



5 ways Measure W, the Safe Clean Water parcel tax, would affect Central L.A. County

It's no secret that we live in a water-scarce region. L.A. County's water system was built 100 years ago to send stormwater out to sea to prevent floods, not capture the water for future use. The way the system is currently designed, the County misses the opportunity to capture more than 100 billion gallons of water each year. L.A. County's stormwater system is designed to move water out to the ocean as fast as possible without filtering out any trash, plastic, or other contaminants. This contamination has the effect of polluting our rivers, waterways and oceans. This contamination has been identified as one of the biggest threats to L.A. County's water quality, as it poses a danger to humans and animals alike.

This November, voters in L.A. County will decide whether to approve Measure W—the Safe Clean Water Program—a parcel tax that would increase L.A. County's local water supply, improve water quality, and invest in making our communities greener and more livable. As described below, the money raised by Measure W would have several impacts on Central L.A. County.

1. Measure W would make our urban communities cooler

Many L.A. neighborhoods further from the coast are paved over and don't have enough parks, trees, or shade. Measure W would prioritize a variety of projects, from large wetlands to green streets, that protect residents from extreme heat.

2. Measure W would create places to play and relax

It may look beautiful, but our coastline is ranked among the dirtiest in the country. More than 4,000 tons of trash are found along our beaches each year. A smarter water system would keep toxins out of our waterways and protect the birds, fish, and marine mammals that are endangered by our polluted stormwater.

3. Measure W would reduce pollution in vulnerable neighborhoods

In between cycles of drought, L.A. County experiences intense storms. Flooded streets can expose residents in Central L.A. County to contaminants and bacteria. The Safe Clean Water program would protect families by capturing polluted stormwater before it contaminates the city streets where children play.

4. Measure W would boost investment where it's needed most

The communities that are the most vulnerable to the effects of extreme weather and poor water quality are often the same ones that struggle to fund improvements to their water systems. Measure W would boost investment in the urban core of Los Angeles County and help design and fund projects that would otherwise not be built.

5. Measure W would provide schools with new improvements

Through Measure W, schools could apply for funding to build stormwater capture sites that double as playing fields—saving school districts money and giving kids more space to learn and play. Measure W would also provide hands-on learning opportunities and could improve our County's environmental science curriculum.

How Measure W would be funded:

If approved by 66.7 percent of voters in the November 2018 election, Measure W would be funded by a parcel tax of 2.5 cents per square foot of impermeable areas (like concrete) within the County. This would raise approximately \$300 million annually. The median L.A. County single-family residence would pay about \$83. Certain properties, such as public schools, would be exempt from paying the parcel tax.