



COUNCIL FOR
WATERSHED HEALTH

November 30, 2015

The Honorable Paul Koretz
Los Angeles City Hall
200 North Spring Street, Suite 440
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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Re: Support for CF# 140907: 80% greenhouse gas emissions cuts in Los Angeles by 2050

Dear Councilmember Koretz:

The Council for Watershed Health (CWH) would like to express its strong support for your motion to the Los Angeles City Council (Council File: 14-0907; Koretz-Blumenfield-Bonin-O'Farrell) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80% in Los Angeles by 2050. The effects of increased carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other greenhouse gases are important to consider because of their contribution to climate change, which can have significant potential to disrupt ecological, economic, and social systems.

CWH is a nonpartisan organization staffed by the leading experts in the water science field. Our long-term strategic plan calls for achieving sustainability of regional water supplies in southern California through integrated natural resources management. Our program areas focus exclusively on water-related issues to define and direct our activities as an organization, including water augmentation (potential volumes of water that can be captured and infiltrated), green infrastructure, and integrated watershed monitoring and assessment. Green infrastructure that increases vegetative cover on urban streets can boost carbon sequestration as well as provide valuable stormwater recharge and filtration functions.

CWH recognizes that the water cycle is intrinsically linked to climate and that the future of the Los Angeles' water supply is highly dependent on strategies to mitigate carbon dioxide-greenhouse gas emissions. Climate change is poised to have a dramatic impact on water availability at global, regional, and local levels. With rises in average temperatures and associated increases in evapotranspiration rates, drought, heavy precipitation, wildfires, and flooding could all occur throughout the state. Studies have suggested that an increased risk of flooding over this century due to a changing climate regime could make efficient capture of water via green infrastructure projects far more difficult and jeopardize our efforts to reduce reliance on imported water supplies.

CWH salutes your leadership and concerted efforts to facilitate the conversation on this and other timely environmental topics that affect the greater Los Angeles region. We therefore urge the Los Angeles Council to pass Council File 14-0907. Please do not hesitate to contact me via email at chris@watershedhealth.org or phone at 213-229-9960 x260 with any questions.

Sincerely,

Dr. Christopher W. Solek
Programs Director
Council for Watershed Health