

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS

JUNE 9, 2026

**Addressing the East LA Oil Spill**

On May 22, 2026, at approximately 3:21 a.m., Los Angeles County Fire Department responded to a report of a possible hazardous materials incident. Crude oil was observed spilling onto the street surface. As first responders worked to stop the spillage, it was revealed that an underground crude oil pipeline was struck by a telecommunications contractor near the intersection of East Cesar E. Chavez Avenue and North Eastern Avenue in unincorporated East Los Angeles, First District. Within the hour, it was reported to Los Angeles County Public Works that the crude oil had entered a storm drain. Despite the best mitigation efforts of LA County Fire, Public Works, and other County agencies, the oil spilled into the LA River through underground storm drains. Street closures were ordered to allow for cleanup and immediate response operations and are expected to periodically occur as recovery efforts and investigations continue.

The Unified Incident Command, consisting of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Office of Spill Prevention and Response, the Los Angeles County Fire Department, and the Pacific Pipeline System, directed response and recovery operations in the region. Although the roads near East

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Cesar Chavez Avenue and North Eastern Avenue were expeditiously cleared at street level of immediate public safety concerns, the seriousness of the incident and its ongoing environmental impact remain. Oil spill response efforts continue to ensure the oil pipeline is secure, the oil is thoroughly cleaned in the storm drains, and that the LA River is thoroughly cleaned while continuing to prevent oil from entering Long Beach Harbor. Subsequent work will be completed while maintaining minimum disruption to nearby residents and businesses. Impacted wildlife remains under the care of the Los Angeles Oiled Bird Care and Education Center, with over 100 live birds and reptiles collected for treatment since the incident occurred. It is imperative that recovery efforts are completed with equity at the forefront for residents, all impacted communities, and wildlife.

On May 28, 2026, teams from the First District conducted their second canvassing event providing information and resources to impacted neighborhoods. On May 28<sup>th</sup>, the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) joined and surveyed impacted businesses. DEO spoke to approximately 30 businesses and they identified that 75% of those businesses were facing significant financial losses due to the oil spill. It is necessary that these businesses are supported and there is oversight ensuring the claims that are filed with the oil pipeline owner's insurance receive expedient fair resolution.

East Los Angeles has endured detrimental environmental injustices over the years. As one of the County's most densely populated communities, residents have faced disproportionate exposure to environmental hazards ranging from air pollution to

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the release of hazardous materials in the community from the former Exide Technologies facility in nearby Vernon. Incidents like the oil spill only deepen the inequities faced in this community. Accountability must be pursued swiftly, thoroughly, and without exception.

**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:

1. Direct Los Angeles County Departments of Fire, Public Works, Public Health and all other applicable County agencies to assess the current status of the East LA Oil Spill response and address any gaps that may impact health, safety and businesses, and ensure ongoing recovery efforts have direct oversight by County agencies.
2. Direct the Los Angeles County Department of Economic Opportunity and Los Angeles County Department of Consumer and Business Affairs to provide assistance and services to businesses seeking claims from the oil pipeline owner, and conduct oversight activities ensuring fair, expedient resolution.
3. Direct County Counsel to:
  - a. Open an investigation surrounding the East Los Angeles Oil Spill that was reported on May 22, 2026, and
  - b. Explore all potential legal options and remedies regarding the East Los Angeles Oil Spill in order to, at minimum, recoup the cost of the extensive operations conducted by Los Angeles County agencies, and damages to

AGN. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

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Los Angeles County infrastructure.

4. Direct all applicable departments in directives 1 and 2 to report back in writing within 90 days.

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