

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS KATHRYN BARGER AND
LINDSEY P. HORVATH

MAY 19, 2026

**IMPLEMENTING THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISASTER RECOVERY REBUILD
AUTHORITY**

In January 2025, Los Angeles County experienced one of the most devastating disasters in its history, as the Eaton and Palisades Fires resulted in loss of life, destruction of homes and infrastructure, and long-term displacement of residents. In the immediate aftermath, the County mobilized rapidly to stabilize impacted communities, clear debris, restore access, and establish systems to support recovery.

As recovery has progressed, the County has made measurable strides, particularly through the establishment of the One-Stop Permitting Centers and Unified Permitting Authority (UPA), creating a more uniform, cross-departmental approach to permitting. These efforts have produced meaningful results, with more than 3,300 permit applications received more than 2,300 residential permits issued to date, and more than 1,200 homes already under construction in the Eaton Fire area alone. The County has also reduced internal processing timelines and provided more than \$17 million in fee deferrals and refunds to support residents rebuilding their homes.

These outcomes demonstrate that when the County operates in a coordinated and centralized manner, it can deliver results at scale and accelerate recovery.

However, while these improvements have been critical, they represent only one component of what is required to rebuild communities at the scale and speed this moment demands. Permitting alone will not deliver recovery. Full community recovery encompasses the entire spectrum of rebuilding—infrastructure, housing, economic revitalization, environmental rehabilitation, and the restoration of community life—and requires coordinated delivery, aligned timelines, sustained multi-year funding commensurate with the duration of the recovery, and a single entity responsible for leading the effort from start to finish.

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The urgency of standing up a Rebuild Authority is reinforced by the County's own forecasting. Modeling based on actual permit data and benchmarked against post-fire recovery from comparable disasters indicates that permit issuance and active construction in Altadena and the unincorporated Santa Monica Mountains will continue to climb over the next few years. The most resource-intensive phase of recovery—sustained construction activity, public infrastructure rebuilding, utility coordination, and inspections at scale—is still ahead of the County, not behind it. The Authority must be operational in advance of this wave, not in response to it. Standing up the Authority must therefore be paired with a sustained, multi-year funding commitment that matches the timeline of the recovery itself. Without it, the County risks under-resourcing the most demanding phase of the rebuild precisely when residents and infrastructure need the most support.

Recognizing this, on February 10, 2026, the Board of Supervisors directed the creation of a Disaster Recovery Rebuild Authority to bring together the County's efforts under a unified structure. Since that time, the Chief Executive Officer has reported back on the Authority's governance structure, staffing framework, and operational roles, and County Counsel has transmitted a draft ordinance amending the County Code to formally establish the Authority within the Department of Public Works and designate its powers and duties. With the planning and legal framework now in place, the County is prepared to move from planning to implementation.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Direct the Director of Public Works, as head of the Disaster Recovery Rebuild Authority, in coordination with the Chief Executive Office, the Directors of Regional Planning and Public Health, the Fire Chief, County Counsel, and other affected departments as appropriate to stand up the Disaster Recovery Rebuild Authority as the County's unified coordinating body for disaster recovery in the fire-impacted unincorporated areas, with responsibility for integrating and aligning the full spectrum of recovery functions across County departments. The Authority shall coordinate these functions without superseding the operational authorities of other County departments;
2. Direct the Director of Public Works, as head of the Disaster Recovery Rebuild Authority (Authority), and in collaboration with the Chief Executive Office (CEO), to identify and secure the initial financial, staffing, and administrative support using existing resources to launch the "Day Zero" Initial Phase and sustain operations through the end of FY 2026-27, as described in the Chief Executive Office's reports back to the Board dated February 20, 2026, and March 6, 2026. Recognizing funding constraints, the Authority shall deliver on the identified set of high-priority functions outlined in the Report Backs upon implementation and prepare to scale in alignment with future funding availability. The Authority shall seek opportunities for State, Federal, or other funding sources for the rebuild and for its operations;

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3. Direct the Chief Executive Office (CEO) to establish the CEO Disaster Recovery Oversight Team, as described in the CEO's reports back to the Board dated February 20, 2026, and March 6, 2026, in coordination with the Directors of Public Works, Regional Planning, and Public Health, the Fire Chief, County Counsel, and other affected departments as appropriate, to maintain executive coordination of recovery efforts (including executive functions that are beyond the Rebuild Authority such as economic recovery activities led by the Department of Economic Opportunity), ensure collaboration across County departments, and provide overarching strategic guidance and a coordinated long-term recovery strategy. This may include convening representatives from affected departments to facilitate communication of major recovery project updates and resolution of critical strategic issues as needed;
4. Direct Public Works, in coordination with the Chief Executive Office, the Departments of Regional Planning, Public Health, Fire, County Counsel, and other affected departments, to report back to the Board in writing in 120 days and quarterly thereafter, on the Authority's operational progress, rebuilding metrics, interdepartmental coordination, resource utilization, funding, and any issues or barriers requiring Board action; and
5. The authorizations and delegated authorities provided for in the January 28, 2025 Revised Motion by Supervisors Kathryn Barger and Lindsey Horvath entitled LOS ANGELES COUNTY RECOVERY EFFORTS AND BUILDING URGENCY INTO IMPLEMENTATION OF LONG-TERM DISASTER SUPPORT shall remain in effect until repealed by the Board.

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