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Attention: Ms. Ellen Portier

Ice Miller LLP
 250 West Street, Suite 700
 Columbus, OH 43215

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**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
 FOR THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
 OF THE COUNTY OF MECKLENBURG, NORTH CAROLINA
 WITH RESPECT TO EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES REVENUE BONDS
 (Telra Institute Project)
 TO BE ISSUED BY THE PUBLIC FINANCE AUTHORITY
 IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED
 \$35,000,000**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on January 22, 2025, a public hearing, as required by Section 147(f) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), will be held by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mecklenburg, North Carolina (the "Board") with respect to the proposed issuance by the Public Finance Authority (the "Authority"), a commission organized under and pursuant to the provisions of Sections 66.0301, 66.0303 and 66.0304 of the Wisconsin Statutes, as amended, of its Educational Facilities Revenue Bonds (Telra Institute Project), to be issued as qualified 501(c)(3) bonds under Section 145 of the Code in one or more series, issuances, or advances from time to time pursuant to a plan of finance (the "Bonds"), in an amount not to exceed \$35,000,000, the interest on which will be excludible from gross income for federal income tax purposes. The hearing will commence at 6:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, and will be held in the Board's Meeting Room, 600 East 4th Street, Charlotte, North Carolina 28202.

The Bonds are expected to be issued pursuant to Section 66.0304 of the Wisconsin Statutes, as amended, and the proceeds from the sale of the Bonds will be loaned to Telra Supporting Organization, Inc. (the "Borrower"), a North Carolina nonprofit corporation and an organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Code, for the purpose of:

- (a) refinancing of all of the Authority's outstanding Educational Facilities Revenue Bonds (Telra Institute Project) Series 2021A, originally issued in the aggregate principal amount of up to \$14,820,000, the proceeds of which, together with the proceeds of the Authority's Taxable Educational Facilities Revenue Bonds (Telra Institute Project) Series 2021B (collectively, the "Series 2021 Bonds"), originally issued in the aggregate principal amount of \$525,000, were used to (i) finance and refinance the acquisition, construction, renovation, improvement, and equipping of certain charter educational facilities of Telra Institute, Inc. (the "Corporation"), a North Carolina nonprofit corporation and an organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Code, and the Borrower located at 4150 McKee Road in Charlotte, Mecklenburg County, North Carolina 28270 (the "Series 2021 Facilities"); (ii) pay capitalized interest on the Series 2021 Bonds; and (iii) pay all or a portion of the costs of issuance of the Series 2021 Bonds;
- (b) refinancing of all of the Authority's outstanding Educational Facilities Revenue Bonds (Telra Institute Project) Series 2022A, originally issued in the aggregate principal amount of \$3,915,000, the proceeds of which, together with the proceeds of the Authority's Taxable Educational Facilities Revenue Bonds (Telra Institute Project) Series 2022B, originally issued in the aggregate principal amount of \$245,000 (collectively, the "Series 2022 Bonds"), were used to (i) finance the construction, renovation, improvement, and equipping of the Series 2021 Facilities, including the construction of traffic-related improvements adjacent to the Series 2021 Facilities and the renovation and build-out of third floor of classrooms at the Series 2021 Facilities (the "Series 2022 Facilities" and together with the Series 2021 Facilities, the "Existing Facilities"); (ii) pay capitalized interest on the Series 2022A Bonds; and (iii) pay all or a portion of the costs of issuance of the Series 2022 Bonds;
- (c) financing or refinancing, including through reimbursement, the acquisition, construction, renovation, improvement, and equipping of certain land and charter educational facilities to be located on approximately 3.9 acres at 3130 and 3116 Campus Ridge Road, Matthews, North Carolina, 28105 (the "Series 2025 Facilities" and together with the Existing Facilities, the "Facilities"), including the construction of an approximately 18,000 square foot high school facility;
- (d) funding a debt service reserve fund for the Bonds, if deemed necessary or desirable;
- (e) paying capitalized interest on the Bonds, if deemed necessary or desirable; and
- (f) paying all or a portion of the costs of issuance of the Bonds (collectively, the "Project").

Not to exceed \$23,000,000 of the proceeds of the Bonds are expected to be allocated to the Existing Facilities and not to exceed \$12,000,000 of the proceeds of the Bonds are expected to be allocated to the Series 2025 Facilities. The Borrower will ground lease the site on which the Existing Facilities are located, own the site on which the Series 2025 Facilities will be located, own the Facilities, and sublease or lease the Facilities to the Corporation, which will be the principal user thereof, for the operation of the charter school known as "Telra Institute." The Facilities are located entirely within the State of North Carolina.

The Bonds will be special limited obligations of the Authority payable only from the loan repayments to be made by the Borrower to the Authority, and certain funds and accounts established by the bond indenture for the Bonds.

The public hearing will provide an opportunity for all interested persons to express their views, both orally and in writing, on the proposed issuance of the Bonds and the financing and refinancing of the Project. Any person interested in the issuance of the Bonds may appear and be heard or submit written comments. Any person wishing to submit written comments regarding the proposed issuance of the Bonds, the financing and refinancing of the Project or any matter related thereto should do so within 7 days after the date of publication of this notice by mailing said written comments to the Board of Commissioners, c/o the Clerk to the Board of Commissioners of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, 600 East Fourth Street, 11th floor, Charlotte, North Carolina 28202. This notice is given pursuant to the provisions of Section 147(f) of the Code and Section 66.0304(11)(a) of the Wisconsin Statutes and Section 4 of the Amended and Restated Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement Relating to the Authority. Additional information concerning the Project may be obtained from Benjamin R. Kitto, 250 West Street, Suite 700, Columbus, Ohio 43215; Phone (614) 462-1056; Email Address: ben.kitto@icemiller.com. The Board does not discriminate upon the basis of any individual's disability status. This non-discrimination policy involves every aspect of the Board's functions, including one's access to and participation in public hearings. Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation for this meeting and/or needing this information in an alternative format because of a disability as provided for in the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact the Clerk to the Board by phone at (980) 314-2912, or by fax at (704) 336-5887, or by e-mail at Kristine.Smith@mecklenburgcountync.gov.

Dated: January 15, 2025

/s/ Kristine Smith

Clerk to the Board of Commissioners of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina

IPL0211124

Jan 15 2025

North Carolina } ss
 Mecklenburg County }

Before the undersigned, a Notary Public of said County and State, duly authorized to administer oaths affirmations, etc., personally appeared, being duly sworn or affirmed according to law, doth depose and say that he/she is a representative of The Charlotte Observer Publishing Company, a corporation organized and doing business under the laws of the State of Delaware, and publishing a newspaper known as The Charlotte Observer in the city of Charlotte, County of Mecklenburg, and State of North Carolina and that as such he/she is familiar with the books, records, files, and business of said Corporation and by reference to the files of said publication, the attached advertisement was inserted. The following is correctly copied from the books and files of the aforesaid Corporation and Publication.

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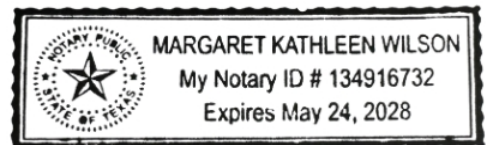
01/15/25

Tara Pennington

In Testimony Whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal on the 15th day of January, 2025

Margaret K. Wilson

Notary Public in and for the state of Texas, residing in Dallas County



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Palisades Fire reignites debate over value of clearing brush

BY ALEX WIGGLESWORTH
Los Angeles Times

The allegations flew as fast as the flames. The Palisades Fire raging through the coastal mountains of Los Angeles, rich and powerful critics said, wouldn't have been quite so devastating had authorities done a better job of clearing hillside brush.

