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April 21, 2022

Council File No.: 22-0600

Dear Honorable Members:
Budget and Finance Committee
c/o Office of the City Clerk, City Hall, Room 395

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS COMMENTS - FISCAL YEAR 2022-23 PROPOSED BUDGET

Honorable Members,

The Board of Public Works (Board) thanks you in advanced for the opportunity to provide comments on the Mayor's Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-23 Proposed Budget. We are excited about all the initiatives and concepts outlined and increased services focused on cleanliness, homelessness, forest management, climate change, safety, and infrastructure investments. The Board would like to acknowledge—and is grateful for the continued and new funding in its Clean and Green, LA RiverKeepers, Graffiti Abatement, Clean LA, Skid Row Cleaning, and Mobile Pit and Shower programs – all focused on providing services to beautify Los Angeles and create job opportunities – in addition the added resources for staff in our Offices of Climate Emergency Mobilization, Forest Management, Petroleum & Natural Gas, and Accounting, including Public Works Trust Fund. We thank you once again for what is already defined in the budget and look forward to implementing our services throughout the City.

With that, the Board is respectfully requesting five (5) items for consideration as follows:

1. Additional \$1 Million to Clean LA (GF Impact: \$1,052,000)

Request: The Board is requesting to consider an additional \$1.05 million to the current Clean LA Program in order to maintain our current level of services and employment of 125 jobs of the adult population that has been hired and working for the past 6 months cleaning our major corridors in different council districts. With the reduction in the current Clean LA funding and no salary funding for the Clean LA Program Manager, the portion of salary expense is not fully eligible for reimbursement through the CA For All Youth Grant; therefore, we will need to allocate 40% of the time to the Clean LA program and 60% to the CA For All Youth Grant.

In the first nine (9) months of the Clean LA Program, the Board has developed and is tracking program metrics in partnership with the Bureau of Sanitation on workforce deployment and service levels. The Board is closely monitoring the Program and engaged with seven Community-Based Organization (CBO) partners to track program success. The Board desires to keep our Clean LA adults employed and avoid any interruption of services as we onboard the CA for All Youth grant participants. Most important, maintaining 125 jobs, albeit 200 jobs as originally



planned, will allow the Board to continue its efforts towards creating a permanent employment pathway for participants and allow to backfill vacancies created by the transition of Youth.

The Board is requesting that 40% of the current Senior Management Analyst I (Class Code 9171-1) salary costs (\$51,947) be added to the Clean LA Program. The remaining 60% salary portion of this position (\$77,903) is eligible for reimbursement through the Youth Grant. Proportionate related cost is eligible for reimbursement. General Fund Impact: \$1,051,947.

2. Centralized Contracts Coordinator – Sr. Management Analyst I (GF Impact: \$129,838)

Request: The Board is requesting to continue 12 months funding at \$129,838, and regularize the authority for one (1) filled Senior Management Analyst I (Class Code: 9171-1) to lead our centralized contracts coordination among the ten Board offices. This position provides monthly and quarterly contract reports to the Mayor's office, Commissioners, BPW Executive Team, Office Directors, and the City Ethics department, additionally prepares contract templates, monitors contract ceilings and terms, and proactively assesses compliance with City Contracting Requirements for all programs. More important, since this position is currently filled, adding funding and authority will avert a layoff scenario, transfer, or the creation of a service gap that was previously addressed by City Council (CF 21-0600) to support the increased contracting services in the Offices of Petroleum Administration, Climate Emergencies, Forest Management, Community Beautification, and Board Secretariat. General Fund Impact: \$129,838 (excludes related cost of \$59,442).

3. Equity and Revenue Accounting – Three Positions (GF Impact: \$235,329)

Request: The Board is requesting 12 months funding at \$235,329 and resolution authorities for one (1) Senior Accountant II (Class Code: 1523-2) at a cost of \$100,203 and two (2) Accountants (Class Code: 1513) at a cost of \$67,563 each to provide accounting support to our Offices of Community Beautification, Forest Management, Petroleum, and Climate Emergency Mobilization and process payments timely for our Community Based Organization partners, such as LA Conservation Corps, Coalition For Responsible Community Development, Koreatown Youth and Community Center, Northeast Graffiti Busters etc., and small, local Community Level Contractors.

