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April 19, 2021

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Barbara Ferrer, Ph.D., M.P.H., M.Ed.
Director

**SUBJECT: HEALTHY DESIGN WORKGROUP ACTIVITIES IN 2020
(ITEM 7, AGENDA OF JANUARY 24, 2012)**

On January 24, 2012, your Board approved in concept the Healthy Design Ordinance, which was developed to increase levels of physical activity and access to healthy foods in Los Angeles County unincorporated areas. On that date, your Board 1) declared that the intent and policy of the County is to encourage design of public and private facilities in a manner that encourages pedestrian activity, bicycling, use of public transit and outdoor physical activities, and 2) directed the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to coordinate an interdepartmental effort to review best practices; determine which practices should be mandated or encouraged by the County; develop an implementation program; and identify potential funding mechanisms. This interdepartmental initiative became known as the Healthy Design Workgroup (HDW), bringing together County departments involved in planning, designing and building healthy, livable communities. The CEO transferred leadership of this workgroup to the Department of Public Health (Public Health) in 2013. Public Health provides annual updates to your Board on the progress of the HDW.

On February 5, 2013, your Board formally adopted the Healthy Design Ordinance, which changed existing zoning and subdivision regulations to allow community gardens and farmers' markets throughout the County and created more specific requirements for bicycle parking and sidewalk design, a critical step to increase levels of physical activity and access to healthy foods.

The COVID-19 pandemic unfortunately disrupted much of the work of the HDW in 2020, however this report provides a brief summary of the HDW's 2020 activities and accomplishments.

Major Outcomes in 2020

On August 4, 2020 your Board adopted an action plan for traffic safety titled *Vision Zero Los Angeles County: A Plan for Safer Roadways* and instructed the Directors of Public Works and Public Health to co-lead its implementation. Additionally, your Board instructed Public Works and Public Health to identify funding needs and opportunities to support the implementation of

three or more VZ pilot programs and report back in 90 days. The requested report was submitted on November 9, 2020. In 2020, Public Works commenced traffic safety enhancement scoping on Normandie Avenue, one of the pilot corridors. Public Works also applied for \$102.5 million in transportation grant funding in 2020 and was awarded another \$50.1 million to enhance traffic safety along County-maintained roadways.

To help implement Arts and Culture's Cultural Equity and Inclusion initiative, in 2018 an artist-in-residence was placed with Public Health to conduct VZ community engagement, focusing on communities highly impacted by traffic deaths and severe injuries. In early 2020, artist Clement Hanami conducted youth workshops in Westmont/West Athens, resulting in a series of artworks featuring children's photos along with messages asking adults to slow down, stop texting, and be careful when driving. The campaign was installed on billboards and bus shelters in October 2020; the five-week run generated an estimated 1.9 million impressions.

In September 2020, Public Health received a grant of \$250,000 from the state Office of Traffic Safety to partner with Public Works and the California Highway Patrol on community engagement in three unincorporated communities, Walnut Park, Westmont/West Athens, and West Whittier-Los Nietos; provide bicycle/pedestrian safety information and trainings; and run localized outdoor advertising campaigns on key VZ Collision Concentration Corridors.

In February 2020, the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) was awarded funding in the amount of \$16.4 million for four new park projects under the Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Grant Program funded by Proposition 68. The grant applications built upon collaborative planning and community engagement efforts by DPR, Public Health, Public Works and the Department of Regional Planning in unincorporated Florence-Firestone, Walnut Park, Westmont/West Athens, and West Whittier-Los Nietos.

In November 2020, the Chief Sustainability Office, in partnership with Public Health, Public Works, and DPR, received a \$1.5 million grant from CAL FIRE to fund a County Urban Forest Management Plan; the scope of work includes an unprecedented partnership with the City of Los Angeles to collaborate around shared regional issues that affect trees such as pests, drought, and fire.

The HDW and its subcommittees will continue to meet in the coming year as conditions and resources permit. If you have any questions or need additional information about any of the initiatives described above, please let me know.

BF:ja

c: Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors