KAREN BASS
MAYOR

MEMORANDUM

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

From: Karen Bass, Mayor

Subject: EXEMPTION REQUEST – PUBLIC WORKS, BUREAU OF SANITATION (LASAN), (1) ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (7225)

Date: October 23, 2026

The Public Works Bureau of Sanitation (LASAN) requested that the approval of one (1) position of Assistant Director, Class Code 7225, 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 128 are approved and none are pending the City Council's approval. Approval of this exemption will increase the count. As of the date of this letter, this exemption will be in the 129th position of the 150 exemptions.

This position will serve as the Chief Plant Officer (CPO) and will assist in overseeing the daily operations, maintenance, and capital improvement planning efforts at all four of LASAN's Water Reclamation Plants: Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant (Hyperion), Donald C. Tillman Water Reclamation Plant (DCT), Terminal Island Water Reclamation Plant (TI), and Los Angeles Glendale Water Reclamation Plant (LAG). This position will be responsible for the following areas across the four plants: managing and developing a diverse workforce responsible for maintenance, operations, and engineering; developing a long-term capital improvement plan and identifying a funding strategy to ensure revenue requirements are met; overseeing asset management and identifying technology/innovation to enhance current efforts; and managing consultants/contractors to ensure project/program completion. The CPO will also represent LASAN in external venues and work with divisions to develop long-term financing strategies to ensure reliability and resiliency.

The minimum requirements for this position include a bachelor's degree in engineering or a relevant field of study (Master's degree is preferred), a Grade V Wastewater certification, and ten years of full-time paid experience as an Advanced Wastewater Treatment Operator V with supervisory experience in related fields.

The exemption of this position will allow the Public Works Bureau of Sanitation 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 Assistant Director.

Based on my review of LASAN's request, as well as the review of the Personnel Department, I hereby approve the request for the exemption of one (1) Assistant Director and transmit my action to the City Council, pursuant to City Charter Section 1001(b). 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
Andrea Greene, Deputy Mayor, Office of the Mayor
Genevieve Arce, Office of the Mayor
Thomas Arechiga, Office of the Mayor
Joon Kim-Lopez, General Manager, LASAN
Sarai Bhaga, LASAN
Robert Potter, LASAN
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