



MARK PESTRELLA, Director

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

May 06, 2025

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**WATER RESOURCES CORE SERVICE AREA
LOS ANGELES COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT AND
UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY PARTNERSHIP
STORMWATER RECHARGE EFFICIENCY
IN THE GREATER LOS ANGELES REGION STUDY
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS)
(3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Public Works is seeking Board authorization for the Chief Engineer of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District or his designee to enter into an agreement with the United States Geological Survey related to the performance of a study entitled Stormwater Recharge Efficiency in the Greater Los Angeles Region.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD ACTING AS THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT:

1. Find that the proposed study is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act for the reasons stated in this Board letter and in the record of the project.
2. Authorize the Chief Engineer of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District or his designee to enter into an agreement with the United States Geological Survey to collaboratively perform the study at a cost to the Los Angeles County Flood Control District not to exceed \$900,000 (including the use of previously authorized as-needed consultant services) and to perform the study in accordance with the agreement.

3. Authorize the Chief Engineer of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District or his designee to negotiate and enter into amendments to the agreement with the United States Geological Survey, including but not limited to changes to the study scope, performance period, and respective tasks, provided the total aggregate cost to the Los Angeles County Flood Control District in connection with the agreement and all amendments does not exceed the amount of \$900,000.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The purpose of the recommended actions is to find that the study and related activities are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and to authorize the Chief Engineer of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District or his designee, on behalf of the District, to enter into agreement with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to collaboratively perform the study.

Public Works and the District are regional leaders in water resource management and watershed health. In December 2023 the Board adopted the Los Angeles County Water Plan with a vision to create a shared, inclusive, regional path forward to sustainably and equitably achieve safe, clean, and reliable water resources for Los Angeles County. Additionally, the District's Safe, Clean Water Program is another key initiative aimed at improving stormwater management in the County to improve water quality, increase water supply, and provide community benefits. These strategic initiatives help advance the District's dual mission of flood risk protection and stormwater conservation through a lens of both resilience and equity.

The District's proposed collaboration with USGS to perform the study is another critical step in deepening the region's understanding and management of stormwater capture and infiltration for groundwater recharge. The study will integrate multiple stormwater and groundwater models to estimate and improve groundwater recharge efficiency within the Los Angeles region. This includes combining models to create a cutting-edge tool to assess stormwater recharge under different scenarios, developing maps to show the most favorable locations, and expanding the analysis to include regional hydrologic systems. Through this partnership, the goal is to create a comprehensive tool and methodology for more in-depth evaluation and optimization of sites for stormwater capture based on groundwater recharge potential and provide regional partners with effective strategies.

The study is estimated to take 4 years to complete and cost approximately \$1,076,900. USGS is contributing federal funds, all in the form of in-kind services, in the amount of \$215,300 toward the study and the District's contribution is estimated at \$900,000. Approval of the agreement with USGS will be substantially similar to the enclosed joint-funding agreement.

By collaborating in the study, the District will be better positioned to provide the region with higher quality data and insights to improve or update planning documents used in stormwater management decisions.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

These recommendations support the County Strategic Plan: North Star 2, Foster Vibrant and Resilient Communities, Focus Area Goal D, Sustainability, Strategy i, Climate Health, by supporting a study that improves regional water sustainability, equity, and resilience.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

There will be no impact to the County General Fund.

The District's contribution is up to \$300,000 each year for 3 years beginning in Fiscal Year 2024-25. Sufficient funding for the District's annual contribution of funds is available in the Measure W-SCW District Program Administration Fund (B42-Other Charges) Fiscal Year 2024-25 Budget. Funding for future years will be requested through the annual budget process.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The joint-funding agreement with USGS will be approved as to form by County Counsel prior to execution by the Chief Engineer or his designee.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

The recommended actions are exempt from CEQA pursuant to Section 15262 of the State CEQA Guidelines and Section 21102 of the California Public Resources Code. They relate to a planning and feasibility study for possible future actions that the Board has not adopted, approved, or funded, and pursuant to Section 15306, related to information gathering including basic data collection and resource evaluation activities that do not result in a serious disturbance to an environmental resource. In addition, based on the planned study work product, it will comply with all applicable regulations, it is not in a sensitive environment, and there are no cumulative impacts, unusual circumstances, damage to scenic highways, listing on hazardous waste site lists compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5, or indications that it may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource that would make the exemption inapplicable.

By approving and collaboratively performing the study, the District does not commit to or otherwise endorse, authorize, or approve any specific project. Authorization of any future project activities would occur only following compliance with CEQA, and Public Works will return to the Board for consideration of appropriate environmental documentation as necessary.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

There is no adverse impact on current services.

CONCLUSION

Please return an adopted copy of this Board letter to Public Works, Stormwater Planning Division.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Pestrella". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mark" written in a more compact, stylized manner and the last name "Pestrella" written in a more extended, flowing script.

MARK PESTRELLA, PE

Director

MP:MJF:lg

Enclosures

c: Chief Executive Office (Chia-Ann Yen)
County Counsel (Tiffani Shin)
Executive Office, Board of Supervisors



United States Department of the Interior

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
California Water Science Center
6000 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95819

December 19, 2024

Yao Kouwonou, PE
Civil Engineer
Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
900 S. Fremont Ave
Alhambra, CA 91803

Dear Yao Kouwonou:

Enclosed is our standard joint-funding agreement 25ZGJFA21000066 between the U.S. Geological Survey California Water Science Center and Los Angeles County Department of Public Works for the project, **Stormwater Recharge Efficiency in the Greater Los Angeles Region**, during the period January 1, 2025 through January 1, 2029 in the amount of \$885,891 from your agency. U.S. Geological Survey contributions for this agreement are \$221,473 for a combined total of \$1,107,364. Please sign and return one fully-executed original to email cawscagreements@usgs.gov.

