



6 ways Measure W, the Safe Clean Water parcel tax would affect the San Fernando Valley

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 the San Fernando Valley.

1. Measure W would improve water quality

Water quality has a big impact on public health. And yet every day, waterways in L.A. County are contaminated by materials like chemicals from pesticides, fertilizers, plastics, metals from our cars, and pet waste. Measure W would help improve water quality by filtering out these contaminants before they pollute our waterways and make us sick.

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

High temperatures are a growing threat to public health, especially in places like the San Gabriel Valley that are further from the coast. 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 help lower the temperature while capturing and cleaning toxic, dirty stormwater.

3. Measure W would reduce pollution from flooding

In between cycles of drought, the San Gabriel Valley experiences intense storms. Flooded streets can expose families and their pets to contaminants and bacteria. The Safe Clean Water program would protect vulnerable residents by capturing and cleaning polluted stormwater before it runs through the streets where children play.

4. Measure W would help make our communities greener and healthier

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.

5. Measure W would provide schools with new improvements

Through Measure W, our 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.