MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA
CITY OF LONG BEACH

January 23, 2018

The Honorable Sheila Kuehl
Chairwoman, LA County Board of Supervisors
821 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 W. Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

The Honorable Janice Hahn
Supervisor, LA County Board of Supervisors
821 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 W. Temple Street, Room 822
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: The Safe, Clean Water Program – City of Long Beach Priorities

Dear Supervisors Kuehl and Hahn:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, thank you for your leadership on the Safe, Clean Water Program. As a coastal city located at the end of two major river systems (the Los Angeles and San Gabriel rivers), Long Beach disproportionally bears the burden of stormwater pollution conveyed downstream throughout the County of Los Angeles and into our City. I would like to note, since the details of a potential ballot measure to fund the Safe, Clean Water Program, including a fee methodology and other specifics are still under development, the City does not have a position on the funding measure, though we look forward to working with the County to identify programs and projects that can be funded by this important initiative.

My top priority water quality project is the East San Pedro Bay Ecosystem Restoration Project among the others outlined below. Los Angeles County has some of the world's best beaches, and we believe recreational water quality improvements, as well as the availability of a safe and healthy aquatic environment, is incredibly important to maintaining this stellar reputation. The East San Pedro Bay Ecosystem Restoration Project would further these objectives with a host of benefits, including habitat restoration and passive recreation – but most importantly, water quality improvements.

The City of Long Beach supported AB 1180, which affirmatively codified the distribution of funding from a stormwater parcel tax in Los Angeles County as 10% to the Los Angeles County Flood Control District; 40% direct to cities for city-administered projects; and 50% for implementation, operation and maintenance, and administration of watershed-based projects and programs. These revenues are critically needed to support National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit and Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) compliance – both of which intend to improve stormwater cleanliness as it flows through our County and into the Pacific Ocean where beachgoers recreate. In the City of Long Beach, the cost of NPDES permit and TMDL program compliance will range from $600-$900 million over the next 30 years. The cost of non-compliance is also extremely high. It is with these considerations that Long Beach proposes the following programs and projects for inclusion in the Safe, Clean Water Program Expenditure Plan:

- East San Pedro Bay Ecosystem Restoration Project – *Request: $250 million*
- Storm Drain Re-Engineering – *Request: $10.7 million*
- Los Angeles River Debris Collection Float and Conveyance – *Request: $1.2 million*
- Los Angeles River Clean Up Program – *Request: $1.2 million, annual CPI increase*
- Storm Water Pump Stations – *Request: $35 million*
- Storm Drain Capacity Improvements – *Request: $100 million*
- Los Angeles County Flood Control District Administration Fee Allocation for Regional Studies

With respect to the focus on multi-benefit stormwater programs and projects, Long Beach requests the addition of "flood protection" as an optional benefit. Flood protection from stormwater is a major issue in our City. With that said, Long Beach also supports existing multi-benefit options that have already been identified by the County in the Safe, Clean Water Program framework. As funding becomes available, the City is already implementing multi-benefit stormwater projects to meet NPDES permit and TMDL program compliance. The Los Cerritos Channel Storm Water Capture Facility represents a $9 million investment in stormwater capture, and the City is also moving forward with the Long Beach Municipal Urban Stormwater Treatment (LB-MUST) Facility, a separate stormwater capture facility at Cesar Chavez Park, adjacent to the City's dense downtown neighborhoods. Long Beach continues to explore ways in which to meet stormwater compliance requirements while also recycling captured stormwater to maximize its re-use.

With respect to groundwater infiltration, it is important to note Long Beach is constrained by geography and geology in most areas of the City. Geographic and geological differences of a downstream community must be taken under consideration as the Expenditure Plan is developed to ensure cities such as Long Beach are not penalized for land formation characteristics beyond the jurisdiction's control. While local groundwater satisfies approximately 60% of our community's potable water demand, the Long Beach Water Department's award-winning team continues to look for opportunities to diversify the City's water portfolio. These commitments to stormwater capture and reuse, as well as prudent resource management, demonstrate Long Beach's interest in employing all feasible options for managing stormwater and supporting local water supply reliability.

