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San Diego City Council Unanimously Approves Citywide Project Labor Agreement for Capital Improvement Projects

Project Labor Agreement Ban Reversed by 2022 Ballot Measure D, Championed by City

Councilmember Raul Campillo

SAN DIEGO — Today, the San Diego City Council unanimously (8-0) approved a citywide Project Labor Agreement (PLA), which will govern Capital Improvement Projects and other projects beginning July 1, 2024 and will last until June 30, 2031.

"In 2022, I spearheaded the City's move to put Measure D on the ballot because it was long past time that we got rid of San Diego's outdated ban on project labor agreements," said City Councilmember Raul Campillo. "San Diego voters approved Measure D because they understand that Project Labor Agreements help San Diego build construction projects safely, on time, on budget, and in a way that benefits our local workers and economy. I'm proud to see Measure D's vision through with today's vote."

After the passage of Ballot Measure A in 2012, the City of San Diego was banned from using Project Labor Agreements on City construction projects. During the 2022 midterm elections, City Councilmember Raul Campillo quarterbacked the move to put Measure D on the ballot, which passed with 57% of the vote and allowed the City to begin using Project Labor Agreements again.

Beginning in late 2023, City staff began negotiations with the San Diego Building Trades and Construction Council on a Project Labor Agreement for City-procured Capital Improvement Projects. Under the policy approved by the City Council today, the PLA will take effect beginning July 1, 2024 and last seven years. For the first two years, the PLA will cover projects that have a construction value of at least \$5 million, and beginning July 1, 2026, the PLA will extend to projects with a construction value of \$1 million or more. Additionally, the PLA will apply to additional construction projects "that are not procured by the City, but which are enumerated in the PLA."

The new Project Labor Agreement will govern applicable City construction projects by requiring that "a significant portion of journeypersons and apprentices have graduated from an approved apprenticeship program," that "all non-union contractors pay benefit contributions for all core employees and any other persons employed other than through the referral process," "establishes employment goals focused on Local Workers and Targeted Workers," and more. Additionally, the PLA "mandates no work stoppages due to labor strikes."

For more information on the new Project Labor Agreement, view the staff report here, the PowerPoint presentation from City staff here, and the full text of the Project Labor Agreement here.

About Councilmember Raul Campillo

Councilmember Raul Campillo proudly represents the Seventh Council District of the City of San Diego and serves as the Chair of the Economic Development & Intergovernmental Relations Committee.

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