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DEBORAH WEINTRAUB, AIA, LEED^{AP}
INTERIM CITY ENGINEER

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April 22, 2014

Paul Krekorian, Councilmember 2nd District
Chairperson, Budget & Finance Committee
Los Angeles City Council

c/o Erika Pulst
City Clerk's Office, City Hall, Room 395
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Councilmember Krekorian:

BUREAU OF ENGINEERING FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2014-15 PROPOSED BUDGET

In accordance with your letter dated April 3, 2014, the Bureau of Engineering appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the Mayor's FY 2014-15 Proposed Budget. As part of the Department of Public Works, Engineering is the City's integrated design and construction delivery organization for all non-proprietary departments. We are a multi-disciplinary, full service professional group with expertise that include engineering, architecture, landscape architecture, real estate, environmental clearances, geotechnical, bidding, survey, mapping, and public right-of-way permitting.

As part of the City's efforts to reduce the structural deficit, this proposed Budget includes a proposed reduction of 14 regular and resolution authority positions in Engineering. At this level, Engineering will have less budgeted regular authority positions than any point in the last 43 years, since the FY 1970-71 Adopted Budget. Managing with this reduction and with an aging workforce where the average age is 51 and more than 42 percent of Engineering's workforce is age 55 or older, it is essential for Engineering to continue to have the ability to fill our vacant positions.

In the prior four fiscal years (FY 2010-2013), Engineering was not authorized to hire any new City employees to fill vacant entry-level positions. This fiscal year, the Managed Hiring Committee authorized Engineering to fill entry level positions, and we have brought in 19 new Civil Engineering Associates. Engineering looks forward to working with the Mayor and City Council in order to continue this hiring flexibility in FY 2014-15. Continuing the authority to fill our vacancies will allow us to maintain existing core services and ensure the delivery of critical capital projects.



Paul Krekorian, Councilmember 2nd District
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In reviewing the Mayor's FY 2014-15 Proposed Budget, it is clear that staff increases have been proposed for the departments of Building and Safety (DBS) and City Planning to respond to the anticipated growth in development activities, and to support development reform, including the Mayor's BuildLA project that will integrate and streamline development permitting. Engineering's permitting of the public right-of-way parallels the permits issued by DBS at about 10 percent of their total number of permits. Based on the anticipated growth of DBS included in the Proposed Budget, it would be advisable to consider additional staff in Engineering's Development Services program, so our role in the permitting process does not hamper growth and development in the City.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments. If you have any questions, please contact me at (213) 485-4935.

Sincerely,



Deborah Weintraub, AIA, LEED_{AP}
Interim City Engineer

cc: Doane Liu, Office of the Mayor
Greg B. Good, Office of the Mayor
Miguel A. Santana, Office of the City Administrative Officer
Kevin James, Board of Public Works
Matt Szabo, Board of Public Works

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