

Promoting Publicly Financed, Owned and Operated Safe Water and Wastewater Services

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WHEREAS, public health depends on equitable access to drinking water and sanitation systems, and public ownership of drinking water and wastewater treatment systems has been fundamental to ensuring access and quality over the past century; and

WHEREAS, the Public Trust Doctrine states that water is the commons of all to be managed by government as the sovereign of the people and also protects the habitats from where source waters are drawn; and

WHEREAS, the privatization of municipal water and wastewater treatment systems and services is inappropriate because it turns water into a commodity to be sold for profit; and

WHEREAS, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) is the largest municipal utility in the United States and, like the Bureau of Sanitation, is publicly-owned and financed, governed by a board appointed by public officials and accountable to an elected city council; and

WHEREAS, the LADWP has worked in partnership with the Mono Lake Committee to mitigate and remediate the impacts of water withdrawals on habitat; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor's 2019 Sustainability pLAN update calls for the City of Los Angeles to source 70% of water locally and to recycle 100% of all wastewater for beneficial reuse by 2035; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles has embarked on a \$573 million remediation program of the San Fernando Valley Groundwater Aquifer, which will provide local drinking water to more than 800,000 Angelenos, and residents of the Los Angeles County approved Measure W, which will generate \$500 million annually for stormwater quality and recharge projects, further reducing our dependence on imported water; and

WHEREAS, the federal government is requiring much-needed improvements to wastewater standards, a situation that could open the door to privatization unless dedicated public infrastructure funding is provided to upgrade treatment facilities; and

WHEREAS, a "Blue Community" is one that adopts a water commons framework that treats water as a shared resource to be governed by principles that allow for reasonable use, equal distribution and responsible treatment in order to preserve water for nature and future generations; and

WHEREAS, keeping water and wastewater infrastructure public is one of three steps needed to declare the City of Los Angeles a Blue Community; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Los Angeles declares itself a Blue Community by promoting public financed, owned, and operated municipal water and wastewater services while opposing future privatization, and resolves to keep these services publicly financed, owned, operated and managed.

Presented by: Paul Krekorian
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Seconded by: [Signature]

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