

already been established by the ACE Construction Authority and the Gold Line Construction Authority. Completed projects could then be turned over to the Flood Control District for operation and maintenance.

Statutory Changes

The Board of Supervisors needs to support Legislation which will exempt these projects from CEQA; authorize the Regional Board to accept funding to update the Basin Plan; and allow public agencies to award grants to CBO's for local projects. Many of these projects will face years of delay if there is no CEQA law suit abuse relief. These projects are pollution reduction measures that generate little or no other environmental impacts.

Further the County should support legislative action on the recommendations of a recent state audit of the Regional Boards which concluded that the Regional Water Boards should support changes that would reduce local jurisdictions costs. The audit recommended *"that the Legislature amend state law to direct the State Water Board to assess whether a study of a specific water body is justified and to require the appropriate regional board to ensure that the study is conducted....and seek additional funding from local jurisdictions to conduct studies if it believes additional resources are needed."*

Federal relief should also be sought to allow storm water transfer and conveyance using the existing flood control system for purposes of treatment or reuse. There should be a limit to legal action on compliance lawsuits for self-help counties by requiring a finding by the Regional Board that an agency is not acting in good faith or with due diligence in implementing their E/WMP before a third party may initiate an enforcement lawsuit. The Regional Board needs to be included in the discussions to provide assurances that the imposition of this tax will provide safe harbor for those jurisdictions that are working in good faith and with due diligence to implement their WMP's and EWMP's.

Up to this point the Advisory Committee process has generated considerable input and ideas but there has been little consensus or conclusion to any of the discussions. In the end, all that matters are the actual language of the ordinance and the ballot summary language to be submitted to the voters. Without viewing the actual language of the ordinance, it is impossible to know what the County intends to propose or to be able to provide a thoughtful response. It now appears that language will not be available until early May. That provides very limited time to prepare a thoughtful response before the deadline to place a measure on the ballot. It might be prudent to consider a different election date than November of 2018.

As always, BizFed is a committed partner and is willing to continue dialogue, provide feedback and commentary to help the County of Los Angeles to produce a measure that is beneficial to all stakeholders and the business community. If you have any questions, please contact BizFed's Advocacy Director, De'Andre Valencia @ DeAndre.Valencia@BizFed.Org.

Sincerely,



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BizFed Chair
Fixing Angelenos
Stuck in Traffic (F.A.S.T)



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