



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT



DEPARTMENT: Public Works

MEETING DATE: March 19, 2013

PREPARED BY: Heather Maloney, Senior Management Analyst

AGENDA LOCATION: AR-2

TITLE: Update on the Los Angeles County Clean Water, Clean Beaches Water Quality Funding Initiative

OBJECTIVE: To present a status update on the Los Angeles County's Clean Water, Clean Beaches Water Quality Funding Initiative

BACKGROUND: To assist cities with the projected increased NPDES Permit compliance costs, the Los Angeles County Flood Control District proposed a Clean Water, Clean Beaches Water Quality Funding Initiative (CWCB). The CWCB proposed a parcel-based fee related to run-off. All parcels within the Los Angeles County Flood Control District's jurisdiction would be subject to the fee, including government parcels.

The revenues from the fee would be used to fund projects that improve local water quality, such as the actions and infrastructure called for under the NPDES Permit. The funding would be distributed as follows:

- 40% - Local return to Cities. The City of Monrovia is to receive an estimated amount of approximately \$600,000 annually. Eligible expenditures include programs development and implementation, infrastructure projects, education, monitoring, administration, enforcement, etc.
- 50% - Watershed Area Group (WAG). The City would be a member of the Rio Hondo WAG, which is estimated to receive approximately \$10.3 million annually. The WAG would be managed by a Joint Powers Authority comprised of municipalities. Prior to project funds being released, each WAG would be required to develop a Watershed Plan to develop and identify projects to address water quality. Projects funded by the WAG are intended to be multi-benefit, regional projects. The funds may only be used for the water quality aspect of the projects (land acquisition, monitoring, project planning and engineering, environmental review, etc.)
- 10% - Flood Control District must use these funds to conduct water quality monitoring, research, and technical assistance and administration.

The proposed fee would be subject to the provisions of Proposition 218 notification and voting.

ANALYSIS: The Board of Supervisor's held a Protest Hearing in January 2013, which was extended to March 12, 2013, for continuation. The Protest Hearing was subsequently closed after the Protest Ballots were counted and public testimony was heard. The Board of Supervisors also provided the following direction to their Staff in their motion to close the Protest Hearing:

- Instruct the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to send a letter to the Regional Water Quality Control Board requesting that the Board work with the Director of Public Works (DPW) and the cities in the County to educate the public about stormwater pollution; and

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- Instruct the CEO and DPW to continue to work with the business community, school districts, and non-profits to address their concerns, such as including a 30-year sunset date and making further refinements to the rate reduction program; and report back quarterly on the status of any revisions to the County's Clean Water, Clean Beaches Water Quality Funding Initiative and their work with stakeholders; and
- Direct the CEO to report back regarding the necessary steps the County must take should the Board decide to place the fee item on a general election ballot, and determine potential future election dates to ensure transparency to the public; establish the goal of placing the fee on a ballot in Spring or Fall 2014; and
- Instruct DPW to provide the Board with quarterly reports on the status of the Regional Water Quality Control Board's implementation and enforcement of the Municipal Storm Water permit; and
- Instruct DPW to designate a Staff person within the department to act as the Unincorporated Stormwater Manager to be responsible for reporting to the Board quarterly on stormwater compliance in the unincorporated areas including status of projects, budget expenditures and budget forecasting.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT: There is no environmental impact associated with receiving and filing this report.

FISCAL IMPACT: There is no fiscal impact associated with receiving and filing this report.

OPTIONS: The following options are provided for consideration:

1. Receive and file the report and provide Staff direction on further stakeholder involvement with the Clean Water, Clean Beaches Water Quality Funding Initiative.
2. Receive and file the report and provide no further direction.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends Option 1; receiving and filing the report and providing Staff direction on further stakeholder involvement with the Clean Water and Clean Beaches Water Quality Funding Initiative

COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED: If the City Council concurs, the appropriate action would be a motion to receive and file the report and provide Staff direction on further stakeholder involvement with the Clean Water and Clean Beaches Water Quality Funding Initiative.