



# ECA

## ENGINEERING CONTRACTORS' ASSOCIATION

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October 12, 2011

Honorable Bernard C. Parks  
Chair, Budget and Finance Committee  
200 N. Spring Street, Room 460  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Clean Water (Wastewater) Program Rate Proposal, CF 10-1947

The *Engineering Contractors' Association* has had an opportunity to review the proposed Clean Water Program rate proposal and discuss the issue with the Bureau of Sanitation. We would like to inform you of our support for this proposal.

Our members recognize the need for a well-functioning wastewater collection and treatment system to help protect public health and the environment and drive a strong economy. This investment that will be funded from the future rates will help ensure that the sewer overflows that were too common ten years ago will not return. We also realize that the investment in our infrastructure will provide needed jobs for our community. The proposed ten-year series of rate adjustments will be used to fund over \$2 billion of construction, creating well-paying jobs for local businesses and residents.

Regards,

Wesley F. May  
Executive Director

c: Budget and Finance Committee Members  
Hon. Tony Cárdenas, Room 455  
Hon. Mitchell Englander, Room 405  
Hon. Paul Koretz, Room 440  
Hon. Bill Rosendahl, Room 415



Los Angeles Area  
Chamber of Commerce

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October 12, 2011

Director Enrique C. Zaldivar  
Bureau of Sanitation  
~~1149 South Broadway~~  
Los Angeles, CA 90015

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Dear Director Zaldivar:

On behalf of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, representing more than 1,600 businesses, which employ over 700,000 individuals throughout our region, I write to express our support for the general vision and objectives of the L.A. Wastewater Infrastructure project.

Investing in our City's infrastructure is vital to keeping Los Angeles a livable and economically competitive area. Over the last ten years sewer overflows have been reduced by 79% and through efficiency gains staff has been reduced by 28%. These gains are not only impressive, but they are proof of what a well run department can achieve. We commend the Bureau for reducing your operating costs while increasing the efficiency of the department.

In order to keep this system running smoothly the Bureau has proposed a ten year investment plan to protect and renew our aging sanitation infrastructure. While we endorse the goals of this plan, we have reservations about the immediate sharp increases. During these tough economic times businesses cannot afford to take an exorbitant increase in taxes and fees. We would like to see more modest increases to fund the highest priority actions, and revisit in another year or so after the Council, the Chamber, and the public get a better opportunity to understand the needs and prepare for the costs. It will also be easier in a recovering economy to absorb higher costs.

After two decades of minor or no rate increases, we certainly understand the need for investment. Prioritizing upgrades based on the high risk areas will allow critical upgrades to most needed neighborhoods first while calibrating the cost to business in an appropriate fashion.

We would like to reiterate our support for the vision and leadership that the Bureau of Sanitation is taking in advancing the LA Watershed Infrastructure project. The Chamber looks forward to participating in the continuing process. If you have any questions, please contact Jessica Duboff at [jduboff@lachamber.com](mailto:jduboff@lachamber.com) or 213.580.7558.

Sincerely,

Gary Toebben  
President & CEO