

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS SHEILA KUEHL AND HILDA SOLIS February 16, 2016

The US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), together with the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (District) operate a network of dams and major waterways throughout the Los Angeles Area. This world class system, referred to as the Los Angeles County Drainage Area (LACDA), encompasses more than 3,000 square miles and 85 cities, and provides flood risk management to approximately 10 million people and 2.1 million parcels valued at over \$1 trillion. In addition, the District operates groundwater recharge facilities as part of the LACDA system, which conserves stormwater and contributes upward of one third of the region's local water supply.

The District and the Corps are each responsible for operation and maintenance of portions of the LACDA system. The District is responsible for 14 major dams and approximately 500 miles of open channels, while the Corps has 4 major dams and approximately 40 miles of open channels. Both agencies must engage in maintenance and rehabilitation activities in order for the system to operate effectively. The District has successfully maintained its facilities over the years, annually undertaking an extensive series of activities in order to ensure that its facilities continue to perform as designed. However, due to federal funding constraints, the Corps has not been able to

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provide the needed level of maintenance for its facilities.

Further, as the Corp does undertake the needed maintenance, it is critical that the Corp reach out to surrounding communities in order to properly inform them of these efforts, and that the work is done in an environmentally sensitive manner.

The Corps has recently reported that they have been unable to secure the funding necessary to provide the most critically needed maintenance to their LACDA facilities. Without this maintenance, the Corps' facilities provide a lower level of flood protection. This is especially critical under the current El Nino conditions which are expected to bring higher than normal rainfall. Also, the area in question is highly urbanized, and if these facilities fail to perform, thousands of properties and lives are placed in jeopardy. The intermittent Federal funding for the LACDA system undermines the Corps' effectiveness to provide both flood protection and stormwater capture for groundwater replenishment.

In addition, for the past four years, the State of California, including Los Angeles County, has faced an unprecedented drought. Critical reductions in imported water supplies have resulted in increased efforts among numerous agencies, including the County of Los Angeles, to conserve more water. In order to increase the sustainability of the local water supply, the District has been working with the Corps for many years to modify the operation of its dams to increase their ability to capture storm water for groundwater replenishment. Though there has been some positive change, much more must be done in order to maximize this opportunity.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board direct the CEO, in coordination with Public Works, to send a five-signature letter to Los Angeles County's congressional delegation, asking that they:

1. Request the Assistant Secretary of the Army to report back on:
 - a) an assessment of the outstanding maintenance needs within the Corp-maintained portion of the LACDA system
 - b) the cost to bring the Corp-maintained sections of the LACDA system up to federal standards for flood protection
 - c) opportunities for local maintenance of the Corp maintained portions of the LACDA system
2. Support legislation to increase local water supply sustainability, including changing the operation of Corp dams as quickly as possible to maximize stormwater capture for groundwater replenishment.

S:MCC/LACDA-LACFD