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MOTION BY SUPERVISOR LINDSEY P. HORVATH March 17, 2026

Protecting Entertainment Jobs: Evaluating the Economic Impact of the Purchase of Warner Bros.

Los Angeles County is the global capital of the creative economy. This hallmark industry is a major cultural and economic driver of the region. The creative economy employs over 312,000 Angelenos, with entertainment employment at 171,155.[1] The film and television industry is one of the largest and most vital economic sectors of our regional economy supporting jobs through direct, indirect and induced jobs. The production of movies and television not only generates jobs such as actors, set designers, grips, and makeup artists, but also supports local businesses such as caterers, equipment rental companies, and prop houses. Furthermore, the entertainment industry provides well-paying jobs, many with low barriers to entry. The entertainment industry is core to our identity as Angelenos and therefore people and families count on it as the bedrock of our local economy.

Last year, the Governor expanded the California Film and Television Tax Credit Program and awarded tax credits to 119 projects, many of which will shoot in Los Angeles.

[1] https://www.otis.edu/about/initiatives/creative-economy/dashboard.html

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It is estimated to result in 25,000 crew hires and $4 billion in economic activity. As they have 180 days to start production, the full impact of the Tax Credit Program will materialize in the coming months. Despite this, FilmLA data indicates that on-location production activity for 2025 decreased by 16% compared to 2024. In 2025, the total on-location shoot days were 19,694 which is slightly higher than the 18,993 days in 2020, which was greatly impacted by COVID. With the industry continuing to struggle to recover from the global pandemic, the dual entertainment strikes, and the January 2025 Wildfires, a consequential acquisition of a significant entertainment asset such as Warner Bros will have a substantial impact on the workforce of the companies as well as the industry as a whole.

For months, Netflix and Paramount Skydance have been vying to acquire Warner Bros. In December 2025, Netflix had reached a $83 billion deal to acquire much of Warner Bros. Recently, Paramount Skydance submitted an increased offer of $111 billion, and Netflix declined to increase its offer. This merger includes Warner Bros. film studio, HBO, and CNN. Regulators, specifically the Antitrust Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, would need to approve this deal.

Reporting indicates that the Paramount Skydance deal values Warner Bros at $31 a share when it was trading at $12 a share in the fall. If this deal is approved, Paramount Skydance would have an estimated $90 billion in debt. Paramount Skydance indicates a commitment to produce 15 movies from each studio annually, but the debt incurred with this acquisition would likely result in workforce reductions and potential difficulty producing this ambitious slate of movies. Despite best intentions, prior studio mergers have resulted in fewer films. In fact, when Skydance purchased Paramount for $8 billion

in August 2025, layoffs followed. Many in the industry are concerned about possible workforce layoffs, decreased wages, and less competition, which can result in lower quality of product and lower price. Paramount Skydance indicates it can close the deal by the end of September; therefore, time is of the essence to engage a consultant and complete an analysis of the economic impact.

It is critical that we examine all the potential economic impacts of the purchase of Warner Bros by Paramount Skydance on the Los Angeles County economy. We must continue to pursue all avenues to keep as many jobs here as possible.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors suspend Section 22.1 of the Rules of the Board for the limited purpose of considering this motion.

I, FURTHER, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), in collaboration with the Chief Executive Office (CEO) and any other relevant County Departments and stakeholders, to:

1. Report back in writing in 60 days with an interim report back and 120 days with a final report back on the economic impact of the proposed purchase on the Los Angeles County economy, including but not limited to the workforce - direct, indirect and induced employment.
2. Delegate authority to the Director of DEO, or their designee, to negotiate, execute, and amend agreement(s) necessary to implement and advance the directive in this motion. The Board shall waive the requirements of Board Policy No. 5.100 for these agreements. These agreement(s) and any amendment(s) shall be approved as to form by County Counsel. The Department will fund this using funds currently

in their Board-approved FY2025-26 operating budget and work with CEO to ensure sufficient resources for the economic impact analysis.

3. Create an action plan to support this workforce with job training and job placement by leveraging High Road Training Partnerships and other workforce programs.

I, FURTHER, MOVE that County Counsel submit formal comments to the U.S. Department of Justice and State of California Department of Justice regarding antitrust concerns, and monitor any action taken by State Attorneys General, including California Attorney General Rob Bonta, who are investigating this deal and its potential anti-competitive impacts.

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