

MOTION

On June 24, 2024, a fire was started in the Sepulveda Basin near one of the many homeless encampments hidden within the Basin. While working to extinguish the fire, a firefighter was hit by an exploding object which sent the firefighter to the hospital.

This is the third major fire incident in the Basin within 5 years. In 2020, a fire broke out and quickly spread to six acres, forcing the shutdown of the 405 Freeway. It took 100 firefighters to bring the blaze under control. It was not clear what caused the fire, however, once firefighters extinguished the blaze, they discovered a body in the Basin. In 2019, a brush fire consumed nearly 60 acres and increased in severity due to several propane tank explosions.

Encampment fires like these are a threat to the Sepulveda Basin, which is home to several recreational areas, a Wildlife Reserve, a water reclamation plant, and an armory.

The Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) contains various regulations affecting park and recreation areas, including the Sepulveda Basin. LAMC Section 63.44, Subsection P, designates the Sepulveda Basin Recreation Area as being in a high fire hazard zone. The subsection states that "no person shall light, ignite, set fire to, or burn any substance, or maintain an open flame of any kind for any purpose, including but not limited to cooking and barbecuing, except in areas specifically designated and posted to allow open flames." This same subsection also states that there should be signage around the area that reads "NO OPEN FLAMES BETWEEN APRIL 1 AND NOVEMBER 1."

In order to ensure that the Sepulveda Basin is protected from fires, including its recreational areas, wildlife reserve and public infrastructure, it is critical that existing regulations are abided by and enforced.

In addition to fire hazards, the Basin faces risks such as public safety concerns, hazardous waste, and flooding. Establishing a working group with relevant city, state, and federal departments would greatly benefit the region by addressing these diverse issues comprehensively.

**I THEREFORE MOVE** that the City Council instruct the Fire Department, with the assistance of the Police Department, the City Administrative Officer, the Chief Legislative Analyst and the Department of Recreation and Parks, to report within 30 days on the status of the Sepulveda Basin and the fire incident which occurred on June

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24, 2024; and how the provisions of the LAMC are being enforced in the Sepulveda Basin to ensure fire risk mitigation, along with any recommendations to improve existing procedures to address encampments at the Basin. The report should also include fire risk mitigation recommendations for all other existing factors that lead to fires in the Basin.

**I FURTHER MOVE** that the City Council direct relevant departments like LAFD, LAPD, Bureau of Engineering, LASAN, Rec and Parks, etc., to participate in a working group convened by Council District 6 and the Office of the Mayor with the goal of developing solutions to address the various issues affecting the Basin. State and federal partners that oversee the land in the Basin should also be invited to participate in the working group.

PRESENTED BY: *Imelda Padilla*  
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SECONDED BY: *Melissa Kauer*

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