



# RECOMMENDATIONS: Safe, Clean Water for LA County Residents Funding Measure

## Principles

Any county-wide funding measure put forward to LA County voters must 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 reshape the paradigm around water management throughout LA County to be more sustainable and equitable, while providing multiple benefits to the region's communities, including:

- Safeguarding public health and well-being;
- Advancing regional water resilience to mitigate against extreme weather variability, including increased drought, flood risk and urban heat;
- Increasing local water supply to lessen the region's carbon footprint by reducing reliance on imported water and other energy-intensive water strategies;
- Reducing pollution to, and improving the health of, waterways and habitat throughout the region;
- Enabling municipalities to comply with legal and regulatory stormwater cleanup requirements;
- Investing in communities through increased green space for habitat, climate mitigation and recreation, particularly in underserved communities;
- Distributing funding in a manner that promotes equity for underserved communities and mitigates displacement;
- Building environmental awareness that encourages and trains individuals and communities in watershed stewardship;
- Promoting green jobs across the region and solidifying Los Angeles County as the national leader on transitioning to a green economy; and
- Ensuring transparency and community oversight to by establishing a compliance program which will review every five years at minimum how well program objectives are met and make recommendations on any necessary course corrections..

# Funding Mechanism (credits, rebates & incentives)

How any stormwater funding measure adopted is structured will be critical to ensuring that: (1) sufficient resources are raised for meaningful countywide stormwater/water resiliency planning and compliance with legal and regulatory requirements (estimated by cities at \$20B over 20 years); (2) funds are raised *equitably* across various sectors (and are related to the impact of stormwater contamination from properties to the maximum extent possible); and (3) that credits, rebates and incentives effectively foster multi-benefit projects on private property (a major source of land-use that will be critical to achieve water quality and water supply goals for the region).

## **Overview**

In order to meaningfully achieve the goals outlined above, the County's Safe, Clean Water Program ("SCWP") measure must:

- Provide at least **\$300M (net) annually** to stormwater/urban runoff capture/reuse projects and programs;
- Raise funds equitably, ensuring communities (particularly underserved communities) are not disproportionately impacted;
- Encourage leveraging of funding with other local, regional, state and federal funding sources to magnify overall impact;
- Allow for phasing of projects and advanced payment of grant funds where there is a demonstrated need (e.g., for CBOs, DACs or smaller communities, etc.)
- Allow funds to be used for the full range of project components, including community engagement, project design, construction/implementation, O&M, and monitoring.

## **Fee Structure (residential, commercial, industrial)**

- Since all land uses contribute to the stormwater problem, the tax must not include any blanket *exemptions*<sup>1</sup> (including exemptions for specific property types or for cities that have previously adopted local fees or taxes); assistance programs could be established for certain classes to address any equity issues
- The tax structure for commercial, industrial and multi-family residential developments must be based on impervious cover to maximize nexus between tax and environmental impact, and ensure tax is equitable (*for example, stormwater fee in Virginia that was based on property tax resulted in single family residences essentially subsidizing commercial properties*)
- The tax on residential properties must be based on parcel size. Recognizing the potential constraints on the proposed tax structure imposed by recent state law (AB 195), if a tax based on parcel size is not feasible, OurWaterLA proposes an \$85/year cap on the tax for small- to medium residential parcels (under 7,200 square feet) in order to increase voter understanding of the measure and to better protect lower-income homeowners and renters.

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<sup>1</sup> Notwithstanding any legal requirements that would exempt certain properties

## Set Asides <sup>2</sup>

- A minimum of least 41% of all funds generated by this measure will be invested in Disadvantaged Communities (DACs).
- Within two years after any funding measure is adopted, a minimum of 5% of total funding will be set aside to implement residential retrofit program <sup>3</sup>; at least 2% of total funds will be used to establish this residential retrofit program until it is fully established .
- A minimum of 4% of total funding will be set aside to develop and implement green infrastructure job training curricula, including programs aimed at youth (e.g., Conservation Corps, community colleges), veterans, homeless populations and other priority communities (*additional details provided in Workforce Development section below*).
- A minimum of 2% of total funding will be set aside for establishment of a technical assistance program (including funding of watershed coordinators) so that all communities can effectively compete for funding and successfully develop and implement locally appropriate projects (*see Governance section below for additional details*).
- A minimum of 1% of total funding must be set aside for administration of residential retrofit program.
- A minimum of 1% of total funding must be set aside for administration of credits, rebates & incentives program.
- A minimum of 1% of total funding must be set aside for education and outreach to build water literacy for the general public, with an emphasis on underserved low income communities.
- Set asides must be reviewed and revised as needed per outside audit (*see Governance section below*)

