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April 21, 2026

Honorable Members
Budget and Finance Committee
City Hall
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Honorable Members:

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS COMMENTS - FISCAL YEAR 2026-27 PROPOSED BUDGET

The Board of Public Works (Board) thanks you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Mayor's Fiscal Year (FY) 2026–27 Proposed Budget. The Board extends its sincere appreciation to Mayor Karen Bass for her continued support. We support the Mayor's budget, which advances a pathway toward long-term fiscal sustainability while maintaining the delivery of core services across the City.

The Board encompasses a wide range of Offices, each playing a critical role in delivering services and shaping policies that impact our communities. The FY 2026–27 Proposed Budget provides critical funding for essential items that are fundamental to the Board's operations, enabling the Board to effectively maintain service delivery and continue focusing its efforts on its key areas.

Homelessness Program – The Board's primary role in the Comprehensive Homeless Strategy has been the implementation of the Mobile Pit Stop and Mobile Shower Program. Funding for these programs has been provided through interim transfers from the Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention Program (HHAP). Continuation of the Senior Management Analyst I position supporting these efforts is essential to sustain program operations.

Clean Streets LA Initiative – Public Right-of-Way Cleanup – This funding will continue to support the Mayor's Corridor Cleanup Program as well as the Shine LA initiatives. Maintaining clean streets is essential to public health, environmental sustainability, and economic vitality, as it helps attract investment, promote tourism, and enhance property values.

Regularizing Key Accounting Positions – This funding includes the regularization of six (6) accounting positions, including revenue-generating roles that will continue to contribute to the General Fund.

New Funding for Board Meeting System Support – The Board relies on this system to conduct its meetings, and its continued support enhances the customer service provided by the Board

Secretariat to the Bureaus and the City. The Board has executed a contract with Granicus to utilize a single, fully functional and supported system for meeting management and file hosting services.

Significant Departmental-level Changes

The most significant departmental-level changes between the FY 2025-26 Adopted Budget and the Mayor’s FY 2026-27 Proposed Budget are addition of six (6) positions for the Los Angeles Convention Center Expansion program (\$742,090), and reductions in Contractual Services related to the Office of Beatification (OCB) programs as follows:

OCB Programs	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	Changes
Graffiti Abatement Services	11,696,815	11,239,564	(457,251)
Graffiti Abatement Strike Teams	712,440	568,660	(143,780)
Clean and Green	645,541	240,082	(405,459)
Clean LA	1,202,596	126,688	(75,908)
Total	14,257,392	13,174,994	(1,082,398)

Budget Reduction Impacts

We understand that given the fiscal environment, department reductions were necessary to maintain a balanced budget. However, the Board would like to provide information about the impact of reducing graffiti abatement funding at the Office of Community Beautification. The Board requested funding to restore Graffiti Abatement service levels, which the Board ranked as its #1 priority (BPW Request Prog - OCB A: Graffiti Removal – Funding to Restore Previous Fiscal Years’ Service Levels) in its proposed budget. This request remains the Board’s top priority.

As Los Angeles prepares to host global events, maintaining clean and graffiti-free public spaces is essential to presenting a city that is safe, welcoming, and operationally ready on an international stage. The restoration of the Graffiti Abatement budget is critical to maintaining baseline service delivery, ensuring timely and consistent removal citywide, and demonstrating a tangible commitment to neighborhood livability, safety, and investment. Without restoration, the City will experience reduced operational capacity and widening gaps in response times across communities.

The current FY 2025–26 Graffiti Abatement budget of \$12.4 million reflects a \$1.7 million decrease compared to the FY 2023–24 Adopted Budget. The FY 2026–27 Proposed Budget for Graffiti Abatement is \$11.8 million, representing a total reduction of \$2.3 million relative to the FY 2023–24 Adopted Budget.

Graffiti Abatement Budget	Budget	Accumulated Reduction
FY 2023-24 Adopted Budget	14,068,534	-
FY 2024-25 Adopted Budget	13,060,974	(1,007,560)
FY 2025-26 Adopted Budget	12,409,255	(1,659,279)
FY 2026-27 Proposed Budget	11,808,224	(2,260,310)

These reductions have amplified the financial impact of absorbing prevailing wage adjustments, inflationary pressures, and rising operational costs that continue to erode field capacity. As a result, service capacity has been reduced from 95 crews to 75 crews citywide—a loss of 20 crews compared to prior fiscal levels. Fewer crews directly translate into longer response times and a

reduced ability to meet the City's standard of rapid removal within 24–48 hours, increasing long-term remediation costs and contributing to repeat vandalism and visible neighborhood decline. The program also plays an important workforce role, providing employment opportunities—particularly for individuals from low-income and disadvantaged communities—through community-based partnerships.

