



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **BOARD APPROVES RIDLEY-THOMAS LOCAL WORKER HIRE PLAN FOR MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. MEDICAL CENTER**

**Los Angeles**—Unanimous approval was given today to establish a Local Worker Hire Policy at both the Inpatient Tower Renovation (MLK Hospital) and the Multi-Service Ambulatory Care Center (MACC) which will direct thousands of jobs to local residents as well as workers living in ZIP codes that are among the hardest hit with regard to unemployment levels in the County.

“This is an important step in our efforts to bring tangible solutions to the job crisis in our community by establishing new policies that will fundamentally change the way the County provides employment opportunities for major projects,” said Supervisor Ridley-Thomas.

A Local Worker Hire Policy requires that local workers perform at least 30% of the total construction labor hours and disadvantaged workers perform at least 10% of the total construction hours. As approved by today’s vote, 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.

“Today’s unanimous vote signals a growing realization by the business community, organized labor, community-based organizations and an overwhelming majority of residents that Local Hire Policies are essential in ensuring that residents who live near major developments, as well as those who live in zip codes severely impacted by unemployment, will benefit from significant new employment opportunities that will flow from this project,” added Ridley-Thomas.

Today's proposal also incorporates a Small Business Enterprise (SBE) Program for both MLK Hospital and the new MACC, requiring selected builders to have SBE participation throughout the life of the project.

The Board declined to vote on the enactment of a Project Labor Agreement, which is an agreement negotiated between the project owner or public agency and various trade unions, which will be addressed by the Board at a future meeting.

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