

Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council
Representing 160,000 members of 48 local unions and district councils



LA/OC BUILDING TRADES WIN CONVENTION CENTER VOTE
LA CITY COUNCIL SUPPORTS AMBITIOUS MAKEOVER WITH UNION WORKFORCE

For immediate release

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LOS ANGELES (4/10/2025)—By a 14-1 vote, the Los Angeles City Council on April 9 approved a continuing effort to make over the LA Convention Center.

The Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council strongly supports the expansion and modernization, which will be built and staffed all-union.

It will create about 8,000 construction jobs.

“The City Council is voting for working families,” said Ernesto Medrano, Council Executive Secretary. “We need to grow our economy from the ground up, with buildings and services that attract visitors to Los Angeles. The convention center, in its new form, will accomplish that.”

Medrano pointed to the Council’s Project Labor Agreement with the city as a source for a homegrown union workforce, helping local communities even more.

“Our agreement targets LA residents to enter our pipeline to union apprenticeship,” he said.

“That’s the ticket to a lifelong career with fair pay, benefits to support a family, and a pension. We need more of these union jobs in LA.”

The Building Trades join a wide spectrum of supporters in business and labor, from the LA County Federation of Labor to Hollywood Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown LA Neighborhood Council.

The City of LA owns the convention center, ranks 21st nationwide. With such a low ranking, the city is losing out on major conventions. In fact, rental rates have not risen since 2006, while neighboring cities like Anaheim and San Diego have flourishing convention businesses.

The Council specifically approved \$27.7 million to implement the “Early Works Agreement” with AEG Plenary Conventions Los Angeles, a joint venture that will oversee construction. The expansion and modernization includes a bridge over Pico Boulevard to link the center’s current

South and West Halls. The center will add 190,000 square feet of exhibit hall space, 55,000 square feet of meeting room space, and 95,000 square feet of multi-purpose space.

The City Council will next vote on future plans this summer. Construction is scheduled to start in the fall of 2025, with a pause for the 2028 Summer Olympics in LA, and completion in 2029.

“We’re ready to put shovels in the ground,” Medrano said. “Our union members carried out a similar expansion for the Anaheim Convention Center, and we’re reaping the results.”

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