

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

JUNE 23, 2015

Improving Accountability and Oversight of Water Quality Issues in Los Angeles County

In January of this year, residents in the City of Gardena began to complain about the appearance and odor of the water piped into their homes by Golden State Water Company (GSWC) and the lack of responsiveness from GSWC to their complaints.

On March 3, 2015, the Board of Supervisors (Board) approved a motion to send a five-signature letter to the California Environmental Protection Agency’s Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water (Agency) requesting that the Agency immediately send a letter to GSWC directing them to take multiple steps to revise their notification procedures and promptly address its water quality issues.

The motion also directed the Interim Chief Executive Officer, in consultation with the Interim Director of the Department of Public Health and County Counsel, to provide recommendations on proposed legislative or regulatory changes that would give the County of Los Angeles and localities some level of funded oversight to address these types of water quality concerns.

Over the past few months, GSWC has taken steps to address the water quality

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issues in Gardena, including significantly increasing the frequency of its system flushing program. GSWC is also encouraging customers who are experiencing water quality concerns to contact the 24-hour Customer Service Center, attempting to directly communicate with all customers who have reported concerns, and offering to reimburse customers for expenses incurred due to water quality concerns.

Despite the perceived improvements in Gardena, in order for the County of Los Angeles or other localities to address more nimbly and aggressively local water quality concerns, several legislative and regulatory changes are still required.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Adopt the recommendations made by Interim Chief Executive Officer in her April 28, 2015 report entitled "Recommendations for Proposed Legislative or Regulatory Changes to Give the County and Localities Some Level of Funded Oversight of Water Purveyors"; and
2. Direct the Interim Chief Executive Officer and all other appropriate departments to take all actions necessary to pursue statewide adoption of the proposed legislative or regulatory changes outlined in the report.

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