## Credits, Rebates & Incentives

- An incentive (i.e., one-time funding support to implement projects on private land) program must be established to provide resources for residential retrofits at single family homes (*see Appendix C: Residential Retrofit for additional details*)
  - The single family residential incentive program must be built and maintained with environmental and worker standards (*see Economic & Workforce Development section below for additional details*), and support multi-benefit projects that help reduce contaminant concentration and loads, enhance water supply either through infiltration or by offsetting potable water use, reduce flooding, and provide other benefits (e.g., habitat, provide cooling, etc.) as appropriate.
- A credit (i.e., an ongoing reduction of stormwater tax) or incentive program must be established for commercial, industrial and multi-family residential developments. Such a credit/incentive program must:
  - Reduce the tax or provide an incentive for facilities that reduce stormwater flows and contamination *above-and-beyond* legal requirements or eliminate such flows fully, including capturing and cleaning neighboring parcels' flows
  - Be constructed with environmental best management practices

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<sup>2</sup> Percentages apply to total net revenue

<sup>3</sup> Such a set aside is critical to meet requirements/goals established in WMPs/EWMPs, Los Angeles Basin Study and City of LA Stormwater Capture Master Plan related to residential retrofits.

- To the extent practicable, credits must reduce the tax in proportion to how much stormwater flow has been reduced
- Credits or incentives for new stormwater projects developed under this program must support *multi-benefit* projects that help reduce peak flows, reduce contaminant concentration and loads, enhance water supply either through infiltration or by offsetting potable water use, and provide community investments for additional benefits (e.g., habitat, cooling, recreation, etc.) as appropriate
- To qualify for a credit, new and existing stormwater projects must have a maintenance plan in place that uses properly trained workers (*see Economic & Workforce Development section below*) and is funded by an identified maintenance funding source
- New and existing stormwater projects must continue to demonstrate performance in order to maintain credit

### **Ballot Language**

In order to achieve the goals outlined above, OurWaterLA proposes the following changes to the County’s proposed ballot language:

#### **COUNTY PROPOSAL**

Shall an ordinance intended to improve and protect water quality; increase safe drinking water supplies; protect public health; reduce stormwater pollution entering Los Angeles County waterways and beaches; prepare for future droughts; protect marine life; and upgrade outdated water infrastructure by establishing a parcel tax of X (x) cents per square foot of impermeable surface, exempting low-income senior citizens, raising x million dollars annually until ended by voters, with audits, oversight and local control of funds be adopted?

#### **OWLA PROPOSAL**

Shall an ordinance intended to improve ~~and protect~~ water quality; increase ~~safe~~ drinking water supplies; protect public health; reduce stormwater pollution entering ~~Los Angeles County~~ waterways and beaches; prepare for ~~future~~ droughts; protect marine life; **create jobs**; and upgrade ~~outdated~~ water infrastructure by establishing ~~a~~ parcel ~~taxes~~ of X (~~x~~) cents per square foot of impermeable surface, **capping residential parcels under 7,200 square feet at \$85**, exempting low-income senior citizens, raising x million dollars annually until ended by voters, with audits, oversight and local **funding** ~~of funds~~ be adopted?

# Project Selection Criteria

## *Regional Projects and Programs (50% of total funding)*

### Eligibility Requirements for Regional Projects

All stormwater/urban runoff capture and reuse projects funded must:

- Provide **water supply** (either through infiltration, direct capture/reuse, or offsetting water demand), **water quality**, and other **community investments** as detailed in sections below;
- Be completed within 7 years of the funding award date; and be functional for a minimum of 10 years;
- Include operations and maintenance (O&M) plan and demonstrate sufficient funding for O&M for the lifespan of the project (either funding from this measure or other dedicated funds);
- Include overall (lifespan) project cost and annualized costs, including the cost per unit of additional water supply developed and pollutants reduced;
- Include a plan for verification within 3 months of the project’s completion to ensure it is optimized to meet design performance;
- Be monitored for at least two wet seasons;
- Meet worker job quality requirements (*see Economic & Workforce Development section below for additional details*);
- Demonstrate robust community engagement that meaningfully informs and impacts project scope, actions and results;
- Include elements to increase environmental literacy around stormwater; and
- Be planned and developed with an emphasis on avoiding/preventing residential and commercial displacement (*see Equity section below for additional details*).

### Scoring Criteria for Regional Projects:

To be eligible for funding, projects must achieve a minimum score of 75 points (out of 100) in the chart below, demonstrating that such projects will help enhance water supply, reduce pollutant loads/concentrations, and provide additional community investments.

<u>Water Quality (40 points total)</u>	
8 points	<p><b>Pollutant Concentration</b> - Demonstrates that during an 85th percentile design storm there is a minimum 50% reduction in concentration of a single targeted pollutant that flows through or is captured by the BMP (2 pts).</p> <p>Project demonstrates that during an 85<sup>th</sup> percentile design storm there is a minimum 50% reduction in concentration for <i>more than one class of pollutant</i><sup>4</sup> that flows through or is captured by the BMP (4 pts).</p>

<sup>4</sup> Classes of Pollutant are: 1) Metals, 2) trash, 3) nutrients, 4) toxics, 5) bacteria; 6) Ph

12 points	<p><b>Load Reduction</b> - Plan contains the magnitude and percent of overall load reduction predicted by the BMP (7 pts maximum - 1 point for every 10% reduction in load (influent versus effluent) over 30% achieved by the BMP )<sup>5</sup></p> <p>Project results in at least 30% reduction in load (influent versus effluent) for <i>more than one class of pollutant</i> (5 pts).</p>
20 points	<p><b>Achieving Water Quality Standards</b> – Effluent/discharge from the BMP does not cause or contribute to exceedances of water quality standards (WQS) in the receiving water.</p> <p><i>Dry Weather</i> - Effluent/discharge from the BMP does not cause or contribute to exceedances of water quality standards (WQS) in the receiving water <i>during dry weather</i> (yes- 5 pts, no- 0 pts);</p> <p><i>Wet Weather:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● During the 85th percentile design storm, the BMP does not discharge 1) any pollutants for which there is a mass or load-based TMDL or 2) any pollutant in concentrations greater than any concentration-based Water Quality Standard or waste load allocation (yes- <i>additional</i> 15 pts, no- 0</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>OR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● BMP designed to capture and treat water from 95<sup>th</sup> percentile design storm (yes- <i>additional</i> 15 pts, no- 0 pts)<sup>6</sup></li> </ul>
<b>Water Supply (25 points total)</b>	
20 points	<p><b>Supply enhancement</b> – Project results in capture and infiltration of:</p> <p>5-9 acre feet per year (AFY) - 3 points  10-29 AFY - 5 points  30-69 AFY - 10 points  70-99 AFY - 15 points  100 AFY - 18 points  200 AFY+ - 20 points</p>

<sup>5</sup> For example, a project with a design capacity that reduces pollutant loads in effluent by 60% would receive 3 points

<sup>6</sup> When discharging a pollutant or pollutants for which a water body is impaired and has a load-based TMDL

	Point total reflects infiltration to producing aquifer (has wells) or as seawater intrusion barrier; if infiltrating to non-producing aquifer without seawater intrusion barrier, receive ½ credit
5 points	<b>Demand Reduction</b> – Project offsets existing potable water use (through capture/on-site reuse or reduction in required irrigation) of at least 10 AFY (5 pts)
<b>Community Investments (25 points total)</b>	
25 points	<p><b>Community Investments</b> – The best way to maximize community benefits from investments made in stormwater projects is to promote nature-based solutions. By maximizing natural solutions, communities will benefit from increased recreational opportunities, improved health, reduced carbon footprint, improved air quality, urban cooling, reduced green waste, and increased habitat/wildlife. To maximize community investments, projects must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Employ natural systems or mimic natural systems to enhance or expand green space or usable open space (3 points)</li> <li>b. Include at 25% coverage in native vegetation (3 points); 1 point additional for each additional 10% coverage with native vegetation (up to 3 additional points) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. 2 points for each additional class<sup>7</sup> of native vegetation planted (4 additional points maximum);</li> <li>ii. 2 additional points for planting native plants that support pollinators</li> <li>iii. 2 additional points for planting of native shade trees with low VOC emission</li> </ul> </li> <li>c. Include space for recreation to improve public health (4 pts) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. 2 additional points if project creates new or enhanced park and open spaces that include recreational benefits in a park poor community (less than 1 acre of open space/1,000 residents)</li> </ul> </li> <li>d. Include elements that beautify or add aesthetic value to the community (2 points)</li> </ul>
<b>Project Viability and Community Support (10 points total)</b>	
4 points	<b>Cost-Share</b> – Project leverages outside resources to maximize benefits (4 points maximum – 1 point for every 15% of overall project budget funded by outside sources).

<sup>7</sup> Classes of vegetation – 1) groundcover; 2) shrubs; 3) trees

	<i>Municipal (local return) funding from this program can count towards cost-share</i>
4 points	<p><b>Community Engagement &amp; Collaboration</b></p> <p><b>Community engagement</b> – Project includes community priorities that were developed as part of a robust outreach process (that is documented) (2 points).</p> <p><b>Collaboration</b> – Project demonstrates collaboration among at least 4 entities, including non-profits, community-based organizations, or public agencies (2 point maximum).</p>
2 points	<b>Regulatory Compliance</b> – Project included as part of an approved Integrated Resources Plan (IRP), Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP), Watershed Management Program (WMP), or Enhanced Watershed Management Program (EWMP).
<b>Total points</b>	100 points

- To enable like-sized projects to compete against each other, separate funding pots must be created for smaller (e.g., \$500K or less), medium-size (\$501K - \$2.5M), and larger (greater than \$2.5M) projects. While separate pools of funding for each size project must be created to ensure a mix of projects, the scoring *criteria* must be the same for each category. Criteria could be established to encourage the bundling of small and medium projects to achieve economies of scale and sustain workforce investments.

### ***Municipal Projects and Programs (40% of total funding)***

- Up to 10% of Municipal Funds can be spent on local priorities that augment Minimum Control Measures (MCMs), such as catch basin cleaning, open channel maintenance, street sweeping, or other programs that are focused solely on water quality improvement ***above and beyond current programs***<sup>8</sup>.
- Municipal funding can be used for O&M of existing nature-based, multi-benefit stormwater projects *above and beyond current maintenance*.
- New projects developed must provide **water supply** (either through infiltration, direct capture/reuse, or offsetting water demand), **water quality**, and other **community investments**.
- Municipalities are strongly encouraged to adopt eligibility requirements and scoring criteria similar to the Regional Project Selection Criteria above; at a minimum, municipalities must

<sup>8</sup> For example, a city can use the fee’s funds to buy a new street sweeper, but cannot use the money to pay for an EXISTING street sweeping program

establish some criteria to quantify water supply, water quality and community benefits, and ensure projects develop have O&M plans and monitoring/verification requirements.

- Municipalities are encouraged to pursue cross-city collaboration within their watershed to leverage resources and maximize environmental and community benefits.
- Municipalities are also encouraged to pursue cost-share (through Measure A, M, H, Prop 1 and any other relevant existing or new source) to leverage resources and maximize environmental and community benefits.

# Equity

Recognizing that low income communities of color have been chronically under resourced for public projects and programs, OurWaterLA makes the following recommendations to ensure that any funding measure will – at a minimum - not continue to underinvest in low income communities.

- The Board of Supervisor approve a Safe, Clean Water Program which will result in a minimum of 41% of all funding being allocated to low income communities.
- The following recommendations must be implemented to achieve the minimum threshold of 41% investment in low income communities.
  - Incorporate and prioritize Technical Assistance and capacity building programs which provide an equitable opportunity for the development of community based projects in low income communities (*additional details provided in Governance section below*).
  - Provide that community engagement in low income communities will be robust and involve sustained engagement throughout the life of the project. For example, engagement activities must span site selection considerations, outreach for the project, pre-design, construction, project completion, and post-construction project optimization.
  - The Program shall create living-wage paying jobs that will benefit low income communities and will support training curricula, including programs aimed at youth (e.g., Conservation Corps, community colleges), veterans, homeless populations and other priority communities (*additional details provided in Workforce Development section below*).
  - Potential rebate/incentive/retrofit programs must be designed in such a way as to prioritize projects in low income communities.
  - Provide for an education and outreach program to build water literacy for the general public with an emphasis on low income communities.
  - Provide that all programs offered under this measure benefit low income communities as a priority.
- Include provisions in the Program that prevent and/or mitigate the displacement of historically low income communities.
- Stormwater capture and cleaning projects should help address groundwater contamination issues in low-income communities.

# Economic & Workforce Development

## *Construction*

- Prevailing wages must apply to construction jobs per public contracting requirements.
- For capital projects with budgets over \$2.5 million which receive funding from the proposed funding source, Community Workforce Agreements with local/targeted hire and workforce development components must apply (without preempting or precluding any CWA or PLA in place at the city level). This would apply whether the project is funded by the Regional Program funds, Municipal (Local Returns) funds, or County Flood Control District Funds.
- The County's Local and Targeted Worker Hire policy must apply to projects that receive funding from the proposed funding measure, regardless of the funding pool. Reporting must be tracked and posted online.
- The County must encourage the participation of non-profit organization in the development and implementation of nature-based solution projects.
- The County must encourage collaborative use of Municipal funds in order to enable larger projects, such as by offering technical/administrative assistance via a Construction Authority or other entity.
- In order to maximize funds available for the Supervisors' priority of multi-benefit projects and the associated job opportunities, a maximum of 10% of the funds for the Municipal program may go to single-purpose water quality improvement, such as street sweeping or storm drain catchment maintenance, and cannot be used to replace existing municipal resources for these types of expenses (*see Project Selection Criteria above*).

## *Operations & Maintenance*

- Each project must include a formal, specific O&M plan, developed in conjunction with initial project design, reviewed periodically, and include a tracking system to ensure completion of the prescribed work (*see Project Selection Criteria above for additional details*).
- In order to ensure taxpayer investments are properly maintained, the public sector must be responsible for maintaining capital, non-residential projects, if O&M is funded by the proposed SCWP funding measure (from any funding pool).
  - For example, O&M could be provided by city staff, school district maintenance staff for campus projects, or other agency staff as appropriate.
  - There must be an allowance for agencies to establish workforce development programs and partnership to help maintain projects, as described below.
- If an agency seeks SCWP funding for the O&M of a new capital project, but does not have the desire or capacity to maintain said project with agency staff, the County must assume O&M of the project to be done by a specialized O&M team.
  - This team must be made up of pertinent experts including specially trained landscape and grounds maintenance crews, skilled craftspeople, scientists, and engineers.
  - To help form this team, the County must support and partner with workforce development programs, as described below.

