



May 3, 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,

TreePeople is committed to our partnership with the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to ensure safe and clean water for the region. TreePeople has worked for decades with the County, thousands of residents, businesses and the philanthropic community to increase water education and improve local water resilience by reducing reliance on imported water and leading comprehensive community-based public education efforts in communities and schools.

The historic opportunity before the County to invest in the region's water infrastructure is critical and timely. TreePeople strongly supports a Safe, Clean Water Program that funds multi-benefit stormwater and urban runoff capture programs and projects to increase water supply, improve water quality, and invest equitably in communities throughout the County. We strongly encourage the Safe, Clean Water Program to prioritize distributed and neighborhood scale, nature-based solutions to capture, infiltrate, treat and use stormwater 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.

Funding for nature-based and multi-benefit projects should include different project scales, from retrofitting residential parcels, to projects on schools, streets and large regional parks. We also firmly believe it is critically important that these projects be built throughout the region in an equitable way for all residents. In addition, all projects should strive to reduce pollution and improve the health of waterways, habitats, and beaches in the Los Angeles region.

TreePeople requests that the Board consider modifying the current proposal regarding “Programs” in the following manner:

- School education and curriculum program, including continuing and expanding the existing County education programs on school water resilience which utilize service-learning projects, teacher trainings, and environmental literacy projects directly working with nearly 20,000 students each year, impacting over 250,000 students throughout the 80 school districts in LA, and resulting in water-wise campuses, and stormwater prevention curriculum.

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.

Sincerely,



Cindy Montanez, CEO

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