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## **ALARCÓN INTRODUCES MOTION TO CREATE JOBS FOR THOSE DISPLACED BY RECENT WILDFIRES, JOBS WILL BE TO CLEAN-UP AND REPAIR AREAS AFFECTED BY THE SAYRE FIRE**

**Los Angeles, CA** – Today, Los Angeles City Councilmember Richard Alarcón introduced a motion instructing the City of Los Angeles to immediately accept state funding that will be used to create temporary jobs for workers who have been displaced by the 2008 wildfires. The jobs will be overseen by the Los Angeles Conservation Corps, and the jobs created will be to assist in the cleanup and repair of areas damaged by the Sayre Fire. Additional jobs will also be available for other dislocated workers or those who are “long term unemployed,” meaning they have been unemployed for five of the last twenty-six weeks. Approximately 50 temporary jobs (6 month length) are expected to be created from this funding.

“Local residents have not only been devastated by wildfires, they have also been devastated by the current economic crisis, and it’s critical that we help them get back to work and back to being able to provide for their families,” said Councilmember Alarcón. “This funding is a win-win – local residents will receive good jobs and our local community will receive the benefit of community beautification of the areas damaged by the fires.”

The funding for this program is from a \$766,075 grant National emergency Grant Workforce Investment Act funds from the State of California’s Employment Development Department. The city has previously received funding for post-disaster job creation. In November of 2007, the City Council approved the receipt of an initial allocation of \$770,460 from the same funding source, which enabled the City to partner with the County of Los Angeles Workforce Investment area for cleanup and restoration of areas affected by the 2007 wildfires. A second allocation of \$400,000 was later received to continue the mitigation efforts. The City’s Workforce Development System service providers served as employers of record for this program. On November of 2008, a third allocation for phase one was a grand of \$432,814. The grant that Councilmember Alarcon is calling on the city to accept is a new, separate grant of funds and is not part of the “phase one” funding.

Councilmember Alarcón has been a strong advocate for the residents who were affected by both the Marek and Sayre Fires. He previously created a \$100,000 Relief Fund for families who lost their homes (monies from this fund are currently being distributed to the affected families), hosted a holiday event with over 500 people in attendance and received donations from over \$60,000 worth of toys, food, clothing and other items and worked with the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) action to allocate \$500,000 for Sayre Fire victim assistance. He was instrumental in having the City of Los Angeles take over the debris removal process from the Oakridge Park area and has worked to expedite the clean-up and ensure Federal funding for the process.