



May 9, 2018

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

RE: Safe, Clean Water Program

Dear Supervisor Kuehl,

Walk Long Beach is committed to working with the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to ensure a safe and clean water for future generations through a multi-benefit storm water and urban runoff capture program to increase water supply, improve water quality, and investment in communities.

Walk Long Beach advocates for pedestrian safety and walkable communities. We know that proper storm water capture and treatment has a major effect on the collective health of our constituents, especially when they are enjoying the outdoors. We also know that bioswales, wetland areas and other similar landscaped infrastructure facilities combat climate change, help clean the storm water at the local level, and improve the aesthetics of our corridors.

We write to strongly encourage the Safe, Clean Water Program to prioritize distributed and neighborhood scale, nature-based solutions to capture, infiltrate, treat and use storm water and dry-weather runoff. Such projects and programs can help achieve a more sustainable and equitable water future for all communities in Los Angeles County.

Safeguarding and improving public health is our top priority and that is why we are committed to advancing a regional water resilience plan that mitigates against extreme weather variability, increased drought, flood risk and urban heat. We support a plan that reduces trash and pollution in our streets and waterways, beaches and habitat throughout the Los Angeles region.

Funding for projects should be distributed in a manner that promotes equity by focusing on underserved communities and mitigating displacement. Furthermore, our hope is to work closely with county and local agencies to increase environmental awareness programs that encourage and train community members, from students to older adults to participate and promote greater watershed stewardship.

The Honorable Sheila Kuehl
Safe, Clean Water Program
May 9, 2018
Page 2

We appreciate the County of Los Angeles' strong commitment to achieving a safe and clean water future for all residents. We stand ready to work with you on providing input on the Safe, Clean Water Program and to assist with outreach to communities and leaders throughout Los Angeles County.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions about our position, please don't hesitate to contact me at 562-912-6004 or Steve@WalkLongBeach.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Gerhardt".

Steve Gerhardt, AICP
Executive Director, Walk Long Beach

