

MOTION

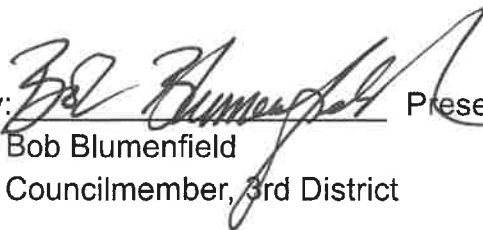

Los Angeles is facing the largest fire event in its history, damaging thousands of structures countywide, the largest of which, the Palisades Fire, is within LA City boundaries. The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) Wildfire Mitigation Plan (WMP) outlines comprehensive strategies to address the rising threat of wildfires, which are exacerbated by climate change and human activities. The plan is developed in compliance with state mandates like Senate Bill 901 and Assembly Bill 1054, focusing on safeguarding public safety and mitigating wildfire risks associated with electrical infrastructure. It includes objectives such as minimizing sources of ignition, improving grid resiliency, and enhancing program efficiency. Key strategies involve rigorous vegetation management, upgraded construction standards, proactive inspections, and emergency response protocols. The plan also emphasizes collaboration with local fire agencies, primarily the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD), in adherence to updated design standards, and public outreach to ensure safety and community awareness.

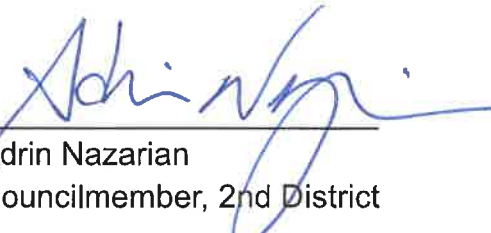
Updated by LADWP every three years, the plan incorporates extensive risk assessment measures, considering factors such as topography, vegetation, and climate conditions, to identify and address fire-prone areas. For years, LADWP has implemented high standards for infrastructure design, including the use of insulated conductors and fire-resistant materials, while leveraging technologies like Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for monitoring. The plan also requires specific and robust community engagement with various stakeholders, especially important now as the city evaluates the effectiveness and preparedness of all comprehensive plans, including the Wildlife Mitigation Plan.

The 2024 LADWP Wildfire Mitigation Plan (WMP) update reflects significant advancements in wildfire prevention and response strategies, yet recent incidents like the Palisades, Hurst, and other fires underscore the continued urgency for robust assessment and adaptive management especially due to a warming and drier climate. Despite preventative measures, the massive fire events highlight both the strengths and gaps in LADWP's, and the city's current approaches, such as vegetation management, proper equipment, and infrastructure resilience. To ensure lessons are fully integrated, the Los Angeles City Council should direct LADWP, in collaboration and input with the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD), to provide a comprehensive report evaluating the successes and shortcomings of the 2024 WMP update. This report should include specific metrics on ignition sources, response times, equipment usage, water and power infrastructure opportunities and challenges, and the effectiveness of implemented strategies, alongside actionable recommendations to further mitigate wildfire risks.


JAN 14 2025

I THEREFORE MOVE that the LADWP, in collaboration with the LAFD, be directed to report to Council with recommendations that account for City's response associated with fire preparedness and response to the recent Palisades, Kenneth, Hurst and other fires exacerbated by human activity and climate change, including but not limited to: ignition sources, response times, equipment usage, water and power infrastructure needs and grid resiliency, to greatly improve fire resiliency citywide.

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ORIGINAL

