AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS LINDSEY P. HORVATH AND HOLLY J. MITCHELL

September 15, 2026

Authorizing Continuation Agreements for Public Beach Operations and Safety

Los Angeles County's beaches are among the region's most iconic public assets, welcoming millions of residents and visitors each year while providing significant recreational, environmental, economic, and public health benefits. Clean, safe, and well-maintained beaches are essential to protecting coastal resources, supporting tourism and local businesses, and promoting equitable access for all to these important and beautiful public open spaces.

For more than half a century, the County of Los Angeles, through its Fire Department and Department of Beaches and Harbors (DBH), has served as the region's premier public lifeguard, beach operator, and coastal steward. Lifeguards have a long-standing tradition of being one of the top ocean safety agencies in the world and DBH has developed nationally recognized expertise in beach operations, maintenance, visitor services, coastal resource management, and interagency coordination, operating one of the nation's largest and most sophisticated public beach management programs. Through decades of investment in specialized personnel, equipment, and operational systems, the County has delivered consistent, high-quality service to beachgoers by operating on a

MOTION

MITCHELL _____

HORVATH _____

HAHN _____

BARGER _____

SOLIS _____

regional scale that spans 75 miles of coastline.

Pursuant to a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) entered into by the County and the City of Los Angeles dated May 20, 1975, (as amended, “1975 JPA”), Fire and DBH currently provide essential safety, and comprehensive public beach operations and maintenance services at Venice Beach and Cabrillo Beach on behalf of the City of Los Angeles and at Dockweiler State Beach and Will Rogers State Beach on behalf of the State of California. These services include, but are not limited to, lifeguard services, daily grooming and sanitizing of the sand, litter collection, refuse disposal, restroom cleaning and maintenance, landscape maintenance, graffiti removal, visitor support, and other operational activities necessary to ensure that these world-renowned beaches remain clean, safe, sanitary, and accessible throughout the year. As consideration for providing services, DBH retains all revenues (up to full cost recovery) associated with beach operations, including parking revenues, beach and special event permit revenues, concession revenues, commercial filming fees, lease and license revenues, and other operational revenues, as negotiated with each partner agency. Notwithstanding, this revenue is insufficient to meet the costs of beach maintenance, lifeguard service, and building maintenance at the subject beaches.

Modernization is needed to incorporate current operational practices, agency responsibilities, legal requirements, and funding mechanisms to provide at least partial reimbursement for the cost of providing these essential public services. To initiate the renegotiation of the 1975 JPA, the County sent a 365-day termination notice to the City of Los Angeles in September of 2025. That termination will take effect on September 18, 2026, at which time, County services to the beaches will terminate unless the parties

enter into new agreements, which is an outcome none of the parties involved wish to see and would be detrimental to the public.

Although renegotiation discussions are ongoing, more time is needed to reach thoughtful and sustainable agreements with the City and State that adequately address all of the issues involved in the operation of the beaches in the coming years.

Accordingly, the City and State have each agreed to the following:

- The Board of Supervisors approved and executed agreements for services between Fire and the City of Los Angeles, on September 1, 2026, for the provision of ocean lifeguard and related services at Venice Beach and Cabrillo Beach under new financial terms, structured as a 5-year contract with the option for a 5-year renewal.
- DBH will work directly with the City for the provision of beach operations and maintenance at Venice Beach under a separate status quo agreement for a period of five years, beginning on the effective date of the 365-day termination notice and ending on September 18, 2027, with two optional three-year extension terms pursuant to mutual agreement.
- The County Chief Executive Office, Fire, and DBH will continue working with the State to enter into one short-term agreement to preserve existing lifeguard and beach operations and maintenance services at Will Rogers and Dockweiler Beaches for a period of six months, beginning on the effective date of the 365-day termination notice with an optional six-month extension term pursuant to mutual agreement. During such six-month period, the parties will continue to negotiate longer term, modern

agreements for the operation of these beaches in good faith.

The continued provision by the County of public beach lifeguard, operations, and maintenance services at Venice Beach, Cabrillo Beach, Dockweiler State Beach, and Will Rogers State Beach during the continuation periods serve an important public purpose by maintaining stability and continuity for the beachgoing public and ensuring continued public access to clean, safe, and well-maintained beaches.

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; and

I, FURTHER, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Find that approval of the proposed actions does not constitute a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Section 21065 of the Public Resources Code and Section 15378(b)(5) of the CEQA Guidelines, as the execution of these agreements is an administrative action that does not result in direct or indirect physical changes to the environment. Additionally, the proposed action is exempt from CEQA pursuant to section 15061(b)(3) as it can be seen with certainty that it will not have a significant effect on the environment.
2. Authorize the Fire Chief and Director of the Department of Beaches and Harbors, or their designees, in consultation with the Chief Executive Office, to negotiate and execute one agreement, on terms substantially consistent with those set forth in the 1975 JPA and this Motion, subject to approval as to form by County Counsel, with the State of California for the continued provision of public beach lifeguard, operations and maintenance services at Dockweiler State Beach and Will Rogers State Beach for a period of six months with the option to extend for an

additional six-month period while renegotiation for longer-term agreements continues.

3. Authorize the Director of the Department of Beaches and Harbors, or the Director's designee, in consultation with the Chief Executive Office, to negotiate and execute on terms substantially consistent with those set forth in the 1975 JPA and this Motion, and subject to approval as to form by County Counsel, a separate agreement with the City of Los Angeles for the continued provision of public beach operations and maintenance services at Venice Beach for the period of five years, with two optional three-year extension terms.
4. Delegate authority to the Fire Chief and Director of Beaches and Harbors, or their designees, in consultation with the Chief Executive Office, to approve and execute the optional extensions as set forth in this Motion if, in their opinion, the extension is in the best interest of the County.
5. Delegate authority to the Fire Chief and Director of Beaches and Harbors, in consultation with the Chief Executive Office, to execute amendments to the above agreements to incorporate necessary changes within the scope of work, and to suspend and/or terminate the agreement(s) subject to the terms and conditions of the agreement(s) if it is in the best interest of the County to do so. Such actions shall be subject to approval as to form by County Counsel and at least two weeks' advance written notification to the Board and the CEO of any amendments, suspensions, or termination.

# # #

LPH:rf