

Communication from Public

Name: Nga Tran

Date Submitted: 05/20/2026 09:46 AM

Council File No: 26-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing to urge this Council to fully fund the Controller's budget request for 16 additional audit and fraud, waste, and abuse investigation unit positions. Los Angeles is the largest city in the country. We spend \$45 billion in taxpayer funds every single year. And yet, the Controller's office - the office charged with protecting every one of those dollars - has only 8 performance auditors and 5 fraud, waste, and abuse investigators. Thirteen people. To oversee a \$45 billion budget. That is not oversight. That is a skeleton crew. The result is exactly what you would expect. The Controller's office receives over 800 fraud, waste, and abuse claims every year, with hundreds of millions of dollars in questionable costs currently under review. With only 5 investigators, the vast majority of those claims face serious delays or go uninvestigated entirely - allowing fraud to continue, unchallenged, on the taxpayer's dime. We already know what this office can do when properly resourced. In a single investigation into homeless services, they recovered \$23 million in fraudulently obtained taxpayer funds. Twenty-three million dollars. From one case. How many more cases like that are sitting in a backlog right now because there is no one to work them? Funding these 16 positions is not a cost — it is a return on investment. Against a \$45 billion budget, it is a fraction of a fraction. And based on what this office has already demonstrated, it will pay for itself many times over. The people of Los Angeles deserve a Controller's office that is staffed to do its job. Fully fund the budget request. All 16 positions. The taxpayers of this city are counting on you. —Nga Tran, Los Angeles Resident (CD1)

Communication from Public

Name: Katie Vega

Date Submitted: 05/20/2026 08:38 AM

Council File No: 26-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Dear City Councilmembers, I am requesting that you please vote in favor of funding the L.A. City Controller's Office audit and fraud, waste, and abuse unit in next fiscal year's budget. The Controller's Office conducts an invaluable service overseeing over \$35 billion in taxpayer dollars and they should have the resources, authority, and independence to continue this important work. I want to know that my tax dollars are being spent responsibly and that audits are being conducted to identify and eliminate wasted funds like the \$23 million that a homeless service provider fraudulently obtained with fake invoices while not delivering contractual services. The Controller's Office provides the necessary transparency and accountability required to get the City back on track. I implore you to vote in favor of funding the L.A. City Controller's Office audit and fraud, waste, and abuse unit in next fiscal year's budget. Please provide them the resources they need to help our City recover from this devastating budget deficit and build our trust again. Thank you for your time and consideration. Sincerely, Katie Vega CD4 resident

Communication from Public

Name: Elvis Díaz

Date Submitted: 05/20/2026 09:29 AM

Council File No: 26-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Council President Harris-Dawson, Budget and Finance Committee Members, and Members of the Los Angeles City Council, My name is Elvis Diaz, and I live in Watts. I am submitting this written public comment to support continued funding for Inside Safe, with a continued focus on accountability, coordination, and measurable results. In communities like Watts, the crisis facing unhoused residents affects daily life. Encampments impact sidewalks, schools, senior centers, small businesses, transit corridors, alleys, and public rights of way. Residents want the City to respond with urgency, compassion, and practical solutions. Inside Safe gives Los Angeles an important tool to respond to unsheltered homelessness with a housing offer, rather than relying only on enforcement, displacement, or cleanup. When the City moves unhoused residents from encampments into rooms and connects them to services, it creates a better path than leaving people in unsafe outdoor conditions. I recognize that Inside Safe, like any major public program, has faced questions about cost, outcomes, and transparency. I also recognize that the City, LAHSA, the Controller, and the Homeless Strategy Committee already publish some performance information. Going forward, the City should make that information easier for residents to understand, more consistent, and more clearly connected to program outcomes. For Watts residents, the priority is making sure Inside Safe continues improving the outcomes that matter most: helping people come indoors, keeping them connected to services, and moving them toward permanent housing. The budget should support that work while helping residents understand how the City measures progress. I also urge the Council to invest in basic safety infrastructure in Watts, including improved streetlighting along Central Avenue. Where traditional streetlight repairs or electrical connections face delays, the City should evaluate solar-powered streetlights as a practical option for priority corridors. Better lighting can support pedestrian safety, improve visibility near schools, transit stops, businesses, and public rights of way, and help residents feel safer using their own neighborhood. I urge the Council to continue funding Inside Safe while strengthening case management, improving coordination with County services, supporting faster pathways to permanent housing, maintaining clear public reporting, and

