



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

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 public health.

1. Measure W would help reduce the spread of disease

Polluted water at our local beaches is responsible for as many as 1.4 million gastrointestinal illnesses every year, costing our region up to \$50 million in health care costs and lost productivity. The Safe Clean Water Program would help prevent polluted stormwater from contaminating our waterways and causing illnesses.

2. Measure W would help protect against the effects of extreme heat

Extreme heat is a growing threat to public health. Triple-digit temperatures can be deadly, especially for children and the elderly, and wildfires pollute our waterways with harmful contaminants. The Safe Clean Water Program would help safeguard against the effects of dangerous weather by creating more shaded, cool areas that lower temperatures.

3. Measure W would help prevent illness caused by flooding

In between cycles of drought, L.A. County experiences intense storms. Flooded streets can expose people and their pets to contaminants and bacteria. The Safe Clean Water Program would protect vulnerable residents by capturing polluted stormwater before it contaminates the streets where children play, as well as our local rivers, lakes, and streams.

4. Measure W would help improve water quality

Access to clean water is a fundamental requirement for a healthy life. The Safe Clean Water Program would use new technology, science, and nature-based solutions to help improve water quality for all of L.A. County.

5. Measure W would help promote healthy living

Many of the projects likely to be built through Measure W would not just capture, clean, and collect water—they would help create more recreational open space.

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.