

# SAFE, CLEAN WATER PROGRAM

## Stakeholder Advisory Committee

### Meeting Summary: November 8, 2017

#### 1. Meeting in Brief

This was the kickoff meeting of the Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) process for the Safe, Clean Water Program. The objectives of the meeting were to:

- Provide an overview of the SAC's purpose and roles;
- Provide context for Stormwater Funding Measure development;
- Share the program's purpose and process; and
- Receive stakeholder input on the above.

The meeting was attended by SAC delegates and alternates, members of the public, and the County team (including County staff and consultants). Supervisor Kuehl came to the meeting to thank attendees for their time and participation in this process.

Stakeholders asked for additional information on the stormwater system and the relationship of this program to other County plans and programs. Input was offered on a range of topics, including:

- Economic benefits of the program;
- The identification of specific projects, project types, and criteria in the Measure;
- Public outreach;
- Legal considerations:
- Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) involvement; and
- Funding sources and needs.

#### 2. Action Items

**ACTION ITEM:** The County team will distribute an expanded draft Charter to the SAC and will seek comments on the draft at the next meeting.

**ACTION ITEM:** The County team will provide a map of regional stormwater facilities, indicating which are addressed in the basin plan.

**ACTION ITEM:** The County team will revisit the potential for RWQCB participation on the SAC.

**ACTION ITEM:** The County team will consider a request to hold the next meeting on December 12 or December 14, rather than December 13.

**ACTION ITEM: The County team will consider shifting the time of future meetings earlier and the possibility of expanding the length of the meetings.**

## Supervisor Kuehl's Remarks

Supervisor Kuehl thanked attendees for participating in this important effort to help create a comprehensive multi-benefit stormwater program. She recognized and expressed her appreciation for their commitment of time to this process. The County needs to hear and incorporate stakeholders' input early in the process in order to develop a successful plan. It is initiating this effort by collecting participants' thoughts on how to plan water policy programs and projects in the region and will continue to incorporate many important voices into the Stormwater Funding Measure.

Stormwater is a regional issue that does not stop at jurisdictional boundaries. As such, the County is taking the lead on bringing parties together. The plan must reflect a regional approach but also must work within individual cities. Supervisor Kuehl expressed her excitement about the start of this process and her confidence about its success given the people who are on the team and the SAC. She emphasized her appreciation for participants' willingness to sit around the same table and encouraged them to listen to each other, think locally and globally (regionally), and enjoy the process.

## 3. Public Comments

- Eric Wolf, San Gabriel Council of Governments (COG): Work on defining an appropriate definition of a regional project. The definition used for EWMPs and high-cost projects may not maximize stormwater capture.
- Richard Watson, Richard Watson & Associates, Inc.:
  - Agrees there is a need to develop an appropriate definition of regional projects. The County may want to consider defining regional projects as including both large scale and watershed scale projects.
  - Leveraging must be an important element for this program.
  - Consider source control to save money in the long run.
  - Supports the inclusion of project types as this will provide flexibility and would allow for potential future project phases.
- Alex Paxton, Water Foundation:
  - One of the reasons this program is important is that it could generate one of the few sources of money to pay for maintenance and operation of stormwater facilities. Think about how to identify and educate the public about this funding, which is needed to make projects successful.

## 4. Next Steps

SAC participants are welcome to send any additional questions to Ms. Friedman-Johnson.

The County team plans to conduct one-on-one conversations with SAC participants.

SAC participants are encouraged to inform others who may be interested in this process.

The website for this effort is: [www.safecleanwaterla.org](http://www.safecleanwaterla.org) (or <https://dpw.lacounty.gov/lacfd/scwp/>).

Materials to be reviewed before the next meeting will be sent the SAC one week in advance of the next meeting.

**The next meeting is scheduled for December 13, 2017 from 1:00 – 3:00pm at La Plaza de Cultura y Artes, 501 N. Main St, Los Angeles.**