- The County could receive the associated O&M funds for project maintenance, or the agency could contract with the County, such as with the Sheriff’s Department or Department of Mental Health.
- Maintenance of commercial or industrial projects, when funded by an ongoing credit or through a reduced tax rate, must be maintained through a “green infrastructure maintenance”-certified workforce. Commercial/industrial projects must provide a maintenance commitment and plan.

## Career Pipelines

- The proposed SCWP funding measure must fund workforce development programs (including pre-apprenticeships utilizing Building Trades Multi-Craft Core Curriculum (MC3) and joint labor-management apprenticeships) for the construction/O&M of stormwater projects, including programs aimed at youth (e.g., Conservation Corps, community colleges), veterans, homeless populations and other priority communities. (4% of total funds).
- These programs must be approved by the County to ensure high standards are met.
  - Workforce development programs must have a track-record of serving disadvantaged communities or have demonstrated a high job placement rate among trainees from disadvantaged communities, particularly those for youth and low-income communities.
  - Programs must incorporate partnerships with educational institutions, community organizations/faith-based groups, and unions/employers, such as the Second Chance Pre-Apprenticeship Bootcamp,<sup>9</sup> which recently graduated its 4th cohort of formerly incarcerated residents.
  - Programs must be geographically distributed throughout the County.
- Programs must be initiated now to ensure that trained workers are prepared for these projects.
- Workers that have successfully completed these programs must receive priority hiring.
- The County must provide technical assistance to NGOs/small cities regarding labor compliance regulations and reporting (e.g. via the Department of Business and Consumer Affairs).
- Participants in workforce development programs must learn while they earn, receiving a living wage. For example, the highly successful Utility Pre-Craft Trainee program at LADWP,<sup>10</sup> installing energy efficiency retrofits, pays trainees \$17/hour.
- The County must support establishment of local green infrastructure construction/O&M certification, such as partnering with the National Green Infrastructure Certification program,<sup>11</sup> developed by the Water Environment Federation and DC Water (District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority).

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<sup>9</sup> <http://thelafed.org/releases/fourth-cohort-formerly-incarcerated-graduated-labors-second-chance-pre-apprenticeship-bootcamp/>

<sup>10</sup> <http://laborcenter.berkeley.edu/pdf/2016/Training-for-the-Future-2.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> <http://ngicp.org/>

# Governance

A properly constituted governance structure is a critical component of an accountable, fair and trustworthy program. We agree with the overall proposal by staff to model the structure using watersheds with the EWMPs and WMPs nested in eight sub-regions as an appropriate starting point. However, some significant representation issues must be addressed, as specified below, to ensure that low-income communities are meaningfully represented, as well as those landholdings that represent the best opportunities for implementing nature-based solutions in communities, schools and parks.

Lastly, with respect to the project selection process identified by staff, we recommend a significant change to the process and recommend that the “Technical Committee” instead become a “Technical Assistance Committee” which provides upfront project and as need ongoing technical assistance. This group can effectively assist with the development of competitive projects, particularly for low-income communities or areas/cities that do not have the technical capacity to develop nature-based projects.

OWLA provides the comments below and the flow charts at the end of the narrative, which describe the recommendations for each section as noted.

## **Geographic Areas**

- The broad geographic areas recommended by County Staff make sense; the number of regions is reasonable.
- Nesting of EWMP groups has been thoughtfully aligned with watersheds which makes sense for planning purposes

