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L.A. Area Chamber, L.A./O.C. Building Trades Council Support L.A. Convention Center Expansion Project

July 2, 2024 1:53 pm

by **L.A. Area Chamber**

LOS ANGELES, CA – JULY 2, 2024 – The Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce and the Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council shared a co-written letter of support with the Los Angeles City Council to encourage action on the Los Angeles Convention Center Expansion Project.

"The Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce believes this project is a top priority for the Building Trades and the L.A. Area Chamber, underscoring our shared commitment to the city's prosperity. The modernization will generate \$1.3 billion in visitor spending and contribute \$69 million annually to the City's General Fund—vital for funding essential services and creating 4,000 high-skill, high-wage jobs that Los Angeles residents need and deserve," stated Maria S. Salinas, President and CEO of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce.

"This investment in our community's workforce is pivotal for fostering a robust local economy," said Ernesto Medrano, Executive Secretary of the Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council. "Our unions have worked with P3 entities in the past, demonstrating their effectiveness in achieving major municipal goals while minimizing taxpayer exposure."

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About The Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce

The Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce represents the interests of a broad spectrum of organizations across the private, non-profit, academic, and public sectors, including the business community, job creators, and innovators in the Los Angeles region. Our mission is to design and advance opportunities and solutions for a thriving regional economy that is inclusive and globally competitive. As the oldest and largest business association in the region, the Chamber has a long-standing history of convening business leaders, communities, and policy

makers to promote a vibrant economy. For more information visit www.lachamber.com.

About The Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council

The Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council represents 48 local unions and district councils with 150,000 skilled union members. The Council negotiates Project Labor Agreements that enable public and private developer to include union workforce standards on construction projects ranging from airports to schools to stadiums. The Council's nonprofit arm, the Apprenticeship Readiness Fund, prepares local residents from disadvantaged backgrounds to enter and thrive in union apprenticeships. For more information. visit www.laocbuildingtrades.org.



July 1, 2024

Council President Paul Krekorian
Los Angeles City Council
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Council President Krekorian and Council Members,

On behalf of the Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council and Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, we write jointly to express our unwavering support for the P3 agreement with AEG which would expand and modernize the Los Angeles Convention Center. This letter represents the unified voice of both labor and business, underscoring the importance of this project to our city's future.

The Convention Center has the potential to become a beacon for tourism, bringing significant economic benefits to Los Angeles. This project is a top priority for both the Building Trades and the business community, highlighting our shared commitment to the city's prosperity. Despite being the second-largest city in the country, Los Angeles currently ranks No. 21 in the nation for events at our Convention Center. In today's competitive environment, it is imperative that we make the investments to drive long-term success. It is estimated a modernized center will generate \$69 million to the City's General Fund annually—vital to funding much-needed services and supporting over half a million jobs.

During construction, we will generate 4,000 high-skill and high-wage jobs, including career pathway opportunities for Los Angeles residents through local hiring and apprenticeship. As we have proved with similar hiring with the City of L.A. Department of Public Works, LAUSD, LA Metro and many more entities, this investment in a community workforce is a huge driver of a healthy local economy. Projects such as the Convention Center don't benefit only visitors to Los Angeles—they strengthen the ties between the Center and city residents.

The L.A. Area Chamber and the LA/OC Building Trades urge the City Council to ensure the City will expedite processes to get this project built as soon as possible. We cannot wait any longer and need action now to ensure we are beginning construction by the end of 2024. For these reasons, we urge you to approve the P3 agreement with AEG and get this project under construction as soon as possible. Let's put Angelenos to work and avoid any slowdowns in our economy.

We look forward to the partnership with the city to advance the Los Angeles Convention Center.

Sincerely,

Ernesto Medrano,
Executive Secretary
LA/OC Counties Building & Construction Trades Council

Maria S. Salinas
President & CEO
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce