

MTA Executive Management Committee
March 20, 2014

MOTION

DIRECTOR ANTONOVICH

In the past, California was the leader in entertainment production, aerospace manufacturing, and agricultural production. However, as a result of California's excessive regulations, high taxes, and erroneous water policies, other states have successfully lured film and television production and aerospace companies from California and the Central Valley has become a dust bowl.

In the last decade, Southern California has lost more than \$3 billion in entertainment production wages and the employment rate in the entertainment industry has dropped from 152,525 to 136,380. Feature filming has dropped 50% from its peak in 1996 and television documentaries are down 39% from their peak in 2008. In 1997, every big-budget film but one was filmed at least partially in Los Angeles County -- in 2013, only two movies with production budgets higher than \$100 million filmed here at one time.

According to the Wall Street Journal, since 1996, the number of feature-film and documentary film production days in Los Angeles has dropped by roughly 65% while the number of movies shot in Georgia has steadily increased. Georgia and other states including Massachusetts, Louisiana, New York and North Carolina are successfully poaching production away from California by offering generous incentives.

To keep existing and re-attract fleeting filming back to California and Los Angeles County we must expand our filming incentives to include a tight re-evaluation of our County run and independently run agencies to ensure that our policies are parallel to our goals. As an example, MTA policy currently requires that any film production on the MTA system have all of the actors in a scene and production crews filming that scene take a three-hour safety training which is only offered on Monday-- a cost impact to that production that can be upwards hundreds of thousands of dollars. While safety is of the utmost importance it may be maintained through less cumbersome means such MTA providing an onsite safety expert to train key production members (i.e. Directors and Assistant Directors).

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE MTA BOARD direct the CEO to:

1. Develop a comprehensive policy for Board consideration in 30 days to allow MTA to keep and attract filming in Los Angeles County
2. Report back to the Board in 30 days with the following:
 - a. An assessment and reporting of the MTA's current policies and procedures to facilitate and assist producers who are filming on MTA owned and/or controlled property;
 - b. An evaluation of MTA's current contract with Hollywood Locations with a review of their performance and a side-by-side comparison on how this contract differs from other County used filming facilitators such as Film LA and;
 - c. A reassessment of the requisite MTA provided safety training as to reduce training times and scope of who must be trained while not compromising safety.