## **Project Selection Process – Technical Assistance Committee (Chart 1 & 2)**

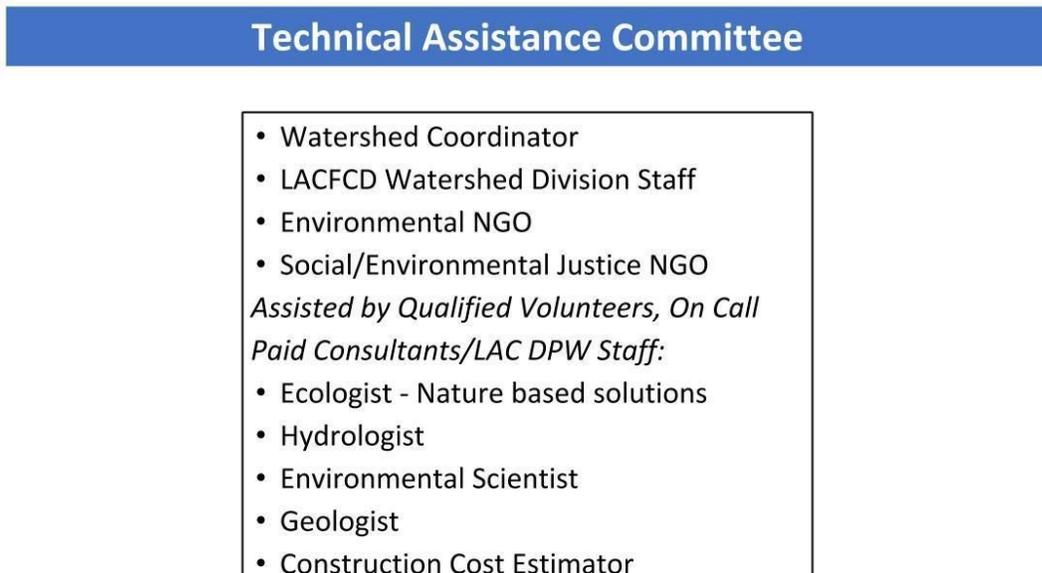
- The Technical Assistance Committee (TAC) must only provide technical “assistance.”
- Technical assistance must be prioritized at the front end of project concept & design (*see Chart 1*).
- A priority for technical assistance must be given to projects which will serve low-income communities and small cities.
- The TAC must provide assistance in grant writing with a priority given to low-income communities and small cities.
- The TAC must include a watershed coordinator from each of the geographic regions (8 as proposed).
- Watershed coordinators must have science-based training, experience in local planning and serve as a mentor to project proponents. The Watershed Coordinator will serve as the overall coordinator to ensure that projects work well together regionally. (*The Dept. of Conservation Watershed Coordinator Program is a good model for this function.*)
- The TAC must not have decision making authority for funding projects.
- The TAC must include local community environmental and social justice NGOs and provide funding to support participation.
- The TAC must provide project implementation assistance, particularly to NGOs and small cities to assist with permitting, public agency coordination and general assistance on project implementation.

- The TAC must also provide training and expertise to develop a bench of NGOs equipped with the capacity to implement projects under this program.

**Chart 1**



**Chart 2**



## ***Funding Allocation (Regional Funds)***

- The proposed two-tier (Scenario 2) for a Watershed & Regional allocation of funds is necessary in order to ensure that projects and programs which have regional impact can be administered effectively and efficiently

## ***Governance Membership (Chart 3)***

In order to make an informed recommendation, we request information regarding population and parcel-based land mass distribution for each proposed sub-region. In addition, the following recommendations must apply for the selected membership configuration from cities/COGS:

- Broad stakeholder representation on the Governance committee is essential for ensuring wide and strong commitment to the Safe, Clean Water Program and success in project delivery.
- In order to have a balanced decision making process which values the input of all stakeholders, cities and COGs must never constitute more than 60% of the total votes in a watershed group sub-region
- The city and COG seats must have the flexibility to name either electeds or designees, i.e., staff.
- All appointees to the “interest” groups must have **local** knowledge.
- All appointees must be expected to serve for at least two years
- The following changes/additions to the recommended “interest” groups for a total of 11 voting and 1 non-voting members in this category.
  - LACFCD - agree but must be affiliated with the Watershed Division
  - Water Agency - representing one of the sub-region water districts
  - Sanitation - LAC Sanitation District or local sanitation department rep. as appropriate
  - Public Health - Representative (rep) from LAC Health
  - Disadvantaged Communities - Local Social Justice NGO
  - Local Environmental NGO
  - Open Space - Regional, State or Federal Agency rep
  - Parks - Local municipal park rep
  - School Board Member - local school board member rep
  - Watershed Coordinator
  - Business - regional chamber or economic partnership member
  - Regional Board – non-voting member

**Chart 3**

# Sub Watershed Committee Membership

**Membership of Cities/Unincorporated Areas**

- Representation should be based on tax revenue generated
- The county shall appoint a steering committee with representation from each sub watershed and stakeholder members to establish membership qualifications and recommend a nomination process for membership.
- No more than 14 seats (a majority) for each group
- Seats may be filled by staff and/or COG staff

**Stakeholder Members**

- Watershed Coordinator
- LAC FCD Watershed Division
- Water Agency
- Sanitation Agency
- Public Health Agency
- Local Social Justice NGO
- Local Environmental NGO
- Open Space - Regional, State or Federal Agency rep
- Parks - Local municipal park rep
- School Board Member - local school board member rep
- Business - regional chamber/economic partnership member
- Regional Board - non voting member

## Regional Governance Committee (Chart 4)

- Representation from each regional watershed group is essential
- The special interest representation must mirror the seats listed above for the sub-regions for a total of 20 voting and 1 non-voting members.

