

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HILDA L. SOLIS

JUNE 16, 2026

AND KATHRYN BARGER

**Ensuring Local Governance, Public Access, and Community Stewardship of the**

**Lario Staging Area**

Lario Staging Area/Park is a 45 acre regional trailhead and equestrian staging facility located within the Santa Fe Dam Control Basin (Lario) and historically operated by the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation (LA County Parks) under a long term recreation lease with the property owners, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) (Lease No. DACW09-1-76-72, as amended by Supplemental Agreement No. 3, dated January 22, 2025).

In January 2025, during the Eaton Fire emergency response, USACE issued a permit to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to use Lario as a temporary hazardous waste staging site without prior consultation with LA County Parks.

Following EPA’s departure and remediation in mid-2025, USACE has repeatedly requested that LA County Parks exercise its Right of First Refusal to resume operations. However, the Cities of Duarte, Irwindale, and Azusa (Cities) have formally requested that the County decline reinstatement and instead support a direct lease between the cities and USACE.

**MOTION**

Mitchell	_____
Horvath	_____
Hahn	_____
Barger	_____
Solis	_____

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Senator Susan Rubio has secured for the cities \$4 million in State funding for improvements at Lario which is prompting urgency for the cities to form a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) to leverage these State funds and advance long-term improvements, operations, and public access commitments at Lario.

Given the cities' proximity, their longstanding use of Lario, their formal request to assume stewardship, and the availability of State funding contingent on timely local action, it is appropriate for the County to support a collaborative process to evaluate and negotiate long term governance options, including either a direct lease between USACE and the Cities or their JPA, or a County to JPA sublease structure, depending on the outcome of negotiations. This approach will ensure continued public access, clarify long term responsibilities for County installed assets, and establish appropriate liability protections for the County.

Because this action is directly responsive to federal action and urgent requests from local jurisdictions and the State Legislature, and because delay would jeopardize the cities' ability to form a JPA and access State funding, this motion qualifies for exemption from the Cluster process.

In 2008, LA County Parks received a Proposition A grant (P099-08-2171 Prop A Excess Funds), from the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, for the refurbishment of the staging areas and equestrian arenas at Lario, among other

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items. Accordingly, any transfer in the governance or operational structure of Lario will need to comply with the requirements of Proposition A, including the obligation to maintain and operate in perpetuity.

**WE, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Direct the Directors of the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) and Department of Public Works (DPW), in coordination with County Counsel and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), to:
  - a) Engage in formal negotiations with the Cities of Duarte, Irwindale, and Azusa, and with USACE, to evaluate and develop one or more long-term governance structures for the Lario Staging Area, including but not limited to (1) a direct lease between USACE and the Cities or their JPA, or (2) a County-to-JPA sublease, should USACE require County participation.
  - b) Ensure that any negotiated governance structure includes a mutually agreed upon framework addressing:
    - a. Long-term operation, maintenance, security, and insurance responsibilities for all existing County installed assets and facilities;
    - b. Ownership and long-term responsibility for the San Gabriel River Bridge (also known as the Puente Largo Bridge), consistent with regional trail connectivity needs and past agreements with the City

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of Duarte;

- c. Assurance that Lario Park (26 acres) continues as a regional recreation amenity, free of charge, with public access levels consistent with historic County-maintained access;
  - d. Compliance with USACE requirements and applicable environmental and recreational standards;
  - e. Appropriate indemnification and liability protections for the County;
  - f. Clear delineation between the Lario Staging Area and the County's Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area; and
  - g. Consideration of a long-term lease structure (e.g., initial 25-year term with a 25-year extension option) should a sublease involving the County be pursued.
- c) Develop terms for a potential Assignment and Assumption Agreement, should the Cities or their JPA assume grant related responsibilities associated with County-installed improvements.
2. Direct the Directors of DPR and DPW to report back to the Board in writing within 30 days with:
- a) A summary of negotiations with USACE and the cities, along with recommendations on approval or delegated authority of any final

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negotiated agreement prior to execution;

- b) A proposed transition plan and timeline, including detailed information on State grant funds for the Lario Staging Area and how funds will be utilized by the Cities' or its JPA; and
- c) A plan for community outreach and information in coordination with the Cities.

**WE, FURTHER, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors, acting in its capacity as the Governing Body of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, authorize the Director of DPR, or her designee, in her capacity as Director of RPOSD, to require as part of any change in the governance structure of Lario, the transfer be subject to the requirements and obligations of Proposition A, including without limitation: (1) that Lario shall be operated and maintained the as a public park in perpetuity; and (2) that the property shall be for the benefit and use of all residents of the County of Los Angeles and that there shall be no discrimination against, or preference, gratuity, bonus, or other benefit granted to residents of the Cities not also equally accorded to the residents of the County.

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HLS:wr