

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR JANICE HAHN

March 19, 2019

**Ballona Creek Trash Reduction**

Ballona Creek is an 8.8-mile flood control channel predominantly maintained by the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (District). The channel drains the 130 square mile Ballona Creek Watershed and provides flood risk management for approximately 1.5 million residents of the Cities of Beverly Hills, Culver City, Inglewood, Los Angeles, Santa Monica, West Hollywood, and the unincorporated communities of Ladera Heights, and View Park. The City of Los Angeles comprises approximately 80 percent of the watershed by land area. During storm events Ballona Creek receives an influx of trash from the urban watershed through a network of storm drains. Despite significant reduction in trash over the years due to efforts by upstream municipalities to control trash at the source, including millions of dollars spent on retrofitting catch basins, improving trash collection services, increasing the frequency of street sweeping operations, conducting extensive anti-litter public education outreach, this Board's own progressive actions such as banning single use plastic carryout bags, and efforts by the District to implement a "last line of defense" net near the channel outlet, significant

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amounts of trash continue to reach downstream beaches and the Pacific Ocean.

Recognizing that the best solution is to control trash at the source, the District is working with watershed cities to identify additional steps they can take to reduce trash entering Ballona Creek. Steps could include, among others, additional street sweeping, installation of more catch basin screens, and a concerted public education campaign to change littering behavior. To address residual trash and debris that makes its way into Ballona Creek, the District's maintenance personnel routinely capture and pick up trash and debris within and along Ballona Creek after each storm. For the current rain season since October 2018, approximately 37 tons have been collected. The existing trashnet on Ballona Creek maintained by the District was designed to capture trash during small storms events but has not been fully effective during recent storms. The District is actively working to identify alternate trash and debris collection and removal methods. The evaluation includes a range of options including the award winning Inner Harbor Water Wheel, or "Mr. Trash Wheel", currently deployed in Baltimore's Inner Harbor as well as end of pipe trashnets, additional enhanced trash booms, precast inline netting chambers, and other mechanical and structural solutions.

The District will work with cities to jointly pursue grant funding for a comprehensive trash reduction strategy and is also actively assessing potential grant opportunities for future in-channel solutions. Additionally, funds from the voter approved Safe, Clean Water Program may be available for these and other trash control solutions. Addressing the current trash situation in Ballona Creek is a high priority and is necessary to maintain the vibrancy of our communities.

**I, THEREFORE MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors direct the Director of Public

Works to:

1. Provide a report back within 90 days providing a summary of steps currently being taken by watershed cities to control trash at the source and the status of the current evaluation of trash removal options in Ballona Creek, including the Inner Harbor Water Wheel;
2. By October 1, 2019, develop a multi-year, multi-agency plan to reduce trash and debris littering local beaches near the Ballona Creek outlet including:
  - a) Coordination with watershed cities, including City of Los Angeles, on additional steps by cities to reduce trash entering Ballona Creek.
  - b) A long-range multi-agency trash reduction strategy including community engagement efforts to promote anti-littering behavior, solutions for upstream watershed trash controls, and enhanced in-channel “last line of defense”.
  - c) Assessment of grant and other funding opportunities including from watershed cities.
  - d) Identification of short-term solutions to remove residual trash in Ballona Creek during the 2019-2020 storm season.

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JH:jw