

MOTION

On June 17, 2026, a fire erupted at a large cold storage warehouse facility located at 1400 South Los Palos Street in Boyle Heights, generating a substantial smoke plume that continues to affect residents throughout Boyle Heights and neighboring communities. This has prompted shelter-in-place orders, public health advisories, ongoing air quality monitoring, and a multi-day emergency response. Although the shelter-in-place order has been lifted, smoke, odors, ash, and air quality concerns continue to affect residents. Public agencies continue to advise people to limit exposure to smoke and airborne particles.

Environmental emergencies such as major fires, extreme heat events, hazardous materials incidents, and poor air quality advisories pose serious public health risks. For Angelenos experiencing homelessness, following public health guidance during these emergencies can be especially difficult. When residents are instructed to shelter indoors, avoid prolonged outdoor exposure, or limit physical activity, many unhoused residents have few options available to protect themselves from hazardous conditions.

According to the 2025 Point-in-Time Count, an estimated 4,306 people experience homelessness in Council District 14 on any given night. During environmental emergencies, these residents often face some of the highest levels of exposure while having the fewest resources to protect themselves.

At the same time, the City continues to conduct encampment cleanup operations through programs such as CARE and CARE+. These operations serve important sanitation and public health purposes. However, they also require residents to move themselves and their belongings, often over significant distances and for extended periods. During periods of extreme heat, poor air quality, smoke, hazardous debris, or other environmental emergencies, requiring unsheltered residents to remain outdoors while relocating their belongings may increase their exposure to dangerous conditions.

The City's environmental emergency response protocols should account for the circumstances faced by unhoused residents and evaluate whether routine City operations may increase exposure to hazardous conditions during declared environmental emergencies. Establishing clear procedures for encampment cleanup operations during such events would help ensure that public health guidance, emergency response activities, and City operations are aligned.

I THEREFORE MOVE that City Council INSTRUCT the Bureau of Sanitation (LASAN) to suspend CARE+ operations in areas impacted by environmental emergencies as declared by the City or State, and this suspension should be codified in the procedure guidelines.

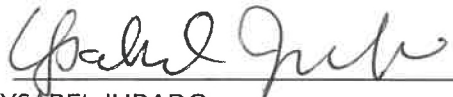
I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council INSTRUCT LASAN to implement a posting protocol for any environmental emergencies suspension of homeless encampment cleanups, which is intended to provide notice to unhoused residents that cleanups will not occur. This should include the removal of posted notices and posting of cancellation notices, ideally no later than 12 hours prior to the originally posted start time, and require all suspended operations to be clearly communicated via postings at cooling centers/augmented shelters, social media, and any other public notification systems about the environmental crisis event.




JUN 24 2026

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council INSTRUCT LASAN to include their environmental emergencies protocol in all postings and notices provided to all unhoused residents.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council INSTRUCT the Los Angeles's Emergency Management Department to ensure that LASAN is part of the activation that occurs as part of any environmental emergency response.

PRESENTED BY 
YSABEL JURADO
Councilmember, 14th District

SECONDED BY 

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