



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

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

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

Correspondence Received

Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:				
13.		Favor	Ann Dorsey	
			Anthony Arenas	
			Anthony Arenas	<p>Access to clean, safe drinking water is a fundamental human right, yet current reports show that people inside LA County Jails are being subjected to dirty, unsafe, and contaminated water. This is a clear public health crisis that demands the County act immediately for the safety of our community members.</p> <p>The attention this issue demands is long overdue. The Sybil Brand Commission (SBC) has consistently reported on the LA Sheriff's Department's failure to address the water, plumbing, and sanitation issues within the jails. As recently as November of last year, the SBC reported that the water at Men's Central Jail was "murky" and individuals felt the water was "unsafe" to drink. Others at MCJ have reported that they avoid "sink water" because they believe that "rodents contaminate [the] water supply." Not only do these reports highlight how the LASD is failing to provide a safe environment for individuals incarcerated, but also how vital the SBC is to County Jail oversight.</p> <p>The issues presented by the motion and the Sybil Brand Commission are appalling and a complete disregard for the humanity of those inside the jails. Not only are the reports on the water quality alarming, but reports by SBC show water access is also an issue. In March of last year, SBC reported that MCJ deputies withheld water as a form of punishment. After a facility incident, individuals reported that there was "[n]o water to drink after the incident for 6+ hours, [and] no water bottles given out." Using the denial of water, a basic human necessity, as punishment is cruel and inhumane. I urge the Board to not only pass this motion but to continue leaning on the SBC's reporting to ensure these changes happen.</p> <p>Below are the testimonies of two individuals currently incarcerated in Men's Central Jail that demand a moment of you, the Supervisors', time and attention.</p> <p>jlanow.org/statementbyjoshua jlanow.org/statementbycarlos</p>
			Carlos Castillo	
			Carolina Castaneda	
			Emily Cipriani	<p>This issue should have been fixed IMMEDIATELY. It endangers lives and is an insult to human dignity. Maggots and flies, are you serious? Every day that the water is brown, inmates should be provided UNLIMITED bottled water FOR FREE.</p>



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13.		Favor	Isabel Balboa	
			Nicolette Nodine	<p>I strongly support Supervisor Hahn's motion, "Addressing Water Quality and Safety and Other Hazardous Environmental Issues in the Los Angeles County Jails." Access to clean, safe drinking water is a fundamental human right, yet current reports show that people inside LA County Jails are being subjected to dirty, unsafe, and contaminated water. This is a clear public health crisis that demands the County act immediately for the safety of our community members.</p> <p>I strongly support Supervisor Hahn's motion on water quality and safety in LA County Jails. The attention this issue demands is long overdue. The Sybil Brand Commission (SBC) has consistently reported on the LA Sheriff's Department's failure to address the water, plumbing, and sanitation issues within the jails. As recently as November of last year, the SBC reported that the water at Men's Central Jail was "murky" and individuals felt the water was "unsafe" to drink. Others at MCJ have reported that they avoid "sink water" because they believe that "rodents contaminate [the] water supply." Not only do these reports highlight how the LASD is failing to provide a safe environment for individuals incarcerated, but also how vital the SBC is to County Jail oversight.</p> <p>I strongly support Supervisor Hahn's motion on water quality and safety in LA County Jails. The issues presented by the motion and the Sybil Brand Commission are appalling and a complete disregard for the humanity of those inside the jails. Not only are the reports on the water quality alarming, but reports by SBC show water access is also an issue. In March of last year, SBC reported that MCJ deputies withheld water as a form of punishment. After a facility incident, individuals reported that there was "[n]o water to drink after the incident for 6+ hours, [and] no water bottles given out." Using the denial of water, a basic human necessity, as punishment is cruel and inhumane. I urge the Board to not only pass this motion but to continue leaning on the SBC's reporting to ensure these changes happen.</p>
			Noah Mateo	<p>I strongly support Supervisor Hahn's motion, "Addressing Water Quality and Safety and Other Hazardous Environmental Issues in the Los Angeles County Jails." Access to clean, safe drinking water is a fundamental human right, yet current reports show that people inside LA County Jails are being subjected to dirty, unsafe, and contaminated water. This is a clear public health crisis that demands the County act immediately for the safety of our community members.</p>
			Ron McGill	
		Vanessa Amber Perez Perez	Please fix the water, inmates are not animals	
		Item Total	11	

Grand Total			11	
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A couple of weeks ago, my son told me that water was leaking from the ceiling directly onto his bunk, and that his sink had a leak. As a mother, I did what families are instructed to do in these situations—I contacted the OIG, one of the few resources families and incarcerated people are told they can do safely.

Around that same time, another inmate received a visit from the ACLU regarding a rat infestation. Rats are coming up through the toilets, rat hair has been found in the water they are drinking, and rat feces are present in the living space where they breathe in every single day. No human should be forced to live like this.

Later, they were threatened by a deputy, saying they would be declassified and moved if they continued reporting these conditions. That is retaliation—plain and simple.

All of this is happening because these men dared to speak up. They are not asking for special treatment. They are asking for basic human dignity: an exterminator, rat traps, clean water, and to remain in their current classification and housing without punishment for reporting unsafe conditions, in your jail.

Silence protects abuse—and I refuse to be silent.

Anthony Arenas, Supervisorial District 3
Lead Virtual Action Organizer with Dignity and Power Now
Written Public Comment
February 3, 2026

Agenda Item 13: Addressing Water Quality and Safety and Other Hazardous Environmental Issues
in the Los Angeles County Jails **IN FAVOR**

Access to clean, safe drinking water is a fundamental human right, yet current reports show that people inside LA County Jails are being subjected to dirty, unsafe, and contaminated water. This is a clear public health crisis that demands the County act immediately for the safety of our community members.

The attention this issue demands is long overdue. The Sybil Brand Commission (SBC) has consistently reported on the LA Sheriff's Department's failure to address the water, plumbing, and sanitation issues within the jails. As recently as November of last year, the SBC reported that the water at Men's Central Jail was "murky" and individuals felt the water was "unsafe" to drink. Others at MCJ have reported that they avoid "sink water" because they believe that "rodents contaminate [the] water supply." Not only do these reports highlight how the LASD is failing to provide a safe environment for individuals incarcerated, but also how vital the SBC is to County Jail oversight.

The issues presented by the motion and the Sybil Brand Commission are appalling and a complete disregard for the humanity of those inside the jails. Not only are the reports on the water quality alarming, but reports by SBC show water access is also an issue. In March of last year, SBC reported that MCJ deputies withheld water as a form of punishment. After a facility incident, individuals reported that there was "[n]o water to drink after the incident for 6+ hours, [and] no water bottles given out." Using the denial of water, a basic human necessity, as punishment is cruel and inhumane. I urge the Board to not only pass this motion but to continue leaning on the SBC's reporting to ensure these changes happen.

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<https://jlanow.org/statementbyjoshua>

<https://jlanow.org/statementbycarlos>