

November 5, 2025

Supervisor Kathryn Barger, Chair
Supervisor Hilda Solis
Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell
Supervisor Lindsay P. Horvath
Supervisor Janice Hagn
500 W. Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Subject: Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration

Dear Honorable L.A County Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to you today as an experienced professional structural engineer to respectfully urge the Board of Supervisors to halt the current seismic retrofit design scheme or potential demolition of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration.

My name is David Funk, S.E., and I am the Principal of Laib Funk + Associates, an Engineering firm with extensive experience in rehabilitation and adaptive reuse of existing and historic buildings in Los Angeles. I have been a local leader in this specific field for over 22 years and currently serve on the SEAOSC Board of Directors, where I advocate for safe, efficient, and community-minded implementation related to structural safety and performance standards. My firm has been honored with multiple SEAOSC Awards for our adaptive reuse expertise, and I have been nationally recognized as a co-author of the ICC published Non-Ductile Concrete Design Guide, and my decades of contributions to the field by working on dozens of successful adaptive reuse projects in Los Angeles. It is from this vantage point of specialized experience in retrofit projects in civic environments, that I offer my perspective on the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration demolition effort.

I understand the Board is currently facing a reported total upgrade cost that is out of control, including an estimated \$700 million for the seismic retrofit alone. Based on extensive experience with comparable large-scale retrofits, it is my professional belief that this seismic retrofit scheme estimate does not appear to be appropriate for this building and is the root cause of such high costs.

Base isolation seismic retrofit scheme is commonly the most expensive technical approach to retrofits and is rarely used except for the very few structures in the area that need immediate occupancy after a major earthquake, such as a hospital, or City Hall. My firm's portfolio shows that successful, code-compliant seismic retrofits for complex structures in Los Angeles range from \$15 to

\$120 per square foot. In fact, one of our current projects, 1055 W. 7th Street is a high-rise steel building, and was signed off by LADBS for adaptive reuse with ZERO seismic upgrade needed. We utilized state-of-the-art non-linear analysis to reuse the existing structure to its full potential. The estimated \$700 per square foot figure for the Hall of Administration requires technical validation against less costly alternatives.

I am confident that a thorough review will demonstrate that there are many alternative solutions, which would significantly reduce the construction cost for a seismic retrofit, upgrade and save the building from demolition and create a more vibrant and thriving Civic Center.

Sincerely,

Labib Funk + Associates



David Funk, S.E.,
Principal