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JOB, BUSINESS GROWTH & TAX REFORM MOTION **PUBLIC WORKS** MAY 12 2009

Corrected reference

In February 2008, the Economic Roundtable released a study commissioned by the Community Development Department on *Concentrated Poverty in Los Angeles*. For purposes of the study concentrated poverty was defined as a census tract with 40 percent or more of households below the poverty level in 2000. The study, found that the City of Los Angeles has higher rates of concentrated poverty than the nation and the larger Los Angeles region. In fact, "Nineteen percent or over 238,000 of the 1.3 million households in the City of Los Angeles were living below the federal poverty threshold in 2000. A quarter of the census tracts in the City (216 tracts) have poverty rates of at least 30 percent."

Unemployment of City residents affects the City as a whole; it causes a greater demand for municipal services and adversely affects that social wellbeing of residents. To that end the City of Los Angeles has taken many actions to promote City residents receiving employment opportunities at City-sponsored projects. For example, the City Council and the Mayor have approved Community Benefit Agreements, the First Source Hiring Ordinance, and the Community Redevelopment Agency of Los Angeles Construction Careers Policy to provide employment opportunities to local residents. While each of these actions has been helpful they have also illuminated the need for the City of Los Angeles Board of Public Works to implement and adopt a Public Infrastructure Stabilization Ordinance in order to obtain broad-based success.

The Board of Public Works oversees City-sponsored capital infrastructure improvements and has demonstrated through construction projects covered by a project labor agreement that local hire, apprenticeship participation and timely project delivery are achievable.

Increasing access to employment opportunities with prevailing wage is one way for the City to directly combat poverty and stimulate economic reinvestment. The Public Infrastructure Stabilization Ordinance will target construction employment and training opportunities in ways calculated to mitigate harms caused by geographically concentrated poverty, to address unemployment and underemployment in concentrated poverty neighborhoods and to advance the skills of the local labor pool, especially the youth by maximizing opportunities to earn prevailing wage.

The Public Infrastructure Stabilization Ordinance will also advance the interests of the City of Los Angeles Board of Public Works by avoidance of labor misunderstandings, grievances and conflicts thereby promoting project cost containment and timely project completion.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Department of Public Works develop a Public Infrastructure Stabilization Ordinance.

I FURTHER MOVE that that the Chief Legislative Analyst, the City Attorney, the Bureau of Contract Administration and the Community Development Department report to the Jobs, Business Growth and Tax Reform Committee on the Public Infrastructure Stabilization Ordinance.

PRESENTED BY: _____

JAN PERRY
Councilmember, Ninth District

SECONDED BY: _____

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