Angeles County, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Area (MRCA) as well as private individuals and organizations. Each entity has different policies and practices to mitigate risk and engage in fuel management projects. However, there is shared risk for the region, and a fire that breaks out on one agency's land is likely to impact another agency's land very quickly. This disjointed approach to prevention and mitigation leaves residents of all communities within the Santa Monica Mountains unprotected and vulnerable.

To accomplish shared goals and align policies on wildfire mitigation, a diverse

	MOTION
MITCHELL	_____
HORVATH	_____
HAHN	_____
BARGER	_____
SOLIS	_____

range of experts who understand the complexity of fuel management must be available for consultation on contemporary best practices. Fire response professionals, environmental groups, and academics, among others, can best inform regional goals and policies to mitigate risk. To ensure that all relevant stakeholders and agencies work together to share best practices on defensible space, fuel management, community engagement, and home hardening, LA County must lead on the creation of a body to develop consistent, interdisciplinary policies and practices in service to protecting the safety of our residents and environment. This body would be empowered to, among other responsibilities, educate homeowners, proactively manage public lands, develop emergency resources, and coordinate public agencies to ensure stronger, more effective preparation and response for future wildfires.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Department of Regional Planning and the Los Angeles County Fire Department to work with the Department of Public Works, Agricultural Commissioner/Weights & Measures, U.S. National Park Service, California State Parks, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Area (MRCA) and report back in writing in 90 days on the following:

1. Analyze the current fuel management practices and projects in the Santa Monica Mountains by all the respective landowners and authorities.
2. Assess the feasibility of creating a Regional Wildfire Mitigation Joint Powers Authority (JPA) that would serve as the regional wildfire mitigation authority for the Santa Monica Mountains, including how relevant agencies and nonprofits, environmental groups, academics, and homeowners would be engaged and

coordinated; a proposed governance structure implementation plan; an action plan; and a financing plan.

3. Analyze potential funding opportunities including state, federal, and local grants to create this proposed JPA.

# # #

LPH: ssj & ds