

RESOLUTION

RULES, ELECTIONS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

WHEREAS, any official position off the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed or pending before a local, state or federal government body or agency must have been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, the destruction caused by the Pacific Palisades Fire is widespread and ongoing and will take months to assess. To date, the Pacific Palisades has burned more than 23,000 acres and is only 14% contained and threatens other nearby communities; and

WHEREAS, early estimates indicate that the Pacific Palisades Fire has destroyed more than 5,000 homes and a school, a library and parks and houses of worship and is likely to be the most costly wildfire in history; and

WHEREAS, an early estimate has placed the damage to public property and infrastructure at approximately \$360 million; and

WHEREAS, the cost to fund the salaries and overtime of our heroic first responders has yet to be determined; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the Pacific Palisades Fire, the Hurst Fire in the Northeast San Fernando Valley has burned approximately 800 acres. There was also a fire in the Hollywood Hills and Studio City which have stretched our first responders resources to the limits; and

WHEREAS, aside from the physical destruction caused by the Pacific Palisades Fire and other fires, the fires have caused significant long term damage to the City's financial well being; and

WHEREAS, the City's finances were already in a precarious position given lower revenues than projected, higher expenditures than planned and greater legal obligations than anticipated; and

WHEREAS, in addition to these financial toll of these natural disasters, the City is also preparing to host the 2026 World Cup, the 2027 Super Bowl and the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games, which will also require the expenditure of City funds; and

WHEREAS, on January 8, 2025, President Biden approved the California Disaster Declaration which will provide much needed revenue to individuals, organizations, businesses and the City of Los Angeles; and

WHEREAS, City funds expended to address the disaster qualify for federal government reimbursement for 180 days from the date of the declared disaster which will provide much needed relief to the City's finances; and

WHEREAS, there will be a significant gap in time between the City's expenditure of funds and the federal government's reimbursement which will create financial hardships for the City to further carry on essential services, such as public safety, libraries, parks, homeless services, in this and the next fiscal year; and


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WHEREAS, to help mitigate the financial impacts to the City caused by the Pacific Palisades Fire, the City of Los Angeles is requesting that the State of California provide gap funding directly related to the declared disaster to the City to ensure that essential services continue to be provided. This funding would be paid back to the State of California upon reimbursement from the Federal Government so that the taxpayers of California are made whole; and

WHEREAS, Governor Newsom is calling for lawmakers to accelerate \$1 billion in emergency response funding for the fires in the Los Angeles area to help rebuild areas ravaged by wildfires; and

WHEREAS, Governor Newsom is requesting lawmakers allocate another \$1.5 billion to go towards efforts to prevent wildfires threats statewide to spare communities the catastrophe that has been experienced in Los Angeles.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles requests the State of California provided temporary financial assistance to address the unforeseen expenditure of resources from the Pacific Palisades Fire to ensure that essential services continue to be provided to the residents of the City of Los Angeles with the State being paid back upon reimbursement by the Federal Government.

PRESENTED BY:



TRACI PARK
Councilwoman, 11th District

SECONDED BY:



ORIGINAL