



KAREN BASS
MAYOR

MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable Members of the City Council
c/o City Clerk

From: Karen Bass, Mayor 

Subject: EXEMPTION REQUEST – LOS ANGELES WORLD AIRPORTS (LAWA),
(1) DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER AIRPORTS I (0162)

Date: August 6, 2026

The Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) requested the approval of one (1) position of Deputy General Manager Airports I, Class Code 0162, be exempted in accordance with Charter Section 1001(b), from civil service as management, professional, scientific, or expert services exemptions. Charter Section 1001(b) allows up to 150 persons to be exempt, of which 127 are approved and 3 are pending the City Council's approval. Approval of this request will increase the count. As of the date of this letter, this request will be the 131st position of the 150 exemptions. There are an additional 50 exempt positions added by the City Council pursuant to Charter Section 1001(b)(4), of which 18 are filled.

This position will serve as *Deputy General Manager of Airport Development* and will report directly to the Chief Airport Development Officer in LAWA's Airport Development Group (ADG) and will be responsible for the design and construction of LAWA's capital projects. LAWA's ADG is engaged in the development and delivery of the Department's \$30 billion Capital Improvement Program. High-quality, on-time delivery of current projects is critical to the successful operations of LAX in direct support of the LA28 Olympic and Paralympic Games' goal of creating a world-class airport for Los Angeles.

This position requires a minimum of ten (10) years of combined experience in the following areas: leading large airport capital improvement programs along with the dynamic teams that design, construct, and manage these projects, including employees, consultants, and contractors; dealing with various methods of airport project delivery, contract and claims negotiation, project finance, public contracting codes and requirements, airport project planning, project controls, analytics, and governance,

project lifecycle management and total cost of ownership, Federal Aviation Regulations, and construction and airport safety management systems; and displaying outstanding communication and collaboration skills. Experience and certifications in airfield and airport operations are highly desirable, but not required.

The exemption of this position will allow LAWA the flexibility to recruit and select the best qualified candidate who possesses the necessary specialized experience, talent, and expertise for the position. The duties and requirements as described are appropriate to the class of Deputy General Manager Airports I.

Based on my review of LAWAs request, as well as the review of the Personnel Department, I hereby approve the request for the exemption of one (1) Deputy General Manager Airports I and transmit my action to the City Council, pursuant to City Charter Section 1001(b)(1). If the exempt position is not filled within six months, my approval for the department to fill the position may expire.

cc: Mitch Kamin, Chief of Staff, Office of the Mayor
Rachel Freeman, Deputy Mayor, Office of the Mayor
Justin Yoshimaru, Office of the Mayor
Thomas Arechiga, Office of the Mayor
John Ackerman, CEO LAWA
Robert Lowe, LAWA
Minerva Gutierrez, LAWA
Marla Bleavins, LAWA
Linda Gillespie, LAWA
Martha Gonzales, Personnel Department