

RESOLUTION RULES, ELECTIONS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles, with respect to legislation, rules, regulations, or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or a federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, on Thursday, January 23, 2020, the Environmental Protection Agency announced a major rollback of federal protections for streams and other smaller bodies of water that had been implemented under the now-repealed Waters of the United States rule (WOTUS), crafted under President Barack Obama; and

WHEREAS, under the Trump Administration's Navigable Waters Protection Rule, federal protections would be lifted for approximately half of the country's wetlands, two out of three freshwater streams, and roughly 81 percent of streams in the Southwest United States; and

WHEREAS, the new Rule, which will be implemented in the coming weeks, would leave much of the environmental regulation to often poorly resourced state and local authorities, potentially increasing the amount of pesticides and other industrial chemicals that flow from smaller bodies of water such as streams and wetlands, into larger above-ground and underground sources of water; and

WHEREAS, in a draft letter issued by the 41-member EPA Science Advisory Board, which is made up largely of Trump administration appointees, it was determined that the new Rule "decreases protection for our Nation's waters and does not support the objective of restoring and maintaining 'the chemical, physical and biological integrity' of these waters."; and

WHEREAS, the Trump Administration's Navigable Waters Protection Rule conflicts with the values, practices and efforts of the City of Los Angeles, non-governmental organizations and community members to protect and enhance the region's waterways and ocean, and meeting Federal Clean Water Act regulations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes into its 2019-2020 Federal Legislative Program OPPOSITION to the implementation of the Navigable Waters Protection Rule proposed by the Environmental Protection Agency.



JAN 24 2020

PRESENTED BY: 
DAVID E. RYU
Councilmember, 4th District

SECONDED BY: 

ORIGINAL