Request for Reconsideration

Given these impacts, we respectfully request the restoration of \$2 million to reinstate prior service levels for Fiscal Year 2026–27, ensuring timely, citywide graffiti removal in accordance with established service standards. Unfortunately, no additional reductions are available within the Board's budget to offset the requested restoration of Citywide service for Graffiti Abatement.

Film Industry Coordination

Given the recent efforts of both the Mayor and City Council to further enhance its support of the local film industry, the Board of Public Works requests that additional resources be allocated to the Board for these activities. The film and television industry continues to face operational and economic challenges in recent years. As the historic home of the global entertainment industry, Los Angeles has maintained a long-standing commitment to supporting and sustaining film production within the City. Strengthening local production activity remains a City priority. Additional support will provide dedicated coordination to fully support ongoing film-related permitting, interdepartmental coordination, and industry engagement in alignment with the City's goals. To support the City's continued efforts to facilitate and sustain film and television production activity in Los Angeles, the Board requests one additional position through a Principal Project Coordinator position funded at \$150,000. This position would directly support the Board President, who acts as the Board's Citywide Film Liaison in ensuring timely coordination and an effective response to industry needs.

Although this request was not included in the Department's Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2026–27, the Board is submitting it through this Budget Letter. The Board would welcome the opportunity to report back with further background and details in your Committee's consideration of this request.

The Board appreciates your consideration of these requests in support of maintaining and strengthening critical City services.

Respectfully,



Steve Kang

President

Board of Public Works

cc: Mitch Kamin, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
Andrea Greene, Deputy Mayor of Infrastructure, Mayor's Office
Matt Hale, Deputy Mayor, Mayor's Office of Finance, Operations, and Innovation
Elyse Matson, Budget Director, Mayor's Office
Matthew Szabo, City Administrative Officer
Sharon Tso, Chief Legislative Analyst
Nicholas Campbell, Chief Administrative Analyst, Office of the City Administrative Officer
Annabelle Gonzales, Senior Administrative Analyst I, Office of the City Administrative Officer

Attachment



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS | 2026 Board of Public Works Organizational Chart



BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS



BOARD SECRETARIAT AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

- Prepares and posts all agendas, journals, orders, resolutions, and notices related to Board meetings and hearings, invitations to bid, and the letting of contracts for Public Works Projects
- Oversees the budget, contracting, procurement, personnel, emergency preparedness, and administrative services
- 20 positions

FY 2025-26 Budget Salaries: \$2,728,728 Contractual Services: \$1,276,574, including: Clean LA Workforce: \$1,202,596	IMPACTS No impact
PROPOSED REDUCTIONS None	

OFFICE OF ACCOUNTING

OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

- Accounting and financial services for all 5 bureaus that comprise the Department of Public Works
- Largest office in the Board
- 60 positions
- Key metric is percentage of payments processed within 30 days

FY 2025-26 Budget Salaries: \$6,252,931	IMPACTS No Impact
PROPOSED REDUCTIONS None	

PETROLEUM ADMINISTRATION

OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

- Oversight and compliance monitoring of the City's pipeline franchise agreements
- Pipeline safety, compliance and inspection
- 9 positions

FY 2025-26 Budget Salaries: \$1,223,745	IMPACTS No Impact
PROPOSED REDUCTIONS None	

PROJECT RESTORE

OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

- Oversees the restoration and preservation of historic City-owned facilities in coordination with the state-registered non-profit, Project Restore
- 1 position

FY 2025-26 Budget Salaries: \$148,674	IMPACTS No impact
PROPOSED REDUCTIONS None	

FINANCIAL SYSTEMS AND SYSTEMS

OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

- Provides financial systems services and enables distribution of financial data and reports to entire DPW, as well as other City departments.
- Develops, implements, and maintains the Information Technology infrastructure and system resources
- 3 positions

FY 2025-26 Budget Salaries: \$495,674	IMPACTS No impact
PROPOSED REDUCTIONS None	

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY BEAUTIFICATION

OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

- Manages Citywide graffiti abatement contracts and coordinates response to 311 requests, litter removal, organizes cleanup events
- 9 positions
- Key metric is graffiti removed within 24 and 48 hours

FY 2025-26 Budget Salaries: \$951,456 Contractual Services: \$13,973,494	IMPACTS - 8.7 million less square footage of graffiti removed - Response times for 311 service requests decreases
PROPOSED REDUCTIONS 8 percent (\$937,178) reduction to Citywide graffiti abatement and beautification budget	