



Date: May 10, 2018

From: Tom Ford, Executive Director, The Bay Foundation

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: Support for the Safe, Clean Water Program

Dear Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors,

The Bay Foundation has served the coastal communities of Los Angeles County for 30 years. We also serve as the host entity of the Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program. As such we are supported by the US EPA and directed by our Management Conference which also serves the State as the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission, (SMBRC).

For decades our program has provided expertise and guidance, and recommended funding to multi-benefit projects to improve the quality and abundance of water in Los Angeles. Roughly 15 years ago RFP's for proposition funds, available through the SMBRC for water quality improvement projects were more highly regarded if they did more than clean water and discharge it. Value was placed on ecosystem services associated with these infrastructure projects including; green space for mental health benefits, native landscapes that are drought tolerant and a benefit to wildlife, preference for locations within underserved communities, and infiltration to ground water after treatment rather than discharge, to name a few.

These efforts have made noteworthy impact. The potentials for the Safe, Clean Water Program for the people of the County of Los Angeles are tremendous. The need is clear, Los Angeles requires safe and sustainable water supplies, viable resilient neighborhoods, and greater equity for its population.

The County has been one of our greatest partners in our mission to clean up Santa Monica Bay while benefiting people and wildlife. I'm confident that this approach to the development of water and natural resources across broad swaths of Los Angeles County will be successful and provide decades of service to the people and wildlife of Los Angeles County.

Sincerely,

Tom Ford