



Pacoima Beautiful

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION . LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT & ADVOCACY

May 03, 2018

TO: Hon. Sheila Kuehl, Chair, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Hon. Janice Hahn, Chair Pro Tem, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Hon. Hilda L. Solis, Supervisor, First District, Los Angeles County
Hon. Mark Ridley-Thomas, Supervisor, Second District, Los Angeles County
Hon. Kathryn Barger, Supervisor, Fifth District, Los Angeles County
Mark Pestrella, Director of Public Works, Los Angeles County

RE: Safe, Clean Water Program

Dear Supervisor Kuehl,

Pacoima Beautiful (PB) is the only environmental health and justice non-profit organization in the Northeast San Fernando Valley in the City of Los Angeles. PB is resident-driven and community-based. It was founded in 1996 as a beautification effort by five local mothers. It has developed into an organization that reaches and engages community members through community driven action research, youth led environmental service learning projects, and effective public policy reforms that collectively address local environmental health hazards.

Pacoima Beautiful believes that equity should be a fundamental pillar of any policy that will affect the quality of life of communities in particularly low-income communities. We know that historically, the needs of low-income communities have not been taking into account and as a result, low-income communities now face higher rates of environmental health hazards such as run-off pollution from the wide array of industries located in the communities of Pacoima and Sun Valley. Low-income communities also lack access to park space and face constant flooding during storms, which are issues that can be solved by funding nature-based projects.

We write to strongly encourage the Safe, Clean Water Program to prioritize distributed and neighborhood scale, nature-based solutions to capture, infiltrate, treat and use stormwater and dry-weather runoff. Such projects and programs can help achieve a more sustainable and equitable water future for all communities in Los Angeles County.

Safeguarding public health is our top priority and that is why we are committed to advancing a regional water resilience plan that mitigates against extreme weather variability, increased drought, flood risk and urban heat. We support a plan that reduces trash and pollution in our waterways, beaches and habitat throughout the Los Angeles region.

Funding for projects should be distributed in a manner that promotes equity for underserved communities and mitigates displacement. Furthermore, our hope is to work closely with county and local agencies to increase environmental awareness programs that encourage and train community members to participate and promote greater watershed stewardship.

We appreciate the County of Los Angeles' strong commitment to achieving a safe and clean water future for all residents. We stand ready to work with you on providing input on the Safe, Clean Water

Program and to assist with outreach to communities and leaders throughout Los Angeles County.

Sincerely,

Felipe Escobar
Community Organizer
Pacoima Beautiful

CC: Safe, Clean Water Program Stakeholder Advisory Committee
Leslie Friedman Johnson, Conservation and Natural Resources Group
Rachel Roque, Conservation and Natural Resources Group
Kelly Cook, Conservation and Natural Resources Group
Genevieve Osmena, Public Works, Los Angeles County
Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board