AGN. NO._____

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS KATHRYN BARGER
AND LINDSEY P. HORVATH October 6, 2026

ANALYSIS OF THE UL RESEARCH INSTITUTES' SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FIRES INCIDENT ANALYSIS REPORT

On October 2nd, UL Research Institutes' Fire Safety Research Institute released the Southern California Fires Incident Analysis Report, the second in a two-part series commissioned by the Governor's Office following the devastating January 2025 Fires and Windstorm events. These fires occurred under extreme Santa Ana wind conditions and critically dry fuels, resulting in some of the most deadly and destructive wildfires in California's history.

Building on its previously published timeline report, ULRI undertook a comprehensive data collection and analysis effort to examine the conditions, decisions, and systems that shaped the progression of the fires and the resulting impacts on communities. The report evaluates emergency preparedness and management; utilities; weather and vegetation; evacuation processes; transportation; fire and law enforcement operations; fatalities; and built-environment factors. It presents 175 findings and 266 recommendations aimed at strengthening resilience, preparedness, and response.

The analysis draws from a wide range of sources, including technical discussions with experts and emergency responders, resident interviews and surveys, site assessments, geospatial and operational data, and policy and communications reviews. Timelapse visualizations of the Palisades and Eaton Fires further illustrate the speed, scale, and complexity of the incidents, and the extraordinary challenges faced by responders and affected communities.

The County of Los Angeles has separately conducted its own analysis of the January 2025 events through two After-Action Reviews completed by the McChrystal Group: one examining alert notification systems and evacuation policies, and the other evaluating recovery and repopulation efforts. Each report contains its own findings and recommendations of which the Board has already acted upon in directing departments to begin immediate implementation.

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The Los Angeles County Fire Department also commissioned an independent investigation, through Citygate Associates, of evacuation decisions, incident communications and fire behavior during the critical overnight hours of the Eaton Fire. In addition to investigative findings, Citygate Associates issued recommendations.

As the County advances this work, it is critical to urgently evaluate where the ULRI, McChrystal Group's AAR and Citygate Associates' investigation recommendations align, diverge, and identify gaps, to ensure that our policies, operations, and investments reflect a complete and coordinated understanding of the lessons learned from these devastating incidents.

WE, THEREFORE MOVE, that the Board of Supervisors direct County Counsel, in coordination with the Fire Department, Office of Emergency Management, Sheriff's Department, and the Department of Public Works, to report back in writing within 7 days with a summary analysis of UL Research Institutes' Fire Safety Research Institute report titled *Southern California Fires Incident Analysis Report*. The report should:

- Identify where the ULRI recommendations overlap with the McChrystal Group's After-Action Reports (AAR 1 and AAR 2) and the Citygate Associates' investigation;

- Outline the recommendations unique to the UL Research Institutes' FSRI report; and

- Identify any immediate or near-term actions that can be taken to address the UL Research Institutes' FSRI report findings while longer-term recommendations are being implemented, without duplicating actions already identified in the McChrystal Group's After-Action Reports (AAR 1 and AAR 2) and the Citygate Associates' investigation.

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KB:scem