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April 24, 2020

Council File: 20-0600

Honorable Paul Krekorian, Chair  
Budget and Finance Committee  
c/o Office of the City Clerk, City Hall, Room 395

## BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS COMMENTS - MAYOR'S 2020-21 PROPOSED BUDGET

Dear Councilmember Krekorian:

The Board of Public Works (Board) welcomes the opportunity to provide comments on the Mayor's Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-21 Proposed Budget. While the City is facing the most challenging budget year this century, the Board is committed to ensuring the City continues to provide essential services critical to all Angelenos.

The Board would like to acknowledge dedicated resources to continue existing services, such as LA Riverkeepers, Clean Streets LA, Sidewalk Repair, Film, Petroleum Administration, Public Works Trust Fund Management, Mobile Pit and Showers, Skid Row Cleaning, and Risk Management support, and also base line funding for Graffiti Abatement and Clean and Green programs.

The Board would like to request consideration of three revisions to improve operations:

### 1. Reallocation – One Storekeeper II Position (GF Impact: \$0)

**Request:** Reallocation of one regular (1) Warehouse and Toolroom Worker I (Class code 1832-1) to Storekeeper II (Class code 1835-2) to provide higher level warehouse support services.

The Board's Office of Community Beautification (OCB) provides graffiti removal services, public right of-way litter and weed abatement, warehouse services, and Adopt-a-Median Program, which are cornerstones to a cleaner, better, Los Angeles. The warehouse maintains and stores equipment used in City-wide community beautification events, which are loaned out to community groups. As a vital community service, City-wide beautification events are scheduled weekly, throughout the calendar year, and rely on warehouse operations. Currently, OCB warehouse staff consists of two employees. This request will not increase headcount but rather change one existing classification to match our needs.

The Board is seeking to (1) upgrade warehouse internal processes, (2) automate inventory management system, (3) absorb procurement functions, and (4) perform higher level responsibilities. The proposed position reallocation of a Storekeeper II will allow the Board to staff a Valley warehouse. Future year cost will be absorbed by the Board and offset by the reduction of travel time to/from DTLA and equipment use expense (i.e. gas, maintenance, etc.). Therefore, these cost saving efficiencies coupled with service level improvements make this request to reallocate one Warehouse and Toolroom Worker I to Storekeeper II timely. No Funding Requested – No General Fund Impact.



**2. Grants Unit – One Unfunded Management Analyst Position (GF Impact: \$0)**

**Request:** The Board is requesting resolution authority for one (1) unfunded Management Analyst (Class Code: 9184) position to lead a Grants Unit focused on seeking alternative sources of funds to implement various community beautification and tree management initiatives in preparation for City infrastructure improvements and the Los Angeles Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The Board of Public Works does not have dedicated staff to seek funding opportunities for the Board and the various Bureaus within the Department. Having a grants unit for the entire Department provides proper oversight and transparency. This position would work with Board Commissioners, Executive Officer, and Bureau Heads to determine a grants optimal return on investment and predict any future implications of the grant awards. More important, the Board is seeking a grant with CalFire for our Urban Forest and said grant will pay for salaries and related costs. The Board would like to leverage this expertise to seek grants to support other major City Council initiatives as well, such as expanding the City's urban tree canopy, beautifying and cleaning Los Angeles, and making the City the safest, sustainable, and the best livable City in the United States. The Board is proposing to front-fund this position with the anticipation of a grant salary and related expense reimbursement. Position will not be filled if grant is not awarded. No General Fund Impact: \$0.

**3. Contractual Services – Graffiti Abatement Shortfall (GF Impact: \$433,000)**

**Request:** Add and regularize funding of \$433,000 in Contractual Services to address shortfall in Prevailing Wage for Graffiti Abatement.

The Board's Office of Community Beautification manages contracts that provide Graffiti Abatement services citywide. For Fiscal Year 20/21, wages for these services are budgeted at \$27/hour but should be \$29.14/hour. The proposed budget does not adequately fund Graffiti Abatement at current service levels and close the parity gap between the hourly funded vs. prevailing wage rate. The shortfall of \$433,000 is being requested to fund this service at Current Year service levels. Absent of this funding, service levels will decrease 3% to 5% and contractor work force by 3 to 5 work crews. Graffiti Abatement is experiencing significant citywide focus by the Los Angeles Police Department. To address the Prevailing Wage shortfall, the Board is therefore requesting funding of \$433,000 in Contractual Services. General Fund Impact: \$433,000.

Additionally, please note that the Mayor's Proposed Budget Exhibit H Public Works Trust Fund instructions may be duplicative as this matter is/has been considered via separate City Council requests (see CF#'s 16-0393-S1, 18-0394, 18-0600, 18-0600-S164, & 19-1609).

For questions, please contact me at (213) 978-0251 or Dr. Fernando Campos at (213) 978-0250.

Sincerely yours,



KEVIN JAMES  
President, Board of Public Works

KJ/FC: fc

CC: Honorable Budget and Finance Committee Members  
Matt Szabo, Deputy Chief of Staff to the Mayor  
Miguel Sangalang, Deputy Mayor  
Richard Llewellyn, City Administrative Officer

Barbara Romero, Deputy Mayor  
Sharon Tso, Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA)  
David Hirano, Office of the CAO