

May 9, 2018

The Honorable Sheila Kuehl  
Supervisor, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors  
500 Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**RE: Safe, Clean Water Program**

Dear Supervisor Kuehl,

The Nature Conservancy is committed to working with the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to ensure safe and clean water for future generations through a multi-benefit stormwater and urban runoff capture program that utilizes nature-based solutions to increase water supply, improve water quality, and invest in communities.

The Nature Conservancy (Conservancy) is an international non-profit organization dedicated to conserving the lands and waters on which all life depends. Our on-the-ground work is carried out in all 50 states and in 72 countries around the world and is supported by approximately one million members. To date, we have helped conserve more than 120 million acres (including nearly 1.5 million acres in California) and 5,000 river miles around the world. We have been engaged in the protection and management of natural resources across the U.S. since 1951.

We write to 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 and schools to large regional parks. We also firmly believe it be critically important that these projects be built throughout the region in an equitable way for all residents. In particular, nature-based solutions like rain grading (swales, berms, rain gardens), curb cuts with parkway basins, infiltration trenches, soil amendment, vegetation and tree planting, wetlands, stream daylighting/restoration, floodplain reclamation, mountain and upper watershed conservation, green streets, parks with underground chambers, bioswales, green roofs, and tree wells should be prioritized.

We are strongly committed to increasing local water supply to lessen the region's carbon footprint by reducing reliance on imported water and other energy-intensive water strategies. In addition, all projects should strive to reduce pollution and improve the health of waterways, habitat, and beaches in the Los Angeles region.



Protecting nature. Preserving life.™

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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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shona Ganguly".

Shona Ganguly  
Associate Director, Advocacy & Campaigns  
The Nature Conservancy

CC: Hon. Hilda L. Solis, Supervisor, First District, Los Angeles County  
Hon. Mark Ridley-Thomas, Supervisor, Second District, Los Angeles County  
Hon. Janice Hahn, Supervisor, Fourth District, Los Angeles County  
Hon. Kathryn Barger, Supervisor, Fifth 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