

MOTION

The ongoing extreme wildfires and windstorm events in the City and County of Los Angeles are unprecedented in scope and scale for the region. Yet the frequency of such extreme weather events is likely to increase as the impacts of climate change intensify. It is critically important for future public safety that the City formalize, operationalize, and expand its response to National Weather Service Red Flag Warnings and Particularly Dangerous Situations (PDSs).

Currently, the City of Los Angeles' Red Flag restrictions only apply to limiting street parking on specific streets throughout parts of the City's Very High Fire Severity Zones (VHFHSZs) to ensure emergency vehicle passage. From the January 7, 2025 wind and fire event that is still ravaging our City, it is clear other mitigation measures are needed to reduce the risk of fires sparking and spreading on high wind days.

Council offices in impacted areas were left to coordinate with multiple departments and agencies in seeking park closures in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZs), and while parking restrictions are meant to be implemented automatically by LAFD and LADOT during Red Flag Warnings, they were unfortunately not adequately monitored. Additionally, construction work in hillside areas and debris hauling continued during this time as well. Gatherings in at-risk areas for the purpose of viewing the fires and grilling in public parks in hillside areas were also reported. Council offices served as a conduit for residents who observed these dangerous activities, communicating the need for additional resources to Departments throughout the course of these wildfire events.

This experience highlights the need for more proactive work from the City to secure high fire risk areas and implement restrictions in advance of major fires. There is a clear need for enumerated processes and protocols to be implemented during Red Flag Warnings and PDSs, and the lessons that we continue to learn from this most recent event offer an opportunity for the City to prepare for future fire disasters before they occur.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council instruct the Emergency Management Department, the Los Angeles Fire Department, the Los Angeles Police Department, Department of Recreation and Parks, the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, the Department of Building and Safety, the Department of Transportation, FilmLA, and any other relevant Office or Department, to report within 30 days on existing and new protocols and measures that the City does and should implement in response to the issuance of Red Flag Warnings and declarations of a Particularly Dangerous Situation (PDS) by the National Weather Service. The report should include recommendations to improve the City's automatic response to these conditions, including:



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PUBLIC SAFETY

- An inventory of resources that are deployed by various departments during Red Flag Warnings or PDSs, as well as a description of the process for determining their allocation during an emergency;
- Public safety and precautionary measures implemented in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZs) or other high-risk areas by various departments that are triggered by Red Flag Warnings and/or PDSs, including, but not limited to, enforcement of Red Flag parking regulations, park closures, construction and haul route trip moratoria, suspension of filming permits, additional neighborhood monitoring for dangerous fire activity, resource and readiness assessment for the mobilization of evacuation zones, and temporary pauses in City-performed and City-contracted work in VHFHSZs that pose a fire hazard or could present a complication during emergency response;
- A notice to all residents in Red Flag warning areas to cease all outdoor activities that increase risk of fire, such as use of outdoor barbecues or fire pits;
- The identification of any high fire risk areas, or areas of multiple fire incidents, in the City outside of state-designated VHFHSZs where special provisions should also apply;
- Interagency communication protocols with agencies outside the City to proactively respond to Red Flag Warnings and PDSs, including the protection of public land under the jurisdiction of SMMC/MRCA and the issuance of air quality alerts with South Coast AQMD; and
- Public messaging protocols and education surrounding these restrictions.

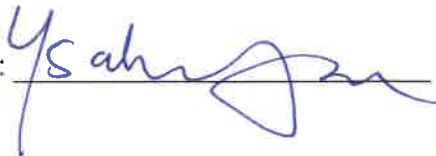
I FURTHER MOVE that the City Administrative Officer, with assistance of the City Attorney, report on an increase to the fine for violation of any existing or future Red Flag Warning ordinances.

PRESENTED BY:


NITHYA RAMAN
Councilmember, 4th District


KATY YAROSLAVSKY
Councilmember, 5th District

Seconded by:



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