"We knew the winds were coming. We knew that there was brush that needed to be cleared 20 years ago," Rick Caruso, the developer and former Los Angeles mayoral candidate, told *The Times*. "This fire could have been mitigated — maybe not prevented."

Elon Musk wrote on X that the "biggest factor, in my opinion, is that crazy environmental regulations prevent building firebreaks and clearing brush near houses." And actress-producer Sara Foster chimed in with an X post saying, "Our vegetation was overgrown, brush not cleared."

Did these and other second-guessers have a point? Scientists, wildfire specialists and firefighting officials had differing viewpoints. But several of these experts — including strong proponents of brush clearance — said that the winds fanning the flames were so fierce, and ground conditions so dry, that clearing more shrubs



BRIAN VAN DER BRUG Los Angeles Times/TNS

A home is consumed by flames from the Palisades fire, which ignited on Jan. 7 amid hurricane-force winds, with gusts of up to 100 mph recorded in some areas.

wouldn't have had a significant effect.

"All of the brush clearance, fuel breaks — they're very effective on what we would consider a normal day," said Chief Brian Fennessy of the Orange County Fire Authority. "But what you're talking about here is probably less than 1% of all the fires that we respond to in Southern California."

The Palisades Fire ignited on Jan. 7 amid hurricane-force winds, with gusts of up to 100 mph recorded in some areas.

"You could have put a 10-lane freeway in front of that fire and it would not have slowed it one bit," Fennessy said.

Vegetation management efforts are typically most effective when firefighters are able to take advantage of the reduced fire intensity they provide to snuff out flames.

In this case, Fennessy said, fire was blowing sideways from house to house, with the structures themselves serving as fuel. The winds grounded firefighting aircraft. And firefighters on the ground were focused on getting people out of the path of the fast-moving inferno as it burned deeply into communities.

Several experts noted that the intense gusts lofted embers miles from the fire front, essentially spreading flames through the air — not by brush. They also pointed out that landscape-level fuel reduction, in which brush is cut back over large swaths of land, is controversial in Southern California's sensitive coastal ecosystems.

In the forests of Northern California and the Sierra Nevada, large blazes are often stoked by a buildup of trees and brush that accumulated due to decades of fire suppression. Removing some of that vegetation can help make those forests both more fire-resilient and healthier, since an abundance of plants competing for finite resources makes the ecosystem more sensitive to drought, said Patrick T. Brown, co-director of the climate and energy team at the Breakthrough Institute, an environmental think tank.

Modeling by the nonprofit suggests that clearing brush — and thus eliminating fuel — can reduce the intensity of wildfires in the Los Angeles Basin even during extreme weather, Brown said, although it's not likely to have prevented the kind of destruction Pacific Palisades is experiencing now.

At the same time, he said, unlike in forested areas, fuel reduction in the region's chaparral shrublands risks harming the ecosystem rather than making it healthier.

That's because the Santa Monica mountains, Malibu canyons and other wildland areas near coastal Los Angeles generally burn too frequently, said Alexandra Syphard, senior research ecologist at the nonprofit Conservation Biology Institute and adjunct professor at San Diego State

University.

That's caused native evergreen chaparral shrubs, which take several years to mature and make new seeds, to be replaced by invasive annual grasses that die in the early summer and catch fire more easily, said Helen Holmlund, a biology professor at Pepperdine University.

"That promotes more frequent fires which, in turn, leads to more loss of chaparral shrubs and more invasive species," she said.

Large-scale attempts to preemptively thin or burn these coastal areas could therefore actually make the landscape more flammable in the long run, said Max Moritz, a cooperative extension wildfire specialist at UC Santa Barbara.

"Those are trade-offs that, as a society, you have to think about if they're worthwhile," Moritz said.

Given the weather conditions, Moritz is skeptical that more landscape-level brush clearance would have done much to slow the fire's initial spread. He also noted that landscape-level brush management is distinct from brush clearance around individual homes, which is typically the responsibility of the property owner and can help give firefighters opportunities to protect structures.

