April 26, 2018

The Honorable Sheila Kuehl
Supervisor, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
500 Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Safe, Clean Water Program

Dear Supervisor Kuehl,

The Council of Mexican Federations (COFEM) is committed to working with the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to ensure a safe and clean water for future generations through a multi-benefit stormwater and urban runoff capture program to increase water supply, improve water quality, and provide community investments.

As the largest Latino immigrant membership organization in the United States we understand the health disparities and their adverse impact on working families and immigrant communities, we write to strongly encourage the Safe, Clean Water Program consider the prioritization of nature-based projects that capture and clean water while providing community investments like cleaner air, open space, shade, and job opportunities. These projects should include different project scales, from retrofitting residential parcels and schools, to large regional parks. We strongly believe it be critically important that these projects be built throughout the region in an equitable way for all residents.

The public’s investment in stormwater projects should also be an investment in the County’s economic development. Research suggests thousands of jobs could be created to construct and maintain these projects, and those jobs should be safe, family-sustaining jobs that treat our environmental stewards with dignity and respect. These projects also provide opportunities for the County to support workforce development programs, connecting new jobs with the residents who need them most.

We appreciate the County of Los Angeles’ strong commitment to achieving water resiliency 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 stakeholder leaders throughout Los Angeles County.

Sincerely,

Anabella Bastida, Executive Director
Council of Mexican Federations

CC: Hon. Hilda L. Solis, Supervisor, First District, Los Angeles County
Hon. Mark Ridley-Thomas, Supervisor, Second District, Los Angeles County
Hon. Janice Hahn, Supervisor, Fourth District, Los Angeles County
Hon. Kathryn Barger, Supervisor, Fifth District, Los Angeles County
Mark Pestrella, Director of Public Works, Los Angeles County
Safe, Clean Water Program Stakeholder Advisory Committee
Leslie Friedman Johnson, Conservation and Natural Resources Group