



RON MILLER
Executive Secretary

Los Angeles / Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council

Affiliated with the Building & Construction Trades Dept., AFL-CIO

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May 11, 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 Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors,

The Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council represents 48 local unions and district councils in 14 Trades, and membership in these unions totals more than 100,000 skilled men and women. We are committed to building a brighter future for the region, and are thus glad to see the County of Los Angeles considering investments in our local water infrastructure through and the Safe, Clean Water Program. Along with the much-needed water quality, supply, and community benefits, this investment creates opportunities for thousands of good jobs and lifelong construction careers. Given our decades of experience, we strongly urge the following key provisions be incorporated.

The County has recognized that its high-road contracting standards should apply to this program. As part of realizing these standards, it's imperative that significant capital projects be constructed under a Community Workforce Agreement (CWA). The CWA must apply if a project receiving funding from this measure has a budget over \$2.5 million. Projects built under a CWA are on time and within budget, and surpass local and targeted hire goals; these goals are nearly impossible to achieve without a CWA.

To maximize taxpayer's investment, cities should be encouraged to pool their Municipal Program funds to collaborate on jointly-beneficial projects (such as through a Construction Authority), and the County should place a 10% cap on the funding that cities can put towards single-purpose water quality projects like street sweeping and storm drains. To protect the long-term functionality of these investments, projects' operations and maintenance (O&M) should be held by the public sector. The Building Trades Council represents experts poised to conduct O&M for certain aspects of these projects, and already work alongside other unions representing public sector workers with expertise in other O&M aspects.

The County should invest in tomorrow's construction workers by robustly supporting workforce development programs, including pre-apprenticeships utilizing Multi-Craft Core Curriculum and joint labor-management apprenticeships. Funds should go to programs that bring together employers, unions, nonprofits, and educational institutions, and which have a proven track record of success connecting participants to good quality jobs. Trainees should learn while they earn, making a living wage

(apprentices working within the Building Trades local affiliates start out at over 17.00 dollars an hour plus benefits).

With these provisions included, the Building Trades Council would enthusiastically support the County's proposed measure. We look forward to working with the County to create a landmark program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Miller', written in a cursive style.

Ron Miller
Executive Secretary

RM:aht/opeiu#537