Still, Joe Ten Eyck, who coordinates wildfire and urban interface programs for the International Assn. of Firefighters, said extreme weather conditions can make brush clearance even more important.

"The more we take away the fuel for a fire to burn, the more we're going to lessen the risk and make

individual residences and communities resilient," said Ten Eyck, who is also a retired operations chief with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

In fact, the Getty Villa credited its pruned landscaping and irrigated grounds with helping to save the museum's structures from the Palisades fire.

Ventura County fire officials also said that residents' compliance with a strictly enforced county ordinance requiring 100 feet of brush clearance around buildings, as well as other fire-resistant construction features, helped firefighters defend homes from the Kenneth Fire that spread through the West Hills area on Jan. 9.

Los Angeles has similar rules for homes in fire-prone areas, although Fire Chief Kristin Crowley wrote in a Dec. 4 memo to the Board of Fire Commissioners that a \$7-million reduction in overtime funding had hindered her department's ability to carry out inspections ensuring residents were complying, among other tasks.

But even those efforts can only help so much during the most extreme events, said Jason Moghaddas, fire ecologist and registered professional forester for think tank Spatial Informatics Group, and his colleague, Carrie Levine, co-lead of the group's forest and agriculture domain.

Times staff writers Matt Hamilton and David Zahner contributed to this report.



PRADEEP GAUR SOPA Images/Sipa USA

People climb atop a water tanker with pipes trying to fill their plastic container at Sanjay Camp in Chanakyapuri, New Delhi, India, in June amid a heat wave.

2024 brought global heat to a dangerous threshold. Now what?

BY RAYMOND ZHONG AND BRAD PLUMER
NYT News Service

At the stroke of midnight on Dec. 31, Earth finished up its hottest year in recorded history, scientists said. The previous hottest year was 2023. And the next one will be upon us before long: By continuing to burn huge amounts of coal, oil and gas, humankind has all but guaranteed it.

The planet's record-high average temperature last year reflected the week-long, 104-degree Fahrenheit spring heat waves that shuttered schools in Bangladesh and India. It reflected the effects of the bathtub-warm ocean waters that supercharged hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico and cyclones in the Philippines. And it reflected the roasting summer and fall conditions that primed Los Angeles this month for the most destructive wildfires in its history.

"We are facing a very new climate and new challenges, challenges that our society is not prepared for," said Carlo Buontempo, director of the Copernicus Climate Change Service, the European Union monitoring agency.

But even within this progression of warmer years and ever-intensifying risks to homes, communities and the environment, 2024 stood out in another unwelcome

way. According to the World Meteorological Organization, it was the first year in which global temperatures averaged more than 1.5 degrees Celsius, or 2.7 degrees Fahrenheit, above those the planet experienced at the start of the industrial age.

For the past decade, the world has sought to avoid crossing this dangerous threshold. Nations enshrined the goal in the 2015 Paris Agreement to fight climate change. "Keep 1.5 alive" was the mantra at United Nations summits.

Yet here we are. Global temperatures will fluctuate somewhat, as they always do, which is why scientists often look at warming averaged over longer periods, not just a single year.

But even by that standard, staying below 1.5 degrees looks increasingly unattainable, according to researchers who have run the numbers. Globally, despite hundreds of billions of dollars invested in clean-energy technologies, carbon dioxide emissions hit a record in 2024 and show no signs of dropping.

One recent study published in the journal *Nature* concluded that the absolute best humanity could now hope for is around 1.6 degrees of warming. To achieve it, nations would need to start slashing emissions at a pace that would strain political, social and eco-

nomically feasible.

"It was guaranteed we'd get to this point where the gap between reality and the trajectory we needed for 1.5 degrees was so big it was ridiculous," said David Victor, a professor of public policy at the University of California, San Diego.

The question now is what, if anything, should replace 1.5 as a lodestar for nations' climate aspirations.

"These top-level goals are at best a compass," Victor said. "They're a reminder that if we don't do more, we're in for significant climate impacts."

(Because of variations in data sources and calculation methods, different scientific agencies independently arrived at slightly different estimates of last year's warming. NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said it was just under 1.5 degrees Celsius; Copernicus and the U.K. Met Office said it was just above. By combining these and other estimates, the World Meteorological Organization concluded that warming was 1.55 degrees. All of the agencies are in firm agreement about the long-term rise in temperature, and the fact that no year on record has been warmer than 2024.)

The 1.5-degree threshold was never the difference between safety and ruin, between hope and despair. It was a number negotiated by governments trying to answer a big question: What's the highest global temperature increase — and the associated level of dangers, whether heat waves or wildfires or melting glaciers — that our societies should strive to avoid?

The result, as codified in the Paris Agreement, was that nations would aspire to hold warming to "well below" 2 degrees Celsius while "pursuing efforts" to limit it to 1.5 degrees.

Even at the time, some experts called the latter goal unrealistic, because it required such deep and rapid emissions cuts. Still, the United States, the European Union and other governments adopted it as a guidepost for climate policy.

Christoph Bertram, an associate research professor at the University of Maryland's Center for Global Sustainability, said the urgency of the 1.5 target spurred companies of all kinds — automakers, cement manufacturers, electric utilities — to start thinking hard about what it would mean to zero out their emissions by mid-century. "I do think that

has led to some serious action," Bertram said.

But the high aspiration of the 1.5 target also exposed deep fault lines among nations.

China and India never backed the goal, since it required them to curb their use of coal, gas and oil at a pace they said would hamstring their development. Rich countries that were struggling

to cut their own emissions began choking off funding in the developing world for fossil-fuel projects that were economically beneficial. Some low-income countries felt it was deeply unfair to ask them to sacrifice for the climate given that it was wealthy nations — and not them — that had produced most of the greenhouse gases now warming the world.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF MECKLENBURG, NORTH CAROLINA WITH RESPECT TO EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES REVENUE BONDS (Telra Institute Project) TO BE ISSUED BY THE PUBLIC FINANCE AUTHORITY IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$35,000,000

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on January 22, 2025, a public hearing, as required by Section 147(f) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), will be held by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mecklenburg, North Carolina (the "Board") with respect to the proposed issuance by the Public Finance Authority (the "Authority"), a commission organized under and pursuant to the provisions of Sections 66.0301, 66.0303 and 66.0304 of the Wisconsin Statutes, as amended, of its Educational Facilities Revenue Bonds (Telra Institute Project), to be issued as qualified 501(c)(3) bonds under Section 145 of the Code in one or more series, issuances, or advances from time to time pursuant to a plan of finance (the "Bonds"), in an amount not to exceed \$35,000,000, the interest on which will be excludable from gross income for federal income tax purposes. The hearing will commence at 6:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, and will be held in the Board's Meeting Room, 600 East 4th Street, Charlotte, North Carolina 28202. The Bonds are expected to be issued pursuant to Section 66.0304 of the Wisconsin Statutes, as amended, and the proceeds from the sale of the Bonds will be loaned to Telra Supporting Organization, Inc. (the "Borrower"), a North Carolina nonprofit corporation and an organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Code, for the purpose of:

(a) refinancing of all of the Authority's outstanding Educational Facilities Revenue Bonds (Telra Institute Project) Series 2021A, originally issued in the aggregate principal amount of up to \$14,820,000, the proceeds of which, together with the proceeds of the Authority's Taxable Educational Facilities Revenue Bonds (Telra Institute Project) Series 2021B (collectively, the "Series 2021 Bonds"), originally issued in the aggregate principal amount of \$525,000, were used to (i) finance and refinance the acquisition, construction, renovation, improvement, and equipping of certain charter educational facilities of Telra Institute, Inc. (the "Corporation"), a North Carolina nonprofit corporation and an organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Code, and the Borrower located at 4150 McKee Road in Charlotte, Mecklenburg County, North Carolina 28270 (the "Series 2021 Facilities"); (ii) pay capitalized interest on the Series 2021 Bonds; and (iii) pay all or a portion of the costs of issuance of the Series 2021 Bonds;