Federal law requires that we have a signed agreement before we start or continue work. If, for any reason, the agreement cannot be signed and returned by the date shown above, please contact Elizabeth Jachens at (916) 225-6144 or email ejachens@usgs.gov to make alternative arrangements.

This is a fixed cost agreement to be billed quarterly via Down Payment Request (automated Form DI-1040). Please allow 30-days from the end of the billing period for issuance of the bill. If you experience any problems with your invoice(s), please contact Irene Rios at phone number (619) 225-6156 or iaros@usgs.gov.

The results of all work performed under this agreement will be available for publication by the U.S. Geological Survey. We look forward to continuing this and future cooperative efforts in these mutually beneficial water resources studies.

Sincerely,

Anke Mueller-Solger
Director, USGS California Water Science Center

Enclosure
25ZGJFA21000066
Proposal

U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey
Joint Funding Agreement
FOR
Water Resource Investigations

Customer #: 6000000827
Agreement #: 25ZGJFA21000066
Project #:
TIN #: 95-6000927

Fixed Cost Agreement YES[X] NO[]

THIS AGREEMENT is entered into as of January 1, 2025, by the U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, California Water Science Center, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, party of the first part, and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works party of the second part.

1. The parties hereto agree that subject to the availability of appropriations and in accordance with their respective authorities there shall be maintained in cooperation for the project **Stormwater Recharge Efficiency in the Greater Los Angeles Region** (see attached), herein called the program. The USGS legal authority is 43 USC 36C; 43 USC 50, and 43 USC 50b.

2. The following amounts shall be contributed to cover all of the cost of the necessary field and analytical work directly related to this program. 2(b) include In-Kind-Services in the amount of \$0.00

- (a) \$221,473 by the party of the first part during the period January 1, 2025 to January 1, 2029
- (b) \$885,891 by the party of the second part during the period January 1, 2025 to January 1, 2029
- (c) Contributions are provided by the party of the first part through other USGS regional or national programs, in the amount of: \$0

Description of the USGS regional/national program:

- (d) Additional or reduced amounts by each party during the above period or succeeding periods as may be determined by mutual agreement and set forth in an exchange of letters between the parties.
- (e) The performance period may be changed by mutual agreement and set forth in an exchange of letters between the parties.

3. The costs of this program may be paid by either party in conformity with the laws and regulations respectively governing each party.

4. The field and analytical work pertaining to this program shall be under the direction of or subject to periodic review by an authorized representative of the party of the first part.

5. The areas to be included in the program shall be determined by mutual agreement between the parties hereto or their authorized representatives. The methods employed in the field and office shall be those adopted by the party of the first part to insure the required standards of accuracy subject to modification by mutual agreement.

6. During the course of this program, all field and analytical work of either party pertaining to this program shall be open to the inspection of the other party, and if the work is not being carried on in a mutually satisfactory manner, either party may terminate this agreement upon 60 days written notice to the other party.

7. The original records resulting from this program will be deposited in the office of origin of those records. Upon request, copies of the original records will be provided to the office of the other party.

8. The maps, records or reports resulting from this program shall be made available to the public as promptly as possible. The maps, records or reports normally will be published by the party of the first part. However, the party of the second part reserves the right to publish the results of this program, and if already published by the party of the first part shall, upon request, be furnished by the party of the first part, at cost, impressions suitable for purposes of reproduction similar to that for which the original copy was prepared. The maps, records or reports published by either party shall contain a statement of the cooperative relations between the parties. The Parties acknowledge that scientific information and data developed as a result of the Scope of Work (SOW) are subject to applicable USGS review, approval, and release requirements, which are available on the USGS Fundamental Science Practices website (<https://www.usgs.gov/office-of-science-quality-and-integrity/fundamental-science-practices>).

U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey
Joint Funding Agreement
FOR

Customer #: 6000000827
Agreement #: 25ZGJFA21000066
Project #:
TIN #: 95-6000927

Water Resource Investigations

9. Billing for this agreement will be rendered quarterly. Invoices not paid within 60 days from the billing date will bear Interest, Penalties, and Administrative cost at the annual rate pursuant the Debt Collection Act of 1982, (codified at 31 U.S.C. § 3717) established by the U.S. Treasury.

USGS Technical Point of Contact

Name: Elizabeth Jachens
Hydrologist
Address: 4165 Spruance Road Suite 200
San Diego, CA 92101-0821
Telephone: (916) 225-6144
Fax: (n/a)
Email: ejachens@usgs.gov

Customer Technical Point of Contact

Name: Yao Kouwonou, PE
Civil Engineer
Address: 900 S. Fremont Ave
Alhambra, CA 91803
Telephone: (626) 458-7157
Fax: (n/a)
Email: YKOUWONOU@dpw.lacounty.gov

USGS Billing Point of Contact

Name: Irene Rios
Budget Analyst
Address: 4165 Spruance Road Suite 200
San Diego, CA 92101-0821
Telephone: (619) 225-6156
Fax: (619) 225-6101
Email: iarios@usgs.gov

Customer Billing Point of Contact

Name: Yao Kouwonou, PE
Civil Engineer
Address: 900 S. Fremont Ave
Alhambra, CA 91803
Telephone: (626) 458-7157
Fax: (n/a)
Email: YKOUWONOU@dpw.lacounty.gov

U.S. Geological Survey
United States
Department of Interior

Los Angeles County Department of Public Works

Signature

By _____ Date: _____
Name: Anke Mueller-Solger
Title: Director, USGS California Water Science Center

Signatures

By _____ Date: _____
Name:
Title:

By _____ Date: _____
Name:
Title:

By _____ Date: _____
Name:
Title: