



# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"*

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IN REPLY PLEASE  
REFER TO FILE: WM-3

TO: Each Supervisor  
FROM: Donald L. Wolfe  
Director of Public Works

### FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY LEVEE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

In response to Hurricane Katrina and the resulting catastrophic failure of the levee system that protects the Gulf Coast, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has accelerated its national Levee Certification Program. This program seeks to identify and assess the risk of flood damage in areas protected by existing levees. Under the program, local, State, and Federal agencies will be required to certify that levees they maintain meet Federal flood protection standards. Alternatively, FEMA will map areas protected by uncertified levees and designate them as high flood hazard under the National Flood Insurance Program. We expect all levees we maintain and operate to meet or exceed minimum Federal flood protection standards.

In the next few months, FEMA will be sending you and the mayors of all 88 cities in the County of Los Angeles a letter detailing the Levee Certification Program. We are currently working with our local FEMA representative and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to coordinate our compliance efforts under the Levee Certification Program. As part of this effort, we intend to send a public outreach letter to each city in advance of FEMA's notification explaining the Levee Certification Program and what Public Works is doing to certify the levees we maintain.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please call me or your staff may contact Diego Cadena, Deputy Director, at (626) 458-4008 or [dcadena@dpw.lacounty.gov](mailto:dcadena@dpw.lacounty.gov).

SR:kk

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cc: Chief Administrative Office  
Executive Office