

# GATEWAY WATER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Los Angeles Gateway Region  
Integrated Regional Water Management  
Joint Powers Authority

16401 Paramount Blvd., Paramount, CA 90723 • 562.663.6850 phone 562-634-8216 fax • www.gatewayirwmp.org

October 29, 2014

Honorable Mayor Eric Garcetti, Chair  
and Board of Directors  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY  
1 Gateway Plaza  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

## Re: Environmental Cleanup Action Program – Measure X

Dear Chairperson Garcetti:

The Gateway Water Management Authority (GWMA) is writing to request that METRO consider an environmental action cleanup program as part of Measure X. GWMA is a Joint Powers Authority made up of 26 cities and water agencies in Southeastern Los Angeles County serving more than 2 million people. As an agency responsible for coordinating/addressing watershed-related issues that impact the region, this program could provide significant opportunity to fund environmental cleanup improvements associated with transportation projects in Los Angeles County. This cleanup program would be similar to the cleanup program included in the Measure M2 bond issued by the Orange County Transportation Authority.

Surface transportation projects, such as streets, highways and intersections, generate significant environmental impacts. Approximately thirty-percent of urban land use is related to streets, highways, and intersections. Automobiles, trucks, and busses generate substantial water pollution, from copper in brake pads, zinc in tires, antifreeze and oils and grease dripping onto the pavement, as well as numerous pollutants from exhaust discharges. These pollutants are deposited on the streets and highways and are then mobilized by rainfall and wash into the region's storm drains, flood channels, river, bays, and lakes.

All of our cities are moving forward with implementation of Green Street and Complete Street strategies. Stormwater concerns are a large part of local projects funded by Proposition C and Measure R. Future transportation projects, inevitably, will also have to deal with these environmental concerns, particularly at the local level which will cost

Christopher Cash, Board Chair • Adriana Figueroa, Vice-Chair • Charlie Honeycutt, Secretary/Treasurer • Kevin Wattier, Chair Emeritus  
Proudly serving Gateway cities and agencies in Southeastern Los Angeles County

Members: Artesia · Bell · Bell Gardens · Bellflower · Central Basin Municipal Water District · Cerritos · Commerce · Cudahy · Downey · Hawaiian Gardens · Huntington Park · La Mirada · Maywood · Lakewood · Long Beach · Long Beach Water Department · Lynwood · Montebello · Norwalk · Paramount · Pico Rivera · Santa Fe Springs · Signal Hill · South Gate · Vernon · Whittier

With Technical Support From The Sanitation Districts Of Los Angeles County

millions of dollars. Augmenting the enormous cost for these types of projects is paramount to addressing the environmental cleanup actions that we all face. Further, this type of measure is consistent and appropriate with the policies of the LA Regional Board and METRO and would help meet the common goals of both agencies.

Los Angeles County and its 88 cities are governed by both a Federal TMDL Consent Decree related to surface water pollution and individual NPDES permits. This decree and the individual permits require substantial investments by the County and the cities in programs and capital improvements to improve water quality. The County and the cities are required to monitor their urban runoff. This data is submitted to the LA Regional Water Quality Control Board ("Regional Board") and is publicly available. Failure to meet water quality clean-up requirements by dates in the TMDL permits will open up Los Angeles County and the cities to costly Water Board fines and third-party litigation. Los Angeles County has already been sued in Federal Court for water quality violations.

There is currently no stable or viable funding source to deal with the pollutants from our streets, highways and intersections. Measure X provides the region with an ideal opportunity to provide the County and cities with a stable funding measure that will help to address this funding shortfall over a long period of time. Such a stable funding program could present valuable opportunities for Co-Permittees to help finance NPDES capital expenditures or provide local matching funds for state and local grant programs.

METRO is aware that the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors "tabled" the "Clean Water, Clean Beaches" measure in 2012, which would have provided the County and the cities with a stable source of revenue to fund surface water quality projects. During the public hearings at the Board meeting, it was suggested that local governments pursue alternative funding options, including increasing local sales taxes, to fund stormwater improvements. Measure X now provides this opportunity for transportation-related projects.

There is a local precedent for developing an environmental clean-up program as part of voter approved transportation funding. In 1990, Orange County voters approved Measure M, a 20-year program for local transportation improvements that is funded by a half-cent sales tax. The original Measure M transportation improvement program ended in 2011. However, in 2006, Orange County voters approved the continuation of Measure M for another 30 years to 2041.

The renewed Measure M contains a water quality and environmental cleanup program. Under this program, two percent of gross revenues (estimated at \$327 million over 30 years) will be set aside to assist Orange County municipalities in improving water quality. According to the ballot materials for the renewed Measure M, the environmental monies may be used for water quality improvements with a transportation nexus, including capital and operations improvements such as:

Christopher Cash, Board Chair • Adriana Figueroa, Vice-Chair • Charlie Honeycutt, Secretary/Treasurer • Kevin Wattier, Chair Emeritus  
Proudly serving Gateway cities and agencies in Southeastern Los Angeles County

Members: Artesia · Bell · Bell Gardens · Bellflower · Central Basin Municipal Water District · Cerritos · Commerce · Cudahy · Downey · Hawaiian Gardens · Huntington Park · La Mirada · Maywood · Lakewood · Long Beach · Long Beach Water Department · Lynwood · Montebello · Norwalk · Paramount · Pico Rivera · Santa Fe Springs · Signal Hill · South Gate · Vernon · Whittier

*With Technical Support From The Sanitation Districts Of Los Angeles County*