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MLK Medical Center Project Labor Agreement Authorized By The Board of Supervisors

After six months of negotiations, the Los Angeles Board of Supervisors approved a project labor agreement for the new Martin Luther King, Jr. Medical Ambulatory Care Center, the first such agreement for a County construction project.

This agreement ensures that local residents have first priority when contractors select workers for construction of the ambulatory care center. Residents who live within a five - mile radius will be given priority at the time of hiring, and County residents in zip codes where unemployment exceeds 150% of the county average also will now have special access to jobs. Another component of the local worker project is job opportunities for low-income disadvantaged workers, such as those who are homeless, are high school drop-outs or single custodial parents.

“This historic vote for a Project Labor Agreement in LA County will create local jobs by hiring local residents, guarantees no labor disputes, stoppages, or strikes, and assures quality work,” said Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas. “Today’s vote by the Board of Supervisors affirms that the County is committed to building a state of the art facility that is built well, built on time, and completed on budget.”

Furthermore, the agreement opens the door to life-long construction careers by offering workers multi-year apprenticeship programs.

This project labor agreement continues the Supervisor's campaign to promote local hiring on major County construction projects. This is the eight local hiring requirement he has championed since taking office in 2008.

“The early data we're seeing strongly indicates that jobs on major construction projects that lack a local hiring component too often go to workers from outside the District and even Los Angeles County,” said Supervisor Ridley-Thomas. “My hope is that project labor agreements will be come widely used in our effort to combat unemployment and make sure local tax dollars are recycled into County neighborhoods.”

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