AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR LINDSEY P. HORVATH July 21, 2026

**Supporting Litigation to Block the Paramount – Warner Brothers Merger**

On July 13, 2026, twelve states, including California, sued in Federal court to block the merger of Paramount and Warner Brothers on antitrust grounds.[1] The merger was approved by the U.S. Department of Justice's Antitrust Division on June 12, 2026. As described in the lawsuit, the merger would combine two of the nation's five major film distributors, leaving the remaining four distributors in control of 85 percent of all wide-release theatrical films in the United States. It would also combine two of the five major owners of basic cable channels, such that only two would control 59 percent of all basic cable in the United States. In the states' view, the merger will end competition in key ways, and result in higher prices, lower quality and less film content.

On the same day, the Attorney General also filed a motion[2] for a temporary

---

[1] https://oag.ca.gov/system/files/attachments/press-docs/Redacted%20Paramount%20Warner%20complaint%20%20-%20file%20stamped.pdf

[2] https://oag.ca.gov/system/files/attachments/press-docs/redacted-memorandum-points-and-authorities-iso-motion-tro.pdf

| | MOTION |
|---|---|
| MITCHELL | ______________________ |
| HORVATH | ______________________ |
| HAHN | ______________________ |
| BARGER | ______________________ |
| SOLIS | ______________________ |

restraining order asserting that if the merger is not stopped, in three separate markets market concentration will rise to presumptively illegal and anticompetitive levels.

Los Angeles County is the global capital of the creative economy and employs over 312,000 Angelenos, 171,155 in entertainment specifically.  The film and television industry is one of the largest and most vital economic sectors of our regional economy supporting jobs through direct, indirect and induced jobs.  The production of movies and television not only generates jobs such as actors, set designers, grips, and makeup artists, but also supports local businesses such as caterers, equipment rental companies, and prop houses.  The entertainment industry is core to our identity as Angelenos and people and families count on it as the bedrock of our local economy.

Despite best intentions, prior studio mergers have resulted in less entertainment output. In fact, when Skydance purchased Paramount for $8 billion in August 2025, layoffs followed.  On March 24, 2026, this Board directed the Department of Economic Opportunity, in collaboration with other departments, with a report back on the economic impact of the proposed purchase.  Amongst other things, the report back notes that nearly 2,500 jobs in the Greater Los Angeles area are at risk as a result of the merger.[3]

Given the central importance of the creative economy to Los Angeles, we cannot stand by in the face of potential antitrust violations.  We must stand in support of our family members, our friends and neighbors, and all Angelenos who depend on the creative economy to stand up for fairness and against potentially anticompetitive and illegal conduct.

---

[3] https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/214418.pdf

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

1. Authorize County Counsel, in collaboration with the Director of Economic Opportunity, to participate in, or support, the California Attorney General's lawsuit challenging the Paramount-Warner Brothers merger, including by filing an *amicus* brief or providing supporting declarations, or other appropriate means.
2. Direct County Counsel to share with the California Attorney General, and other attorneys general challenging the merger, the Los Angeles County Department of Economic Opportunity's report back prepared by CVL Economics regarding the potential impacts of the merger on the Los Angeles County economy including the effects on industry employment as noted in the California Attorney General's complaint.

\# # #

LH:sge