

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

May 11, 2026

TO: SBCCOG Steering Committee

FROM: Jacki Bacharach, SBCCOG Executive Director
Addy Ajijolaiya, SBCCOG Department Manager for Homeless Services

SUBJECT: Proposed Response to SD 3's LA County Homelessness Governance Restructuring Motion

BACKGROUND

On May 6, 2026, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Operations Cluster agenda included a motion titled "*A More Accountable Homelessness Governance Structure for Los Angeles County.*" The motion proposes significant structural and operational changes to the regional homelessness response system, with a focus on centralizing authority within the County's Department of Homeless Services and Housing (HSH).

The motion directs the County to evaluate potential modifications to, or withdrawal from, the current LAHSA Joint Powers Authority (JPA) structure and to assess transitioning several core system functions to HSH, including the Coordinated Entry System (CES), Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), and regional governance responsibilities. The motion also proposes evaluating and potentially eliminating, consolidating, or redefining several existing regional governance and advisory bodies, including the Executive Committee on Regional Homelessness Alignment (ECRHA), Leadership Table for Regional Homeless Alignment, CES Policy Council, Continuum of Care Board, and LAHSA Commission.

Additionally, the motion directs the County to explore a framework allowing jurisdictions to route Measure A Local Solutions Fund (LSF) dollars through HSH administration, potentially including administrative fees charged by the County.

The motion has since been removed from the Operations Cluster agenda and is anticipated to be heard at the Homeless Services and Housing Cluster on May 14, 2026, before being published for consideration at the May 19, 2026 Board of Supervisors meeting.

Policy and Regional Coordination Considerations

While staff supports efforts to improve accountability and coordination within the homelessness response system, the proposed motion raises significant concerns regarding local control, transparency, and the future role of cities and regional partners.

As written, the motion appears to centralize decision-making authority related to housing placements, prioritization, matching, and funding administration at the County level without clearly defining how cities and Councils of Governments would continue to participate in those processes. This may substantially limit the ability of local jurisdictions to prioritize residents with community ties, coordinate placements based on local needs, or maintain visibility into how housing and subsidy decisions are made within their communities.

The proposal to potentially route Measure A Local Solutions Fund dollars through County administration also raises concerns regarding additional administrative costs, reduced local flexibility, and diminished authority

over locally generated funding. At this time, the motion does not clearly outline the proposed administrative structure, fee amounts, or the extent to which jurisdictions would retain discretion over implementation of local funding strategies.

Staff are additionally concerned that the motion contemplates eliminating or restructuring existing regional governance tables and advisory bodies without first establishing a clearly defined replacement structure that preserves meaningful city and regional participation. Organizations and forums such as ECRHA and the Leadership Table currently provide important opportunities for regional coordination, collaboration, and local input that may be diminished under a more centralized model.

SBCCOG Homeless Services Staff Recommendation

Given the potential long-term impacts to local control, funding flexibility, and regional coordination, staff is seeking Steering Committee direction regarding submission of a formal opposition or concern letter to the County. Such correspondence would emphasize the importance of preserving meaningful city and regional involvement in homelessness governance, maintaining transparency in placement and prioritization processes, and protecting local authority over Measure A funding implementation.

RECOMMENDATION

Discuss and provide direction to staff regarding a potential response letter to the County Board of Supervisors.



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May 11, 2026

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Opposition to Motion – “A More Accountable Homelessness Governance Structure for Los Angeles County”

Dear Honorable Members of the Board:

On behalf of the South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG), we respectfully oppose the motion titled “A More Accountable Homelessness Governance Structure for Los Angeles County,” scheduled for consideration by the Board of Supervisors on May 19, 2026.

For years, cities, Councils of Governments, and community-based organizations have built regional partnerships, coordinated outreach systems, funded interim housing and navigation programs, and filled critical gaps in the homelessness response system. These efforts were intentionally designed to create regional alignment while still allowing solutions to reflect local needs and conditions. This motion moves in the opposite direction by centralizing authority while reducing the role of the very partners responsible for implementing and administering many of these programs locally.

While the SBCCOG supports improving accountability and coordination within the homelessness response system, this proposal advances major governance and operational changes without clearly identifying the specific problems it is intended to solve or how these changes will improve outcomes for the communities already doing this work on the ground.

The proposal also raises serious concerns regarding transparency, local flexibility, and regional effectiveness. The SBCCOG is concerned that this motion shifts decision-making authority away from the local and regional partners responsible for implementation and diminishes local feedback loops. Regional alignment cannot be achieved through a top-down structure that centralizes housing placements, prioritization, matching decisions, and funding administration at the County level without a clearly defined role for cities. Doing so risks weakening partnerships, reducing accountability, and creating additional inefficiencies within an already strained system.

This concern is particularly significant in regions such as the South Bay, where smaller cities rely on shared regional infrastructure and partnerships to leverage resources and coordinate services effectively. Encouraging jurisdictions to route Measure A Local Solutions Fund dollars through County administration, potentially with additional administrative fees, undermines the

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original purpose of those funds which is to allow cities to tailor solutions to local conditions and community needs. These changes risk discouraging collaboration, fragmenting regional response efforts, and reducing overall effectiveness.

Of equal concern is the proposal to evaluate eliminating or restructuring regional coordination bodies such as the Executive Committee on Regional Homelessness Alignment (ECRHA), Leadership Table for Regional Homeless Alignment, and related governance structures. These bodies were created specifically to bring cities, regional entities, service providers, and the County together to coordinate responsibilities and align efforts collaboratively. If improvements to the current system are needed, those discussions should occur within the regional structures established for that purpose, not outside of them.

The County must ensure there is a complete understanding of the current system before advancing major restructuring efforts. Cities throughout Los Angeles County are already investing substantial local resources into outreach, navigation, interim housing coordination, and other frontline services. The Responsive Regional Plan Inventory was intended to provide visibility into these investments and responsibilities, yet that work remains incomplete. It would be premature and irresponsible to advance structural changes of this magnitude without first understanding what currently exists, what is working, and where the actual gaps remain.

The SBCCOG remains committed to partnering with the County and regional stakeholders to improve homelessness response efforts across Los Angeles County. However, we respectfully urge the Board to pause consideration of this motion and engage cities, regional entities, and system partners in a collaborative process to clearly define the goals of any proposed reorganization before advancing changes of this scale.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bernadette Suarez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Bernadette Suarez, SBCCOG Chair
Councilmember, City of Lawndale