

# department of economic opportunity

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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June 30, 2026

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**RECOMMENDATION TO EXECUTE A SOLE SOURCE  
AGREEMENT WITH THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
COLLABORATIVE ON BEHALF OF VENTURA  
COUNTY TO SUPPORT WORKFORCE AND  
ECONOMIC RECOVERY EFFORTS FOLLOWING THE  
2025 WILDFIRES**

**(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS)**

**(3-VOTES)**

### SUBJECT

Request approval to execute a sole source agreement with the Economic Development Collaborative (EDC), on behalf of Ventura County, to support workforce development, economic recovery, business resiliency, and rebuilding efforts in communities impacted by the 2025 wildfires pursuant to Assembly Bill (AB) 338 (Solache) Workforce development; the Counties of Los Angeles and Ventura: 2025 Wildfires,

### **IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:**

1. Delegate authority to the Director of the County of Los Angeles Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), or designee, to execute a sole source agreement with the Economic Development Collaborative (EDC), in an amount

not to exceed \$600,000, pursuant to California Assembly Bill 338 (AB 338), Attachment A, effective upon execution through June 30, 2028, unless otherwise extended or modified, following approval as to form by County Counsel.

2. Delegate authority to the Director of DEO, or designee, to execute amendments to the sole source agreement with EDC as needed to: 1) add, delete, and/or change certain terms and conditions, as subsequently mandated by Federal, State, and/or County law and/or policies; 2) reflect updated administrative changes and/or non-material modifications; 3) increase or decrease funding based on the availability of funding provided that (a) the total allocation does not exceed available funding and (b) DEO obtains County Counsel approval as to form of any such amendments; (4) Revise scopes of work, performance measures and/or budget allocations as necessary; and (5) Extend the term of the sole source contract as needed to align with State funding timelines. DEO shall provide written confirmation to your Board and the CEO
3. Authorize the Director of DEO, or designee, to take all necessary actions to implement the terms of the sole source agreement including accepting additional fire relief funds, and executing all related documents, certifications, and reporting requirements associated with AB 338 funding (See Attachment A).

### **PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

The January 2025 wildfires caused widespread economic disruption, worker displacement, business interruption, and infrastructure damage across both Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. In response, the California Legislature enacted AB 338 to provide workforce development and economic recovery resources to these impacted regions. AB 338 appropriated funding to the California Workforce Development Board for allocation specifically to the Los Angeles County DEO. AB 338 also specifically requires DEO to reallocate \$600,000 of this funding to the Economic Development Collaborative for workforce and economic recovery efforts that benefit Ventura County communities impacted by the wildfires.

EDC is uniquely positioned to administer and coordinate regional recovery services in Ventura County. EDC has served Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties since 1996 and maintains extensive partnerships with local governments, workforce agencies, educational institutions, chambers of commerce, and small business support organizations. EDC currently provides business advice, workforce development, disaster recovery assistance, small business technical assistance, and regional economic resiliency services throughout Ventura County. Its existing infrastructure, local relationships, and disaster recovery experience make EDC uniquely qualified to immediately deploy services and resources consistent with the legislative intent of AB 338. In addition, AB 338 directs the County to allocate funds to EDC specifically, as opposed to other similar entities.

The agreement will support workforce strategies and economic recovery activities. Approval of the recommended actions will allow DEO and Ventura County partners to expeditiously

implement critical recovery services for impacted workers, businesses, and communities.

### **IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS**

The recommendations above support the County's Strategic Plan, North Star 1, Make Investments and Transform Lines, Focus Area Goal B: Employment and Sustainable Wages; and North Star 3, Realize Tomorrow's Government Today, Focus Area Goal B: Diverse and Inclusive Workforce.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

Funding for the recommended contract will be supported through State funding pursuant to AB 338 and allocated through the California Workforce Development Board. AB338 funding has been included in the Department's FY 2025-26 Mid-Year Budget Adjustment One approved by the Board on February 24, 2026 and subsequent approval is pending via the second Mid-Year Budget Adjustment. There will be no impact on Net County Cost.

### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

AB 338 appropriates funding to support workforce development and economic recovery activities in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties following the 2025 wildfires and expressly requires DEO to allocate \$600,000 to the EDC. The bill also authorizes DEO to subcontract with entities when necessary to fulfill the provisions and intent of the legislation and emphasizes the need for a rapid deployment of workforce and economic recovery strategies. County Counsel will review and approve as to form the proposed Agreement and any subsequent amendments prior to execution.

### **CONTRACTING PROCESS**

The recommended sole source Agreement with EDC is justified under Board Policy 5.100 because the EDC is specifically identified in AB 338 as the designated entity to receive and administer Ventura County-related recovery funding. The County is therefore directed by State law to contract with EDC for this purpose. Additionally, EDC possesses specialized regional expertise, established operational infrastructure, and the longstanding partnerships necessary to immediately implement workforce and economic recovery services within Ventura County communities impacted by the wildfires.

### **MONITORING REQUIREMENT**

DEO will oversee fiscal, programmatic, and administrative monitoring of the Agreement to ensure compliance with all applicable State and County requirements. EDC will be required to submit regular performance, expenditure, and outcome reports consistent with AB 338 requirements and DEO contract compliance standards.

**IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES OR PROJECTS**

Approval of the recommended actions will support regional economic stabilization and accelerate workforce and business recovery efforts in Ventura County communities impacted by the 2025 wildfires.