**Chart 4**

# Regional Watershed Committee Membership

**8 Watershed Committee Member Chairs**

- Santa Clara River & Antelope Valley
- Upper Los Angeles River
- Upper San Gabriel River
- North Santa Monica Bay
- Central Santa Monica Bay
- South Santa Monica Bay
- Lower Los Angeles River
- Lower San Gabriel River

**Stakeholder Members**

- Watershed Coordinator
- LACFCD
- Water Agency
- Sanitation Agency
- Public Health Agency
- Regional Social Justice NGO
- Regional Environmental NGO
- Open Space - Regional, State or Federal Agency rep
- Parks - Local municipal park rep
- School Board Member
- Business
- Regional Board - non voting member

## Transparency & Oversight

- Enhance public trust by creating a comprehensive online portal available to the public that tracks real-time Program expenditures with metadata and geospatial mapping of funding distribution.
- There must be a provision developed in the program guidelines which specifies that an independent review would determine every 5 years any corrective actions necessary to ensure that program funds are allocated fairly based on money in, money out or if not that there is a corrective plan to address corrections to the allocations.
- An oversight committee with broad stakeholder representation must be established to ensure that the goals of the program are met with respect to both the Watershed and Regional Programs. (*The City of LA Prop O provides a good example of such a program.*)

## Appendix A: Definitions

Term	Definitions
<b>Typology</b>	
Green/Nature-Based	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Projects that rely predominantly on soils and vegetation to restore the natural ecosystem processes required to slow, detain, and absorb water, infiltrate water to aquifers, filter pollutants out of water and air, sequester carbon, support biodiversity, provide shade, and aesthetically enrich environments. Examples include strategically undeveloped mountains and floodplains, wetlands, rain grading, mulch, soil conservation and enhancement, tree and vegetation planting, and parkway basins.</li> </ul>
Gray	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Projects that rely on human engineered and operated infrastructure and conventional piped drainage and water treatment systems using primarily inert, impermeable materials such as steel and concrete. These make up most of our urban systems including paved streets, dams, drains, flood channels, and dry wells.</li> </ul>
Gray/Green Hybrid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Projects that are a combination of green and gray infrastructure composed and managed to realize some benefits of green infrastructure within a framework of more conventional development. These are combinations of structures engineered for specific controls, such as green streets, spreading grounds, and planted areas with water storage capacity.</li> </ul>
<b>Size/Scale</b>	
Centralized	<p>Projects that are located on large parcels in key locations in the county, which usually have an average annual capture potential of more than 1,000 acre-feet per year per project and manage stormwater concentrations which are often downstream from the point of runoff generation. Examples include dams, spreading grounds, treatment plants, and areas specifically protected for resource conservation such as the mountains of the upper watersheds, floodplains, and large wetlands.</p>
Neighborhood	<p>Projects that are located on or impact either large or multiple parcels, which usually have an average annual capture potential of less than 1,000 acre-feet per project. Often these are located on public rights-of-way, which may include parks, streets, greenways, schools, and other significant public infrastructure.</p>

<p>Distributed (Parcel-scale)</p>	<p>Projects that are simple and replicable enough that they can be spread widely and abundantly. These are public and private landscape-based projects that property owners can reasonably make and manage. Micro interventions such as rain gardens and swales, parkway basins, mulching, soil conservation and enhancement, vegetation and tree planting, permeable paving, and rain tanks may be included as parts of larger projects, or as stand-alone improvements.</p>
<p>Multi-Benefit (stormwater projects)</p>	<p>Unlike traditional water management strategies that often try to solve various problems (water quality, water supply, flood) in isolation, multiple- (or multi-) benefit projects take a more holistic approach to address a variety of challenges simultaneously. In the stormwater management arena, this can include enhancing water supply, reducing pollution loads/improving water quality, and providing a variety of other environmental and community enhancements (e.g., improving air quality, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, sequestering carbon, mitigating flood hazards, restoring and protecting habitat, increasing biodiversity, reducing heat-island effect, reducing green waste, increasing recreation opportunities and open space, improving community health and safety, etc.).</p>
<p>Green Streets</p>	<p>A street that, through a variety of design and operational treatments, mimics local hydrology prior to development to manage stormwater runoff as a resource rather than a waste. Green street projects typically manage stormwater runoff close to source, incorporating landscaped streetside planters or swales and/or removing impervious surfaces to allow water to soak into soil and vegetation to reduce pollutant loading. Added benefits can include more livable and healthy communities and attractive streetscapes that connect business districts, neighborhoods, parks and schools, and they can be designed to accommodate traffic and safety needs of cars, trucks, pedestrians and bicyclists.</p>
<p>Equity</p>	<p>Equity requires valuing everyone equally with focused and ongoing societal efforts to address avoidable inequalities, historical and contemporary injustices, and the elimination of disparities. It is through concrete policies and practices, authentic community engagement, adequately funded projects and associated norms change that we will bring about much needed improvements to the water system. This can be done by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Increasing the percentage of public funds invested in water- infrastructure in low-income communities of color.</li> <li>2. Building capacity in government, the private sector, and community-based organizations for robust community engagement in water planning and policymaking.</li> <li>3. Accelerating water use innovations and demonstration projects in low-income communities of color, and scale up successful pilot projects to drive policy change.</li> <li>4. Fostering cross-government collaboration to embed health and equity in all stormwater decisions.</li> </ol>

