



May 10, 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 Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors,

The Center for Biological Diversity is a non-profit, public interest environmental organization dedicated to the protection of native species and their habitats through science, policy, and environmental law. The Center has over one million members and online activists throughout California and the United States. The Center has worked for many years to protect imperiled plants and wildlife, open space, air and water quality, and overall quality of life for people in Los Angeles County.

As part of our work in Los Angeles County we are committed to working with the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to ensure 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 investment in communities.

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.

Funding for nature-based and multi-benefit projects should include different project scales, from retrofitting residential parcels and schools, to large regional parks. We also firmly believe it be critically important that these projects be built throughout the region in an equitable way for all residents.

We are strongly committed to increasing local water supply to lessen the region's carbon footprint by reducing reliance on imported water and other energy-intensive water strategies. In addition, all projects should strive to reduce pollution and improve the health of waterways, habitat and beaches in the Los Angeles region.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aruna Prabhala', written in a cursive style.

Aruna Prabhala
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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