

A clean and reliable supply of local water is critical to achieving future resiliency and sustainability within the City of Los Angeles. The primary source of local water in Los Angeles is groundwater and the largest supply of local groundwater is the San Fernando Groundwater Basin (SFB). However, chemical contamination of the SFB, prolonged drought, and increased urbanization have severely impacted the ability of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) to extract water from the SFB. As a result, the number of active wells has dropped by approximately 50% and the contamination continues to spread as the groundwater travels through the basin.

LADWP has undertaken a \$573 million remediation program by building treatment facilities that will pump water from the SFB and treat it for use. LADWP broke ground on the first of these projects, the North Hollywood West Wellhead, in January 2018, and three more are in the planning stage with full completion expected in 2022. However, relying solely on remediation is costly for ratepayers and simultaneous recharge is needed to help dilute the contamination and avoid overdraft conditions such as land subsidence from groundwater depletion.

Recharge can occur either with recycled wastewater or centralized/distributed stormwater capture. The Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation (LASAN) has jurisdiction over much of these projects through its operation of the City's wastewater system and its responsibility for runoff management. In order to fully capitalize on this resource, LADWP and LASAN must work collaboratively to both remediate and recharge the aquifer.

In November, voters passed Measure W, which provides the City with \$90 million in annual funding for centralized and distributed stormwater projects. LASAN has already developed a 5-year Capital Improvement Plan which includes a list of 59 projects located within the Upper Los Angeles River Watershed. According to LASAN, the projects were prioritized based on water quality/compliance, water supply augmentation, and flood protection benefits. However it is unclear which of these projects will aid our existing efforts to remediate and recharge the SFB, and to what degree. The City must understand the nexus between the proposed stormwater projects and the SFB in order to appropriately prioritize Measure W funding and preserve this vital Citywide resource.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council INSTRUCT LADWP and LASAN, with assistance of the Chief Legislative Analyst, to report back with a list of proposed Measure W eligible projects that will directly aid our efforts to remediate and recharge the SFB, including their current project status and budget, as well as recommendations for immediate implementation of the highest priority projects.

I FURTHER MOVE that LADWP and LASAN be directed to develop a plan that specifically details their efforts to collaboratively work together to address the contamination within the SFB, including past and future conveyance, capture, and recharge projects that both agencies are undertaking and proposed funding sources for each project.

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