



Tuesday, May 08, 2018

The Honorable Kathryn Barger  
Supervisor, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors  
500 Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**RE: Safe, Clean Water Program**

Dear Supervisor Barger,

As President of de Wolff Advisors, an international advisory firm providing communications, marketing, and executive counsel services to governments, NPOs, and corporations worldwide, especially on matters relating to sustainable communities, I am understandably committed to working with the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to ensure safe and clean water for future generations in the communities our firm believes in so passionately.

I am writing to strongly encourage the Safe, Clean Water Program to prioritize nature-based projects, such as those my commission in Burbank has recognized over the course of the past 5 years, through our [Green Spotlight Award](#) (which I established in 2012). Projects should be designed and implemented to meet water quality and supply needs while also creating much-needed community benefits such as shade and open space, reduced flood risk initiatives, and – very importantly - job opportunities with real social and community impact. Such projects and programs can help achieve a more sustainable and equitable water future for all communities in Los Angeles County – thus I also write in support of robust and intelligent community participation with respect to how projects are decided.

The public's investment in stormwater projects should be an investment in the creation of secure green jobs across the region. Los Angeles County can lead the nation on a stormwater plan that transitions us to a fiscally sustainable, and even incrementally lucrative, green economy. Research shows that thousands of jobs could be created to construct and maintain multi-benefit projects, and these jobs should be safe, family-sustaining jobs that treat our environmental stewards with dignity and respect. I offer my firm's assistance in any capacity you feel would be useful and supportive of these goals.

Los Angeles County's construction career policies, such as Community Workforce Agreements that encourage local and disadvantaged worker hiring, should apply to projects funded in this program. These projects provide opportunities to support workforce development programs – connecting new jobs to the residents who need them most. To ensure projects are operating at maximum efficiency, we recommend establishing a specialized public-sector maintenance team, adequate maintenance funding, and a pipeline into those maintenance careers.

We appreciate the County of Los Angeles' commitment to achieving a safe, clean and resilient water future for all residents. My firm stands 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.

Sincerely,



Nicholas de Wolff

President, [de Wolff Advisors](#)

*Co-founder, New Media Council, Producers Guild of America*

*Former Chair, City of Burbank Sustainability Commission*

*Former member, Board of Directors, American Lung Association*

CC: Hon. Hilda L. Solis, Supervisor, First District, Los Angeles County  
Hon. Mark Ridley-Thomas, Supervisor, Second District, Los Angeles County  
Hon. Sheila Kuehl, Supervisor, Third District, Los Angeles County  
Hon. Janice Hahn, Supervisor, Fourth District, Los Angeles County  
Mark Pestrella, Director of Public Works, Los Angeles County  
Safe, Clean Water Program Stakeholder Advisory Committee  
Leslie Friedman Johnson, Conservation and Natural Resources Group  
Burbank City Council