



**PUBLIC REQUEST TO ADDRESS
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

Correspondence Received

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

HILDA L. SOLIS
HOLLY J. MITCHELL
LINDSEY P. HORVATH
JANICE HAHN
KATHRYN BARGER

			The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:	
Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
53.		Oppose	Vaikko Allen	
		Item Total	1	
Grand Total			1	

12/1/2025

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
c/o Executive Office of the Board
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Subject: Reject Item 53 "County Code, Title 12 - Environmental Protection Ordinance Amendment"

Dear Chair and Members of the Board,

I respectfully request that you reject the draft Low Impact Development Ordinance in item 53 and return it to Public Works for revision to align definitions with those in the 2021 Los Angeles Region Municipal Stormwater Permit.

My concern is that the proposed ordinance introduces two definitional changes that may unintentionally narrow the range of stormwater treatment options available to developers and may conflict with the Los Angeles Region MS4 Permit.

First, the definition of "flow-through treatment BMP" replaces the word "includes" with "means."

This small change makes the definition much more restrictive than in the MS4 Permit.

As written, it may force all high-rate biofilters into the "flow-through treatment BMP" category and prevent TAPE-certified or other innovative biofiltration systems from being classified as biofiltration, even when they meet the permit's performance criteria and are properly sized for the design storm. This would reduce flexibility and raise compliance costs without improving water quality. The definition change would also prohibit the use of all flow-through treatment BMPs which are not biofilters, including high performance media filters, which are allowed by the MS4 Permit definition. There are currently hundreds of high rate biofilters and media filters operating in Los Angeles County that have been certified to provide better water quality outcomes than conventional biofilters. Engineers and developers need continued access to these options.

Second, the ordinance's definition of biofiltration is internally inconsistent.

The first sentence states that biofiltration must include incidental infiltration, while the next sentence offers two compliance pathways; either provide incidental infiltration or achieve equivalent pollutant reduction as biofiltration with an underdrain. This ambiguity could be interpreted to require incidental infiltration for all biofiltration systems—contrary to the MS4 Permit, which clearly allows underdrained or lined systems that meet equivalent pollutant reduction performance. This could inadvertently prohibit the use of fully compliant underdrained biofilters in areas with geotechnical or groundwater constraints.

For these reasons, I ask that Item 53 be rejected and that the ordinance be amended to match its definitions verbatim with those in the MS4 Permit, preserving the full toolbox of compliant and cost-effective stormwater

treatment BMPs. Failure to do so will result in escalating building costs and extended project review timelines for challenging land development sites, especially redevelopment, infill and high-density housing projects.

Furthermore, please note that the Los Angeles County Low Impact Development Manual, which will contain guidance for implementation of stormwater management requirements on land development projects from the Los Angeles Regional MS4 Permit and the LID Ordinance, is under development by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works. The release of this manual is expected to coincide with adoption of the LID Ordinance, but no draft has been released for public review or comment. We respectfully request that you direct Public Works staff to release a draft for public review and comment prior to finalization. Feedback from public review comments should be incorporated as appropriate. Development of the prior LID Manual included a stakeholder group representing engineering, environmental, land development and other technical stakeholders. A similar process should be undertaken here to strengthen the revised manual.

Thank you for considering these requests.

Sincerely,



Vaikko Allen
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