

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS KATHRYN BARGER
AND HOLLY J. MITCHELL

October 20, 2026

REVISED READ IN: STRENGTHENING LOS ANGELES COUNTY’S OPERATIONAL EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS

Los Angeles County faces one of the highest earthquake risk profiles in the nation, with significant vulnerabilities across infrastructure, community readiness, operational capacity, and interagency coordination. Recent assessments and departmental briefings highlight the need for expanded preparedness investments, stronger community resilience programs, and more frequent operational exercises to ensure countywide readiness for a major seismic event.

The County must advance its resilience efforts, strengthen departmental capabilities, and enhance community preparedness.

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

1. Request the Los Angeles Sheriff’s Department (LASD), in coordination with the Fire Department, and the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) to review and identify sustainable funding streams—local, state, federal, and grant-based—to expand, modernize, and maintain Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training and deployment capabilities and provide a report back in writing within 90 days outlining potential funding opportunities, staffing needs, resource requirements, an assessment of existing capabilities and recommendations for modernization, including improvements to training, equipment, technology, and accessibility, and a long-term plan to increase CERT coverage, especially in high-risk or underserved communities- including those geographically isolated and densely populated with limited access to emergency preparedness programs and resources, as well as vulnerable populations such as older adults, people with disabilities, and those with language, economic, and transportation barriers.

- MORE -

MOTION

MITCHELL	_____
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2. Direct OEM to develop and implement an annual full-scale or functional earthquake preparedness exercise, separate from and in addition to the Great ShakeOut. The annual exercise shall:
 - a. Test departmental response capabilities, EOC , communication systems, resource management, logistics, and recovery operations;
 - b. Include multi-agency participation and incorporate realistic scenario modeling informed by current seismic science.
3. Direct OEM to report back in writing in 90 days on opportunities to participate in partnerships with academic, state, and federal entities, such as the Alliance for Disaster Resilience at Caltech to strengthen the County's earthquake risk reduction.

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KB: sctem