**CONCLUSION**

If you have any questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Stephanie Holloway, at (323) 369-3749 or [sholloway@opportunity.lacounty.gov](mailto:sholloway@opportunity.lacounty.gov).

Respectfully Submitted,



KELLY LOBIANCO  
Director

KL:JK:CB:MY:SH

Attachments

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors  
Chief Executive Office  
County Counsel

**Assembly Bill No. 338**

CHAPTER 532

An act to add Section 14017.2 to the Unemployment Insurance Code, relating to workforce development, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

[Approved by Governor October 10, 2025. Filed with Secretary of State October 10, 2025.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 338, Solache. Workforce development: the Counties of Los Angeles and Ventura: 2025 wildfires.

Existing law, the California Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, establishes the California Workforce Development Board as the body responsible for assisting the Governor in the development, oversight, and continuous improvement of California's workforce investment system and the alignment of education and workforce investment systems to the needs of the 21st century economy and workforce. The Budget Act of 2025 appropriated \$5,000,000 to the board to support workforce development in areas of the Counties of Los Angeles and Ventura impacted by wildfires.

This bill would require the board to allocate the funds from that appropriation to the Los Angeles County Department of Economic Opportunity for, among other things, workforce development strategies, such as education or supportive services, including stipends for underemployed and unemployed low- to moderate-income individuals to ensure a skilled and sufficient workforce for the scale of rebuilding and recovery of areas in the Counties of Los Angeles and Ventura impacted by the 2025 wildfires and to support underemployed and unemployed low- to moderate-income workers affected by the fires. The bill would require the Los Angeles County Department of Economic Opportunity to reallocate \$600,000 to the Economic Development Collaborative for those purposes. The bill would require the board to allow the Los Angeles County Department of Economic Opportunity to subcontract with other entities to fulfill the provisions and intent of the bill and would require the board to require quality standards and practices, as specified. The bill would require the Los Angeles County Department of Economic Opportunity to focus on employment in jobs in certain professions and industries, including construction, firefighting, and health care, or other areas essential to emergency response, disaster relief, recovery, rebuilding, and regional economic development and resilience. The bill would require individuals participating in programs funded by the bill to have access to expedited licensing and certification, if feasible.

This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

This bill would make legislative findings and declarations as to the necessity of a special statute for the Counties of Los Angeles and Ventura.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. Section 14017.2 is added to the Unemployment Insurance Code, to read:

14017.2. (a) The California Workforce Development Board shall allocate the funds appropriated to the board pursuant to paragraph (4) of subdivision (b) of Section 19.56 of the Budget Act of 2025, as amended by Assembly Bill 102 of the 2025–26 Regular Session, to the Los Angeles County Department of Economic Opportunity for workforce development strategies, such as education, high-road training partnerships, and other job training programs, preapprenticeships, transitional jobs, or supportive services, including stipends, for underemployed and unemployed low- to moderate-income individuals to ensure a skilled and sufficient workforce for the scale of rebuilding and recovery of areas in the Counties of Los Angeles and Ventura impacted by the 2025 wildfires and to support underemployed and unemployed low- to moderate-income workers affected by the fires. This also includes rapid response and layoff aversion, recruitment services, financial incentives, and customized training opportunities for businesses impacted by the fires and those hiring impacted workers as part of the rebuild and recovery. The funds are also for new or expanded job and business centers and operations near the fire zones to ensure close proximity of programs and services for dislocated and impacted workers and businesses.

(b) The Los Angeles County Department of Economic Opportunity shall reallocate six hundred thousand dollars (\$600,000) to the Economic Development Collaborative to be used for the purposes specified in this section.

(c) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), the California Workforce Development Board may use up to 5 percent of the total allocation for state administration.

(d) The California Workforce Development Board shall allow the Los Angeles County Department of Economic Opportunity to subcontract with other entities to fulfill the provisions and intent of subdivision (a).

(e) The California Workforce Development Board shall require quality standards and practices, as defined in subdivisions (s) and (t) of Section 14005.

(f) In developing and implementing workforce development strategies funded pursuant to this section, the Los Angeles County Department of Economic Opportunity shall focus on employment in public and private sector jobs in construction, utilities, firefighting, health care, social services, education, childcare, housing, and shelter assistance, or other areas essential

to emergency response, disaster relief, recovery, rebuilding, and regional economic development and resilience.

(g) To ensure there is a direct pipeline into the workforce, individuals participating in workforce programs funded pursuant to this section shall have access to expedited licensing and certification, if feasible.

SEC. 2. This act is an urgency statute necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety within the meaning of Article IV of the California Constitution and shall go into immediate effect. The facts constituting the necessity are:

To ensure that the State of California is able to meet the immediate need to coordinate and mobilize workforce to rebuild communities and support workers whose lives and incomes are affected in the Counties of Los Angeles and Ventura impacted by the 2025 wildfires, it is necessary that this act take effect immediately.

SEC. 3. The Legislature finds and declares that a special statute is necessary and that a general statute cannot be made applicable within the meaning of Section 16 of Article IV of the California Constitution because of the unique circumstances facing the Counties of Los Angeles and Ventura due to extreme wildfires beginning in January 2025 that have resulted in the urgent need to support affected workers and for a skilled workforce to support the rebuilding, recovery, and economic development and resilience of areas in those counties impacted by the wildfires.