

**EXTENSION OF DELEGATED AUTHORITY FOR STREAMLINING OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY WATERWORKS DISTRICTS ENTITLEMENT PROCESSES TO ADDRESS THE COUNTY'S HOUSING CRISIS AND DEVELOPMENT NEEDS**

The Antelope Valley stands out as one of the last areas in the County for the development of relatively affordable housing compared to other areas in the County. Additionally, concurrent growth in the defense sector, including aerospace manufacturing, and a greater demand for warehousing, logistics, and transportation services are serving as catalysts for sustained growth in the Antelope Valley.

The Board of Supervisors, acting as the governing body of the Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 40, Antelope Valley (District), on May 7, 2024, delegated authority to the Director of Public Works, or his designee, for a period of 2 years, to negotiate and execute developer agreements and related actions necessary to facilitate financial participation or construction of water system improvements required to support ongoing and projected development within the District.

The Board's delegation of the above-mentioned authorities to the Director of Public Works, or his designee, has proven to be an effective method of planning for regional growth, streamlining approval processes, and expediting the financial participation process for required new water facilities and conveyance infrastructure.

The need for timely execution of developer agreements and for the continuation of coordinated planning efforts remains. Extending this delegated authority will ensure that development projects within the District and its sphere of influence may continue to proceed without disruption while maintaining appropriate oversight and compliance with environmental review obligations.

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MOTION

MITCHELL \_\_\_\_\_

HORVATH \_\_\_\_\_

HAHN \_\_\_\_\_

BARGER \_\_\_\_\_

SOLIS \_\_\_\_\_

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, acting as the governing body of the Los Angeles County Waterworks Districts:

1. Find that the continued delegation of authority to the Director of Public Works or his designee to negotiate and execute developer agreements on behalf of the Los Angeles County Waterworks Districts, and to make necessary findings under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), as specified herein, is exempt under CEQA Guidelines, Section 15061(b) since it can be seen with certainty that the delegation of activity will not have a significant effect on the environment and is not a project under Section 21065 of the Public Resources Code and Section 15378 (b) of the CEQA Guidelines since the activity is excluded from the definition of a project and is an organizational and administrative activity of government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment. No project is approved as part of the current actions. The Los Angeles County Waterworks Districts will ensure that appropriate findings under CEQA, as necessary, will be made prior to approving any future activity under this delegated authority that would constitute a project.
2. Extend for an additional one (1) year the delegated authority granted on May 7, 2024, to the Director of Public Works, or his designee, to negotiate and execute developer agreements within established budgeted amounts in the Districts' Accumulative Capital Outlay funds, for financial participation and/or construction of necessary infrastructure improvements that address water supply reliability, water quality impacts, infrastructure hardening, and climate resilience investments needed to support the continued growth of the region as a condition for obtaining water service, which delegation shall extend to the initiation of any legal processes for financial participation, as well as to the negotiation and execution of other agreements as necessary or convenient to achieve the stated purposes and implement such development agreements.
3. Extend for an additional one (1) year the delegated authority granted on May 7, 2024, to the Director of Public Works, or his designee, to take the following actions to comply with CEQA for projects, in connection with the exercise of the delegated authority to execute developer agreements when one or more of the Los Angeles County Waterworks Districts is acting as Responsible Agency for the proposed agreements, revisions, or amendments described herein:
  - a) determine whether execution of the proposed developer agreements, revisions, or amendments are exempt from CEQA or within the scope of a previous finding of exemption;
  - b) review and consider previously approved Environmental Impact Reports, Mitigated Negative Declarations, and Negative Declarations;
  - c) determine whether a project is within the scope of a previously certified Environmental Impact Report and any approved addenda, previously adopted Mitigated Negative Declaration, or Negative Declaration;

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- d) determine whether a project described in an Environmental Impact Report, Mitigated Negative Declaration, or Negative Declaration would have a significant effect on the environment;
- e) make findings pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines, Section 15091;
- f) adopt a mitigation monitoring program pursuant to the CEQA, Sections 15091 and 15096; and
- g) file and post notices pursuant to Section 21152 of the Public Resources Code.

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