



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RIDLEY-THOMAS APPLAUDS APPROVAL OF NEGOTIATION OF PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENT FOR NEW MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. MEDICAL CENTER CONSTRUCTION

Unprecedented Agreement Will Create Thousands of Local Jobs

Los Angeles—Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas today hailed the Board of Supervisors' decision to negotiate an historic Project Labor Agreement (PLA) with the building trades unions to ensure the hiring of local and disadvantaged workers for a significant percentage of jobs related to construction of the new Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) Multi-Service Ambulatory Care Center Replacement Project. The PLA, once approved, will guarantee the effective enactment of the project's Local Worker Hiring policy, which was approved by the Board on October 19, 2010.

“We know that job creation will lead the way out of this economic downturn,” said Supervisor Ridley-Thomas. “By enacting a strong Project Labor Agreement for the new MLK Hospital, we are developing a tangible solution to the job crisis in our community.”

Today's vote authorizes the Chief Executive Officer, Department of Public Works and County Counsel to negotiate a PLA with the building trades unions for jobs related to the construction of the Multi-service Ambulatory Care Center (MACC), a \$121 million outpatient clinic located at the new MLK Medical Center. A strong PLA will ensure that local workers perform at least 30% of the project's total construction labor hours and that disadvantaged workers perform at least 10% of the total construction hours, by adding flexibility to the building trades unions' current dispatch rules. Local workers will be defined as those individuals who reside within a five mile radius of the project or who reside in zip codes in the county where unemployment rates exceed 150% of the county's average rate.

A disadvantaged worker will be defined as a qualified local worker who lives in poverty, has no high school diploma or Graduate Equivalency Degree (GED), possesses a history of incarceration, has experienced protracted unemployment, is a current recipient of social services benefits, or is a single custodial parent.

"The County's investment in public works can and must be a catalyst for local job creation," said Supervisor Ridley-Thomas. "I look forward to monitoring the result of these negotiations as we determine the specifics of this innovative strategy to improve both the physical and economic well-being of our community."

Supervisor Ridley-Thomas also recently won approval of a Local Worker Hire Policy for jobs related to the construction of Phase II of the Expo Line light rail project in September 2010, a public works project that will create thousands of desperately needed jobs. Similar local worker hire policies, many enforced through Project Labor Agreements, have been adopted by the Los Angeles Unified School District, Los Angeles Community College and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

The local worker hire policy sets a preference that 30% of the labor hours must be performed by local workers; any Los Angeles County resident can still qualify for the remaining 70% of the labor hours. The 10% disadvantaged-worker requirement is also available to any County resident, regardless of where they live.

Supervisor Ridley-Thomas specified that terms of the PLA should protect the County from any work stoppages, labor unavailability and other circumstances that could hinder the project's timeline or budget.

The Chief Executive Officer, County Counsel and Department of Public Works will report back to the Board of Supervisors once the negotiations with the building trades unions have concluded for final approval by the Board.

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