



5 ways Measure W, the Safe Clean Water parcel tax, would affect all of L.A. County's cities

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 L.A. County's cities.

1. Measure W would help improve water quality

Stormwater and urban runoff wash trash and other contaminants into our waterways, harming people and marine life. The Safe Clean Water Program would capture and clean polluted water before it contaminates our communities and our environment.

2. Measure W would help clean our beaches and save wildlife

More than 4,000 tons of trash are found along our beaches each year, including bacteria, plastic, and other contaminants. The Safe Clean Water Program 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 make L.A. greener

Many L.A. neighborhoods are paved over and don't have enough parks, trees, or shade. With an emphasis on nature-based solutions, Measure W would create new recreational space and make L.A. a greener, healthier place to live.

4. Measure W would help with drought and climate change

L.A. County's 100-year-old water system was designed to move water out to sea, not capture it. Measure W would modernize our dated system to better protect and use the newly stored water against modern-day threats, like more frequent heat waves, fire, and drought.

5. Measure W would help with supply and sustainability

L.A. County gets two-thirds of its water from hundreds of miles away. That's no longer sustainable. Increasing our local water supply through stormwater capture would reduce the need to import water from increasingly exhausted sources.

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.