investing in neighborhood safety infrastructure. Inside Safe is not perfect, but the City should improve it, not abandon it. Los Angeles should not have to choose between compassion and accountability. The budget should support both. Best, Elvis Diaz
Watts resident

Communication from Public

Name: Peter Abdelmalak Founder of Love and Light 888

Date Submitted: 05/20/2026 02:32 PM

Council File No: 26-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Good morning, Council Members. My name is Peter Abdelmalak, and I am the founder of Love and Light 888 I have served on the front lines of South LA since 2020 through WLCAC and HOPICS. I am here today to thank you in advance for your leadership in protecting the three pillars of our community's hope. I have seen the miracles these programs perform. I've seen Access Centers restore a man's dignity with a single shower so he could walk into a job interview. I've seen Safe Parking sites give a mother the first night of peaceful sleep she's had in months. And I've seen Problem Solving funds save a family's home by simply keeping a father's car on the road. We don't need more numbers; we need to protect these results. These programs are the bridges that carry families and individuals from the street into a home. I am choosing to believe this Council will stand in the light and keep these doors open. We are moving forward in SPA 6, and we are not leaving anyone behind. Thank you for choosing hope. Sending High Vibes, Pure Love and Light.

Communication from Public

Name: Alia Michelle Weiner

Date Submitted: 05/20/2026 11:41 AM

Council File No: 26-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Hello, Please fund the controller's audit and fraud, waste and abuse unit. Our city is being coerced by violent corporate interests to not care adequately for each other. It is shameful and inexcusable. Be on the right side of history. Please. Thank you.
Alia Michelle Weiner Born, raised and living in Los Angeles
91367

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 05/20/2026 10:43 AM

Council File No: 26-0600

Comments for Public Posting: President and members of the city council, I'm sure you're aware of the resounding concern from the public regarding this budget proposal, and previous budgets as well; the continued siphoning of public service funding in to LAPD. My primary question is why do we continue to place the responsibility of upholding basic infrastructure on to law enforcement? The overwhelming majority of 911 calls do not require an armed officer, and many could be remedied with investment in housing, shelter for LA's homeless population, mental healthcare, and social services to benefit everyone. To continue putting a band-aid over these issues is nothing less than negligent; especially when that "band-aid" is historically ineffective in not only those situations, but in their operations at large. The hiring process, day-to-day operations, lack of civilian personnel in administrative roles, and work environment of the LAPD seem to create massive flaws in the overall system, reaching outside of the internal operations and directly impacting all angelenos. This is not an issue to throw money at, and additional funding with no accountability or competent external oversight has continually failed your constituents. I am incredibly frustrated at the lack of in-depth comment on this by the current mayor, and unfortunately, sitting council members and candidates for the mayoral race. Your constituents are not uninformed or ignorant, but avoiding this topic time and time again leads me to believe you assume we are. I urge you to address this, do better for your constituents, and give the people transparency on these issues instead of repeating the same vague rhetoric.

Communication from Public

Name: Heena Seth

Date Submitted: 05/20/2026 06:18 PM

Council File No: 26-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing in support of the funding the city Controller's audit and fraud, waste, abuse unit in next fiscal year's budget. There are millions of dollars of questionable costs that involve taxpayer money, and in order for the Controller to do their job as the City's independent watchdog, we need more investigator positions. I would prefer my and other citizens' taxes go into resources we all need at the moment. In order for this to happen, fraud, waste and abuse must be reduced. The Controller's department saves the city far more than it costs to run it so an increase in investigator positions will be a good investment for Los Angeles. Kindly do the needful. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Erin Coutts