(b) refinancing of all of the Authority's outstanding Educational Facilities Revenue Bonds (Telra Institute Project) Series 2022A, originally issued in the aggregate principal amount of \$3,915,000, the proceeds of which, together with the proceeds of the Authority's Taxable Educational Facilities Revenue Bonds (Telra Institute Project) Series 2022B, originally issued in the aggregate principal amount of \$245,000 (collectively, the "Series 2022 Bonds"), were used to (i) finance the construction, renovation, improvement, and equipping of the Series 2021 Facilities, including the construction of traffic-related improvements adjacent to the Series 2021 Facilities and the renovation and build-out of third floor of classrooms at the Series 2021 Facilities (the "Series 2022 Facilities" and together with the Series 2021 Facilities, the "Existing Facilities"); (ii) pay capitalized interest on the Series 2022A Bonds; and (iii) pay all or a portion of the costs of issuance of the Series 2022 Bonds;

(c) financing or refinancing, including through reimbursement, the acquisition, construction, renovation, improvement, and equipping of certain land and charter educational facilities to be located on approximately 3.9 acres at 3130 and 3116 Campus Ridge Road, Matthews, North Carolina, 28105 (the "Series 2025 Facilities" and together with the Existing Facilities, the "Facilities"), including the construction of an approximately 18,000 square foot high school facility;

(d) funding a debt service reserve fund for the Bonds, if deemed necessary or desirable;

(e) paying capitalized interest on the Bonds, if deemed necessary or desirable; and

(f) paying all or a portion of the costs of issuance of the Bonds (collectively, the "Project").

Not to exceed \$23,000,000 of the proceeds of the Bonds are expected to be allocated to the Existing Facilities and not to exceed \$12,000,000 of the proceeds of the Bonds are expected to be allocated to the Series 2025 Facilities. The Borrower will ground lease the site on which the Existing Facilities are located, own the site on which the Series 2025 Facilities will be located, own the Facilities, and sublease or lease the Facilities to the Corporation, which will be the principal user thereof, for the operation of the charter school known as "Telra Institute." The Facilities are located entirely within the State of North Carolina.

The Bonds will be special limited obligations of the Authority payable only from the loan repayments to be made by the Borrower to the Authority, and certain funds and accounts established by the bond indenture for the Bonds.

The public hearing will provide an opportunity for all interested persons to express their views, both orally and in writing, on the proposed issuance of the Bonds and the financing and refinancing of the Project. Any person interested in the issuance of the Bonds may appear and be heard or submit written comments. Any person wishing to submit written comments regarding the proposed issuance of the Bonds, the financing and refinancing of the Project or any matter related thereto should do so within 7 days after the date of publication of this notice by mailing said written comments to the Board of Commissioners, c/o the Clerk to the Board of Commissioners of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, 600 East Fourth Street, 11th floor, Charlotte, North Carolina 28202. This notice is given pursuant to the provisions of Section 147(f) of the Code and Section 66.0304(11)(a) of the Wisconsin Statutes and Section 4 of the Amended and Restated Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement Relating to the Authority. Additional information concerning the Project may be obtained from Benjamin R. Kitto, 250 West Street, Suite 700, Columbus, Ohio 43215; Phone (614) 462-1056; Email Address: ben.kitto@icemiller.com. The Board does not discriminate upon the basis of any individual's disability status. This non-discrimination policy involves every aspect of the Board's functions, including one's access to and participation in public hearings. Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation for this meeting and/or needing this information in an alternative format because of a disability as provided for in the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact the Clerk to the Board by phone at (980) 314-2912, or by fax at (704) 336-5887, or by e-mail at Kristine.Smith@mecklenburgcountync.gov.

Dated: January 15, 2025
/s/ Kristine Smith
Clerk to the Board of Commissioners of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina
IPL0211124
Jan 15 2025