



August 5, 2015

TO:
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Re: Council File 15-0768 (Watershed Approach)

The GreenLA Coalition strongly supports the watershed approach motion (15-0768) introduced by Councilmembers Koretz and Krekorian. The motion's principles and objectives are directly in line with the City's Sustainability pLAn, One Water Plan, Stormwater Capture Master Plan (SCMP), Enhanced Watershed Management Plans (EWMP) as well as the state's updated Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance and Healthy Soil's Initiative. These plans, like GreenLA's members, share a goal of integrating objectives to achieve multiple benefits from every action and expenditure.

Meeting the mandates of the MS4 permit and reducing our reliance on imported supplies will require significant investments. Both the SCMP and the EWMP clearly demonstrate the critical role individual properties have in meeting these essential goals. Investments to support citizen participation in the process should be made wisely.



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The motion addresses two critical components needed to transform our City's approach to landscapes: (1) Cross-sector collaboration to develop and support an integrated approach for incentives; and (2) establishing a set of standards. Setting standards sends a clear message and framework to both residents and landscape professionals.

We cannot afford to replace grass with more gravel-scapes, which do not retain water, filter pollution, recharge groundwater, mitigate flood events, cool communities, enhance biodiversity, and sequester carbon. The watershed approach simply adds rainwater capture to the existing turf removal rebate program. Directing rainwater into a shallow basin or swale, or tank, is achievable and affordable everywhere.



Members of the Coalition have been implementing the watershed approach and advocating at the programmatic and policy level for close to a decade. This is exemplified by the principles underlying The River Project's Water LA Urban Acupuncture Program (Capture, Conserve, Reuse), Surfrider Foundation's Ocean Friendly Gardens Program (CPR – Conservation, Permeability, Retention), and TreePeople's watershed work. We look forward to working with our agency colleagues to develop a meaningful program for the future.

Thank you for your consideration,

GreenLA Coalition Members & Allies:



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Executive Director



Heal the Bay
Rita Kampalath
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