Date Submitted: 05/20/2026 03:36 PM

Council File No: 26-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Hello, Please enter this Written Public Comment into the official public record for the FY 2026–2027 budget discussion. Attached is a support letter for the Climate Resilience Division (CRD) of the Emergency Management Department to retain full funding in the FY 26-27 budget. Thank you, Erin Coutts Executive Director Los Angeles Regional Collaborative for Climate Action and Sustainability



Los Angeles Regional Collaborative
for Climate Action and Sustainability

May 20, 2026

Dear Los Angeles City Council Members,

I am writing to voice support for the Climate Resilience Division (CRD) of the Emergency Management Department to retain full funding in the FY 26-27 budget.

As the City prepares to host the FIFA World Cup and 2028 Olympics, it should invest more, not less, in building resilience to climate threats. Eliminating CRD staff positions would remove community health protections and put people in harm's way, resulting in avoidable heat-related illnesses and deaths. We understand that the City is facing a budget crisis and drastic measures are necessary; however, we urge the Budget and Finance Committee NOT to attempt to fix one crisis while causing another.

The CRD's predecessor, the Climate Emergency Mobilization Office (CEMO), was co-created in 2020 to center voices from climate-impacted communities, including low-income residents and unhoused populations. The Division promotes community-focused emergency preparedness and awareness with multilingual public campaigns that reflect the City's diversity. Its success demonstrates why the City should not divert resources from emergency preparedness efforts:

1. Through CEMO's work, Los Angeles has the first city-led Heat Action Plan in California and serves as a model for peer cities.
2. CRD was awarded a \$750,000 grant to develop a replicable Heat Action and Resilience Plan (HARP) with scalable infrastructure and mitigation strategies. To deliver on this work, the CRD needs to be fully staffed.
3. CRD staff are capable of drawing more funds from the Governor's Office and California's Proposition 4 Climate Bond, including the \$500M allocated to extreme heat and climate resilience efforts.
4. The team at CRD has spent six years developing extensive relationships and networks with Environmental Justice organizations. The removal of CRD staff positions would reduce the Division's capacity to engage with the public and damage the trust that has been developed between communities and the City.

Los Angeles has a stellar legacy of being at the forefront of sustainability. With its history of paving the way for the region, the City and the region need the CRD to continue developing innovative programs and policies.

Kind regards,

Erin Coutts
Executive Director

Los Angeles Regional Collaborative for Climate Action and Sustainability (LARC)

Communication from Public

Name: Karina Hernandez

Date Submitted: 05/20/2026 04:05 PM

Council File No: 26-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Councilmembers, My name is Karina and I care deeply about adequately funding services that will protect our communities from harm caused by the LAPD and federal agents. That is why I am urging you to support LA Forward's budget requests, based on the budget work that the Budget committee has done: 1. Please SUPPORT the Budget committee's recommendation to fund UMCR's expansion to an additional 6 divisions, growing UMCR's service from 9 to 15 police divisions by the end of FY 26-27. This leaves the City in a perfect position to grow UMCR citywide to all 21 police divisions by the end of FY 27-28. 2. INCREASE the Budget committee's revised budget of \$1.5 million to \$3 million to support the RepresentLA program. \$1.5 million is what was budgeted last year, and providers like CHIRLA were left with a 660+ person waitlist in need to support for legal services. In these dangerous times, we need an additional \$1.5 million to protect more of our most vulnerable neighbors. Please add \$1.5 million to the \$1.5 million already in BFI's budget. These investments amount to less than 0.5% of the City's unrestricted budget funds. With this funding, UMCR can continue to make progress towards citywide expansion by 2028 and immigrant Angelenos can access life-saving legal services. At LA Forward, we understand that the City's annual budget is the ultimate statement of what it values. With an erratic federal government flooding our streets with masked agents, the World Cup and Olympics drawing near, and a continuing budget deficit, it is time for our City government to invest in community safety programs that protect our most vulnerable neighbors. Thank you, Karina Hernandez North Hollywood, 91602