The Senior Accountant and one Accountant will provide equity accounting services to level the payment time compared to those construction contractors or special funded contract vendors, which the latter have State law mandates and/or available resources to expedite payment. The second Accountant will be dedicated to E and U Permit processing, which was deleted in the proposed budget, and support and create revenue. Most important, the E/U Permit Accountant is cost neutral and can be offset by new revenue (RSC 4340 – Reimbursement of Accounting Services) recognition via the 1.87% surcharge assessed against the permit (Ordinance No. 184548); therefore, an increase in revenue account reimbursement in the amount of \$67,563.

Class	General Fund Request	New Revenue Offset RSC 4340	Total Net General Fund Impact
One Sr Accountant II - Equity	\$100,203	-	\$100,203
One Accountant - Equity	\$ 67,563	-	\$ 67,563
One Accountant – E/U Permit	\$ 67,563	\$67,563	-
Total	\$235,329	\$67,563	\$167,766

Due to increased contracting requirements in the last several years up to \$30 million, it is critical to have accounting support services to pay vendors timely and collect revenues. *General Fund Net Impact: \$167,766.*

4. Systems Support – Senior Systems Analyst II (GF Impact: \$142,443)

Request: The Board is requesting 12 months funding at \$142,443 and regular authority for one (1) Senior Systems Analyst (Class Code: 1597-2) position to restore services lost due to SIP and new Mobile Worker Program functional transfer. The Board's current stop gap measure is not sustainable, and the Board Offices are experiencing delays in onboarding new staff, desktop support and connectivity in remote working that demonstrate the need for restoring this position. Prior approval in the budget deliberation process of the Director position by City Council to upgrade existing position was determined by CAO to be not an upgrade. Therefore, our Board continues to have a service gap and no dedicated Sr. Systems Analyst support. All 125 Board employees cannot continue to be supported through this stop gap measure. Not adding this position would require the Board to explore transfer of Systems Support functions to ITA, a model which was unsuccessful during the Great Recession. The Board is committed to service restoration under ED15. *General Fund Impact: \$142,443.*

5. Grants Unit – Management Analyst (GF Impact: \$89,294)

Request: The Board is requesting twelve months funding at \$89,294 and resolution authority of one (1), Management Analyst (Class Code: 9184) to provide grant seeking and management, and general department-wide grants support. This position will not only play a vital role in the Board Offices but will also catapult how the Department of Public Works (DPW) manages its grants portfolio, from seeking, applying, and up to closing out grants and auditing. Having a grants unit for the entire DPW will provide proper oversight, transparency, bolster uniform reporting, and accountability, but also allow the department liaisons to collaborate, communicate and coordinate new or existing grant opportunities that would otherwise result in leaving money on the table due to lack of awareness, alignment to function, decentralization, or non-communication of opportunity. This position will also facilitate communication with the Department, Offices of the City Administrative Officer and Mayor, and other City departments. Furthermore, the Board oversees a DPW Grants Task Force that includes membership from all of the Bureaus and are focused on equity and justice, expanding the City's urban tree canopy, beautifying and cleaning Los Angeles, making the City the safest, sustainable, and the best livable City in the United States, among other things, and in preparation for the Los Angeles Olympic and Paralympic Games. Most important, this position will assist in implementing the Board's action plan to apply for Federal and State grants and earmarking, such as Build Back Better Act (IJIA), Clean CA Local Grant, RAISE grant, Transformative Climate Communities, etc. The associated expense with grant seeking and applying is not an allowable charge to a grant. *General Fund Impact: \$89,294.*

In closing, the Board continues its commitment to protect and build our Public Works infrastructure, provide cleaning services, and develop a workforce pathway to fill critical City jobs, such as the Clean and Green, Clean LA, LA River Keepers, Pre-Apprenticeship, and Workforce Equity Demonstration partnered with the LA Black Worker Center (note: not funded) Programs.

Thank you for your time and attention to this letter. For questions, please contact me at (213) 978-0251 or Dr. Fernando Campos, Executive Officer, at (213) 978-0250.

Sincerely yours,



AURA GARCIA
President, Board of Public Works

AG/FC: tj/fc

CC: Honorable Budget and Finance Committee Members
Andre Herndon, Deputy Chief of Staff to the Mayor
Matt Szabo, City Administrative Officer
Raoul Mendoza, Director, Budget & Innovation

Mary Hodge, Deputy Mayor
Jeanne Holm, Deputy Mayor
Sharon Tso, Chief Legislative Analyst
David Hirano, Office of the CAO