## Appendix B: Project Types & Examples

Scale	Green/Nature-Based	Gray/Green	Gray
<b>Distributed</b>	<p>Rain grading (swales, berms, rain gardens), curb cuts with parkway basins, infiltration trenches, soil amendment, vegetation and tree planting</p> <p><i>Examples: Water LA Panorama City Retrofits (3.8 AFY for all 22 retrofits)</i></p>	<p>Cisterns, rain tanks, permeable pavement, infiltration trenches, bioswales, green roofs, planter bump-outs, tree wells</p> <p><i>Examples: Horace Mann Elementary School, Jeff Seymour Family Center,</i></p>	<p>Drywells, small low-flow diversions (LFD)/drainage</p> <p><i>Examples: PCH LFD in Pacific Palisades,</i></p>
	<p>Wetlands, park grading, stream daylighting/restoration</p> <p><i>Examples: Rio de Los Angeles State Park, Dominquez Gap Wetlands</i></p>	<p>Green streets, parks with large underground chambers, small engineered treatment wetlands</p> <p><i>Examples: Watts Green Streets, Bolivar Park (624 AFY), Basset High School Project (266 AFY), Monteith Park Project (80 AFY)</i></p>	<p>Street gutters, storm drains, injection wells, large storage tanks, large low flow diversions/drainage</p> <p><i>Examples: Agro Drain Sub-Basin Facility at LA World Airport</i></p>
<b>Centralized</b>	<p>Floodplain reclamation, large wetland conservation, mountain and upper watershed conservation</p> <p><i>Examples: Upper LA River, Tujunga Restoration (1,000 AFY), Malibu Lagoon</i></p>	<p>Spreading grounds, large engineered treatment wetlands</p> <p><i>Examples: Tujunga Spreading Grounds (16,000 AFY); Rory M. Shaw Wetlands Park (590 AFY)</i></p>	<p>Dams, Water and waste treatment plants, pipelines, reservoirs</p> <p><i>Examples: San Dimas Dam, Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant, Santa Monica Urban Runoff Recycling Facility</i></p>

## Appendix C: Residential Retrofit

Multiple benefit stormwater projects and programs aimed at different parcels scales are embedded throughout all of OurWaterLA's policy goals. One scale that is often overlooked, but can be one of the most powerful engines to meet multiple benefits outlined in the Board of Supervisors' motions is to create a Residential Retrofit Program.

This Residential Retrofit Program would provide financial incentives (rebates) to homeowners who install a combination of water-capturing best management practices (BMPs) to capture runoff (a minimum of the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile storm) from their parcel, including, but not limited to: rain gardens and swales, cisterns and rain tanks, vegetation and tree planting, and permeable paving. The Residential Retrofit Program will help ensure compliance standards by including environmental and job quality standards. The Residential Retrofit Program is critical for several reasons:

**1) It is necessary to meet MS4 requirements:**

Both the Upper LA River EWMP and the Ballona Creek EWMP contain a goal of 1% annual residential Low Impact Development (LID) adoption **in order to meet their MS4 requirements**. The other EWMPs base their numbers on the assumed redevelopment rate. Additionally, single-family and multi-family homes represent a huge amount of acreage in the County. In the Dominguez Channel EWMP, for example, single and multi-family homes represent 42% of land use in LA County. Given there are not many large parcels of land to build new projects, residential retrofits provide a great opportunity to achieve the objectives stated in Board of Supervisors' motion.

**2) Residential Retrofits yield multiple benefits:**

As with other multiple benefit projects at larger scales, multiple benefits stem from residential retrofits, including increased water supply and/or water conservation, decreased water pollution, reduced flooding and others.

**3) Angelenos will be engaged and educated about water resiliency**

As called for in the Board of Supervisors' authorizing motion, education, outreach and engagement with the public is needed regarding water issues and water resiliency. There is no better way for the public to become educated on water issues than to see changes on their own property, or for their neighbors to see these changes.

**4) A pathway for job creation**

Creation of this program could catalyze a long-overdue job sector of those that would install as well as maintain the BMPs on these homes. This would elevate, potentially through an accreditation system, the traditional gardener to a certified watershed management specialist. Also, there is the potential to manufacture elements of the BMPs locally, such as cisterns, creating additional jobs.

Therefore OurWaterLA recommends that:

A minimum of 5% of total funds will be set aside to implement the Residential Retrofit Program within two years of the measure's passage. Additionally, at least 1% of the total funds will be used to establish, develop and administer the program. This Residential Retrofit Program would be administered by the County.