



July 12, 2018

The Honorable Sheila Kuehl, Chair
Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
821 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 W. Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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Dear Supervisor Kuehl,

The San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG) appreciates the Board of Supervisors' leadership in the development of the Safe, Clean Water Program and the extended efforts to engage cities in the stakeholder process. Throughout the process, the SGVCOG has been deeply involved, attending all Stakeholder Advisory Committee and subcommittee meetings, and submitting comment letters on April 5th, May 11th and June 11th. We are pleased to see that many of the issues we previously raised have been addressed. However, the July 11th draft raises some issues for the SGVCOG we would like changed or clarified, including:

- **Regional Program:**

- Increase Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) Membership to include 8 municipal seats. This is particularly needed where one city may hold multiple seats based on impermeable area, as in the Upper Los Angeles River, or for those WASCs that have 15 or more members, which includes Lower Los Angeles River, Lower San Gabriel River, Rio Hondo, South Santa Monica Bay and Upper San Gabriel River.
- Clarify reporting relationship for Watershed Coordinators. While the responsibilities of the Watershed Coordinators are better defined in this draft, it is still unclear who will be responsible for overseeing their work.
- Require 5+ years of experience for the Watershed Coordinators. Give priority to At-large Community, Environmental, Business, and Environmental Justice Members who have many years of experience (preferably more than 2) in their field of expertise. Revert back to the General Minimum Qualifications for all Members as stated in the May 25, 2018 draft. Reducing the requirements to only 2 years of experience and simply a "willingness to be trained and educated" instead of already having "general knowledge" seriously compromises the goals of the measure. In order to properly serve the public, it's critical that all members of the Watershed Steering Committees are knowledgeable, credible, and ready to contribute as soon as their work begins.

We look forward to working with the County as it finalizes the program details. Should you have any questions, please contact Katie Ward, Senior Management Analyst, at kward@sgvcog.org, (626) 457-1800.

Sincerely,



Marisa Creter
Executive Director
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments

Cc.

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