Long Beach deeply understands and agrees every drop of water is too precious to be used only once. The City, our community, and our businesses have a long-standing commitment to best management practices when it comes to natural resources and sustainability. In close partnership with the Long Beach Water Department, the City of Long Beach supports a culture of water efficiency as a way of life. For over a decade, Long Beach has engaged in extensive public outreach strategies and robust customer support programs for a water-efficient City. As a result, even during the recent historic drought and record-breaking heat, the Long Beach community reduced water use by double digits, exceeding State mandates. Long Beach water users currently consume only about 60 gallons per capita per day, demonstrating an ongoing commitment to water reliability and sustainable lifestyles.

Given our City's demonstrated ability to advance water quality projects alongside those benefiting water supply, I urge the County to adopt in the Safe, Clean Water Program Expenditure Plan the proposed programs and projects highlighted herein, with specific emphasis on the East San Pedro Bay Ecosystem Restoration Project.

Thank you for your leadership in these efforts.

Sincerely,

Mayor Robert Garcia
City of Long Beach

cc: Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Sachi Hamai, Chief Executive Officer, County of Los Angeles
Lori Glasgow, Executive Officer, Executive Office of the Board
Mark Pestrella, Director of Public Works, County of Los Angeles
Patrick H. West, City Manager, City of Long Beach
Christopher Garner, Long Beach Water Department, General Manager
Craig Beck, Director of Public Works, City of Long Beach
Diana Tang, Manager of Government Affairs, City of Long Beach

THE SAFE, CLEAN WATER PROGRAM

LONG BEACH PRIORITY PROJECTS

January 23, 2018

East San Pedro Bay Ecosystem Restoration Project (Request: $250 million). Restoration of East San Pedro Bay would represent a true environmental success, demonstrating robust goods movement and national security can co-exist alongside a healthy aquatic ecosystem, that with improved water quality supports a variety of marine life, as well as international waterfront tourism. This project area is located between the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, as well as a military installation just across the Los Angeles County border.

Storm Drain Re-Engineering (Request: $10.7 million). In the current year alone, Long Beach experienced significant flooding at 17 distinct locations, one of which has the potential to disconnect 100% of all landline telephone connections, including emergency-911 calls in Long Beach and some surrounding cities. The Lew Davis location is situated near the Frontier Communications Facility. There has been flooding three levels below ground, threatening all landline telephone connections.

Los Angeles River Debris Collection Float and Conveyance (Request: $1.2 million). The current boom systems along the base of the Los Angeles River are inadequate for addressing green waste, plastics, polystyrene, drug paraphernalia, metals and other debris carried into Long Beach by stormwater. On May 15, 2017, the County's Department of Public Works toured the area and viewed new infrastructure can assist with mitigating this issue. Long Beach proposes the County partner with the City on start-up costs. The City would commit personnel, staff time, and continue clean-up activities and infrastructure maintenance.

Storm Water Pump Stations (Request: $35 million). During the last rainy season, three of the City's pump stations shut down while water accumulated and flooded areas of Long Beach. The City has 23 storm water pump stations, which discharge to either the Los Angeles River, the San Gabriel River, or LA County flood control facilities. Due to insufficient funding, most pump stations are undersized, have broken or inoperable equipment, and in some cases no back up power. Even during modest rain events, pump stations become overwhelmed and flooding occurs.

Los Angeles River Clean Up Program (Request: $1.2 million, annual CPI increase). Long Beach requests the County increase the amount invested in Los Angeles River debris clean-up to $1.2 million per year, indexed annually to the Consumer Price Index. Due to geography, all stormwater conveyed by the Los Aneles River, inclusive of green waste, plastics, polystyrene, drug paraphernalia, metals and other debris, arrives in Long Beach. The County currently invests $500,000 to clean up this debris. This amount was established in 1984 and has remained unchanged. It does not cover even half of actual cleanup costs. According to the U.S. Department of Labor and based on inflation, this amount should have reached $1.2 million in 2017.

Storm Drain Capacity Improvements (Request: $100 million). Approximately 33% of the City's storm drains are unable to handle a 10-year storm event. During these storm events, one-third of our storm drain system is over capacity and overflows into the streets, as aforementioned at 17 locations where flooding is known to occur. The City's 2005 Master Plan identified a need of approximately $95 million; however, today the need is closer to $125 million.

LA County Administration Fee Allocation for Regional Studies. Long Beach requests a portion of the County administration fee be allocated to master planning efforts, feasibility studies, and assessments that support the entire region with NPDES permit and TMDL program compliance.