

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS SHEILA KUEHL AND HILDA L. SOLIS July 18, 2017

Regional Water Resilience Expenditure Plan, Outreach and Engagement

On April 5, 2016, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors directed the Department of Public Works to develop a Water Resilience Plan. The Water Resilience Plan, which is already in development, will delineate a variety of integrated strategies to increase drought preparedness and local water self-reliance, improve water quality to protect public health and the environment, and advance and support communities' abilities to adapt to the effects of climate change.

On May 30, 2017, the Board further directed the Department of Public Works to develop a Stormwater Capture Expenditure Plan to determine an appropriate parcel tax to implement stormwater projects and programs. The Board also directed the Department of Public Works, the Chief Executive Officer, County Counsel and other appropriate departments to conduct a two-year, broad-based education, outreach, and engagement program to educate stakeholders and the public about these critical County water issues. This extensive education and outreach effort will require internal and external expertise to develop stakeholder-sector-specific outreach materials and strategies, implement a broad public education campaign including paid advertising, and

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conduct multiple public meetings with stakeholders from all sectors and communities.

Furthermore, the Board directed the Department of Public Works, the Chief Executive Officer, County Counsel and other appropriate departments to engage directly with the County's municipalities, local water agencies, public health agencies and organizations, businesses, labor, non-profit organizations, school districts, and community groups to solicit input on both the Water Resilience Plan and the Stormwater Capture Expenditure Plan.

On June 13, 2016, the County of Los Angeles executed an initial delegated authority agreement with the Conservation and Natural Resources Group, LLC to provide strategic counsel regarding the work required to develop a Water Resilience Plan and a plan for initial stakeholder outreach. Conservation and Natural Resources Group, LLC possesses unique expertise in the areas of integrated water management and the development of water-related funding measures, and is crucial to the success of the aforementioned efforts.

The County has historically relied upon third party consultants when undertaking previous public education and outreach efforts. For instance, the Board of Supervisors authorized over \$7 million in consultant services to assess park needs, fund education and outreach, and develop a funding measure for the recently-approved Parks Measure A.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors, acting as the governing board of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District:

1. Find that the proposed amended agreement or agreements for education, outreach, and funding measure development are not a project as defined by Section 15378 of the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") Guidelines

as they are excluded from definition of a project and are administrative activities of government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes to the environment.

2. Delegate authority to the Director of Public Works and the Chief Executive Officer to take all actions necessary to amend the existing agreement with Conservation and Natural Resources Group, LLC to conduct a two-year extensive water education and outreach program, implement a collaborative stakeholder engagement process for the proposed Water Resilience Plan, and provide assistance with development of the Stormwater Capture Expenditure Plan; with an increase to the existing contract amount not to exceed \$8,000,000, using Los Angeles County Flood Control District funds.

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