



TO: Hon. Sheila Kuehl, Chair, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Hon. Janice Hahn, Chair Pro Tem, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Hon. Hilda L. Solis, Supervisor, First District, Los Angeles County
Hon. Mark Ridley-Thomas, Supervisor, Second District, Los Angeles County
Hon. Kathryn Barger, Supervisor, Fifth District, Los Angeles County
Mark Pestrella, Director of Public Works, Los Angeles County

CC: Safe, Clean Water Program Stakeholder Advisory Committee
Leslie Friedman Johnson, Conservation and Natural Resources Group

FROM: Cindy Montanez, CEO, TreePeople

DATE: March 20, 2018

RE: Request for Inclusion of Funding for a School Water Resilience Education Program in Stormwater Expenditure Funding Plan

TreePeople strongly encourages the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to include funding in the Stormwater Expenditure Plan for the continuation and expansion of highly-effective school water resilience education programs.

Generation Earth is a Los Angeles County Department of Public Works environmental education program. Its goal is to educate and empower students in Los Angeles County to be an active part of the solution to environmental concerns in their community. Teachers are trained in professional development, Next Generation Science Standards, project based learning, waste reduction and recycling, stormwater pollution prevention, and creating water-wise campuses. This program helps create a new generation of leaders knowledgeable in critical water issues, watersheds and stormwater management, and provides information and tools to help their peers, families, and communities protect their public health and the environment.

TreePeople proudly administers the Generation Earth contract, training over 200 teachers each year in environmental service learning projects that engage students in improving their campuses. We have been awarded this contract since its inception decades ago given its great results. TreePeople works directly with nearly 20,000 students each year, and impacts over 250,000 students through our programs throughout the 80 school districts in Los Angeles County. Last year, TreePeople completed environmental education, service learning and environmental literacy projects at more than 250 LA County campuses.

In addition to the teacher trainings, TreePeople offers do-it-yourself environmental projects that help youth make a positive difference at school, at home, and out in the world. For example, students learn how to redirect downspouts, create rain gardens, capture rainwater to

reduce the impact of stormwater and understand all drains on campus and in their communities lead to the ocean. They also reduce campus litter and plant trees, among other projects. Our programs are built to support the needs of teachers, students, schools and community youth groups.

Given that the potential stormwater expenditure plan and funding measure may include an educational program, we respectfully submit that the Generation Earth Program, or a similar program, be included and expanded (to cover the new climate issues, such as flooding) as a funded program by this measure.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss any desired changes to the scope to match up with the County's goals and objectives.

Thank you for considering this request.