

LA CITY COUNCIL SPEECH FOR PARK MOTION PER
MONICA RODRIQUEZ – JUNE 12, 2019

Hello,

My name is Evelyn Wendel and I founded WeTap, a nonprofit that is helping improve public tap water awareness, access and use with an emphasis on the public drinking fountain. WeTap developed the first participatory drinking water fountain finder app. WeTap works regularly with LADWP and supports LAUSD's Drinking Water Quality Program. We are listed as a collaborating partner in the Mayor's Sustainability pLAN.

WeTap is a founding partner of Tap Water Day with Mayor Garcetti, The AWWA, the State Water Board, the LA County Department of Public Health and the CalEPA. We are on our 5th year and coincidentally tomorrow LADWP is hosting a press event in front of Ferraro at 10am.

Tap Water Day is an annual opportunity to educate communities about the value and safety standards of our drinking water with an emphasis on drinking fountains and the newer hydration stations. The drinking fountain is one of our greatest public treasures and is a powerful link of connectedness.

I am here to support the motion to insure fountains are well maintained in parks and municipal facilities and reusable stainless steel canteens are promoted with education and citywide coordinated efforts.

I strongly support a comprehensive assessment of park fountains and developing a fresh approach to maintenance programs.

The City of San Francisco with support from the Public Utility Commission of San Francisco has had a Drinking Fountain Program since 2011 and has already distributed over 50,000 canteens and installed about 160 new fountains.

The legacy of this work is helping shift our culture towards much needed water resiliency and confidence in Tap Water.

You are setting important standards for future generations to be water stewards in this time of water scarcity, climate change, severe plastic pollution in our oceans and land, health and economic hardships for so many.

Thank you.