



LA CONSERVATION CORPS

Administrative Offices

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 861658, Los Angeles, CA 90086-1658

May 10, 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,

The LA Conservation Corps 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 stormwater and urban runoff capture program to increase water supply, improve water quality, and invest in communities.

We write to strongly encourage the Safe, Clean Water Program to prioritize nature-based projects, such as the Sun Valley Park, South LA Wetlands Park and Machado Lake, in order to meet water quality and supply needs while also creating much-needed community benefits like shade and open space, reduced flood risk, and job opportunities. Such projects and programs can help achieve a more sustainable and equitable water future for all communities in Los Angeles County – thus we also write in support of dedicated funding for low-income neighborhoods, and robust community participation in how projects are decided.

The public's investment in stormwater projects should be an investment in the creation of good, green jobs across the region. Los Angeles County has the opportunity to lead the nation on a stormwater plan that transitions us to a green economy. Research suggests 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.

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. 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.

Sincerely,

Wendy Butts
Chief Executive Officer

CC: Safe, Clean Water Program Stakeholder Advisory Committee
Leslie Friedman Johnson, Conservation and Natural Resources Group
Rachel Roque, Conservation and Natural Resources Group
Kelly Cook, Conservation and Natural Resources Group
Genevieve Osmena, Public Works, Los Angeles County
Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board