FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## COUNCILMEMBER ALEX PADILLA DIRECTS CITY OF LOS ANGELES TO AID MEXICO IN AFTERMATH OF OAXACA QUAKE

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City to study quake to improve its own disaster preparedness efforts

**LOS ANGELES** B Councilmember Alex Padilla introduced a motion unanimously approved by the City Council directing that the Los Angeles City Chief Administrative Officer and City departments involved in disaster preparedness respond to the 7.5 magnitude earthquake of September 30, 1999 in the Mexican state of Oaxaca.

AThe City of Los Angeles will be sending its top emergency experts to Oaxaca to assist ongoing efforts by the Red Cross and other agencies to help the people of Mexico to recover from this natural disaster, acid Councilmember Padilla. AI also have asked the City to study and observe the Oaxaca earthquake in order to improve our own disaster preparedness efforts here in Los Angeles. Since we live in an earthquake-prone environment, public safety is of the highest concern.

Thursday=s earthquake, located 280 miles south of Mexico City and the largest in Mexico since 1985, killed 15 people as buildings collapsed on victims. The Mexican government has reported hundreds of homes destroyed, and at least 20 people have been hospitalized with quake-related injuries.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Council District serves the communities of Arleta, Mission Hills, North Hills, North Hollywood, Pacoima, Panorama City, Sun Valley, Sylmar, and Van Nuys.

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