

On March 4, 2020, the Mayor signed a declaration of local emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The declaration allows the City to mobilize local resources and leverage state and federal resources to slow the spread of the virus and to seek reimbursement by the State and Federal government for certain costs and expenditures incurred related to COVID-19. The pandemic is having a devastating impact on the City's budget. As emergency costs continue to grow, City revenues to fund local services have decreased. A majority of businesses throughout the state have remained closed as a result of stay at home orders, resulting in revenues that are well below the revenues projected in the City's 2019-20 budget.

The City has in previous years faced unprecedented local and state emergencies that have required the expenditure of emergency funds for immediate response. The La Tuna Fire that occurred on September 1, 2017, reported as the largest wildfire in the City of Los Angeles, destroyed five homes and five outbuildings, forcing the full shutdown of the 210 Freeway for two days. The extent of the La Tuna Fire resulted in the City of Los Angeles declaring a local emergency on September 1, 2017, followed shortly by a declaration of a state of emergency by Governor Brown on September 3, 2017.

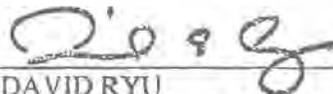
The Woolsey Fire broke out on November 8, 2018, near the Ventura County line and quickly spread into Los Angeles County. The fire burned nearly 97,000 acres, destroyed over 1,600 structures, required the evacuation of more than 250,000 people, and resulted in three deaths. While the fire primarily impacted areas served by the Los Angeles County Fire Department, the Los Angeles City Fire Department contributed significant resources to combat the fire.

The Saddleridge Fire in October 2019 also resulted in the declaration of a local emergency and burned more than 8,000 acres in the Sylmar, Granada Hills, Porter Ranch, and the Northwest San Fernando Valley sections of the City. The fire necessitated the evacuation of over 12,700 homes, destroyed 18 structures, and damaged 88 structures.

The City's response to the ongoing emergency and decreased revenues must be informed by projections on costs associated with the emergency and what costs are eligible for reimbursement. The COVID-19 pandemic will have a substantial impact on the 2020-21 budget and the full impact, including reimbursements, of past emergency responses may inform budgetary policy during the pandemic.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Administrative Officer, with the assistance from the Chief Legislative Analyst, be instructed to report on the costs incurred by the City of Los Angeles related to the Saddleridge Fire Local Emergency, the Woolsey Fire State of Emergency, and the La Tuna Fire State of Emergency, including any funds that were transferred from the City's Reserve Fund to respond to the emergencies and reimbursements the City received associated with its response to the emergencies. Additionally, the report should include costs incurred by the City related to the Northridge Earthquake, as well as funds transferred from the City's Reserve Fund to respond to the emergency and reimbursements the City received associated with its response to the emergency.

PRESENTED BY:



DAVID RYU
Councilmember, 4th District

JUN 9 2020

SECONDED BY:

MONICA RODRIGUEZ (verbal)
Councilmember, 7th District