

Los Angeles County

clean water, clean beaches measure

The Los Angeles County Flood Control District is proposing to adopt a Clean Water, Clean Beaches Measure, which would establish an annual fee to pay for clean water programs. The proposed clean water fee would be imposed upon property owners within the Los Angeles County Flood Control District, which includes most of Los Angeles County (with the exception of portions of the Antelope Valley), for the purpose of improving water quality and reducing pollution from stormwater and urban runoff.

Stormwater and urban runoff flush bacteria, trash and other pollutants into gutters in streets and into storm drains and from there into lakes, rivers and the ocean and onto beaches. Waterways throughout Los Angeles County have been found to be polluted above acceptable levels under the federal Clean Water Act and other state and federal laws.

Notice to Property Owners of Public Hearing

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles will hold a public hearing (details inside) on January 15, 2013 to consider a Clean Water, Clean Beaches Measure proposed by the Los Angeles County Flood Control District to establish an annual clean water fee, which would be collected with the property taxes beginning on the 2013-2014 County of Los Angeles property tax roll.

Your Proposed Clean Water Fee:



There are nine watersheds in the Los Angeles County Flood Control District in which the proposed clean water fee would be collected annually.

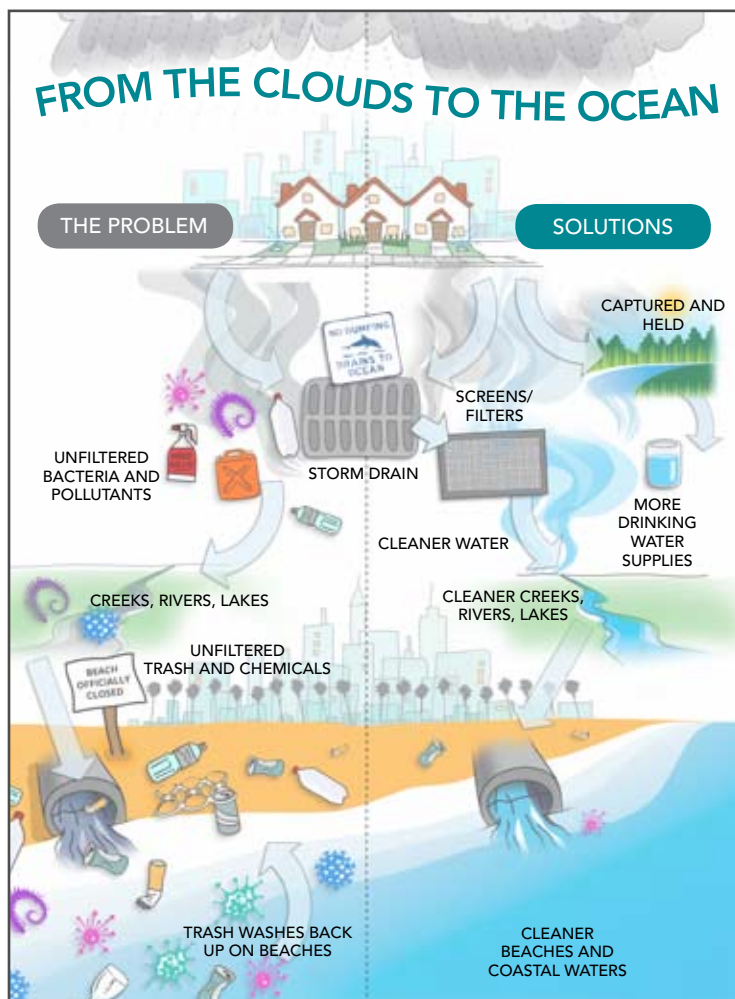
The proposed clean water fee would provide dedicated funding for local and regional projects and programs to help keep pollution out of stormwater and runoff, clean up pollution that flows into our waterways, and use stormwater and runoff to recharge groundwater supplies, which are an important source of drinking water. The fee could also be combined with other funding such as state and federal grants for multibenefit projects that improve water quality and provide other public benefits as well.

(Continued on next page)

Ballona Creek Watershed



You own property in the Ballona Creek Watershed, which drains to the Ballona Creek and includes all the cities and unincorporated communities shown on this map.



The Problem

On a typical rainy day, billions of gallons of untreated stormwater flow directly into rivers, creeks, lakes, the bay, and coastal waters. These polluted waters can contain toxic and other substances that affect our health and the health of fish and marine life. These pollutants can include:

- Industrial solvents, paints and chemicals
- Toxic metals, such as lead, mercury, chromium and arsenic
- Infection-causing bacteria and viruses
- Pesticides and fertilizers
- Trash, including plastics, cigarette butts, candy wrappers and syringes

The polluted runoff that flows into the waterways can cause a variety of problems. For example, high bacteria levels in the waterways can indicate a health risk to swimmers and sometimes result in beach closures. Trash in the waterways and polluted runoff can also be toxic to aquatic life.

Solutions

Fee revenues collected in the Ballona Creek Watershed would be used by cities, the County of Los Angeles, and an established watershed authority group for projects in the Ballona Creek Watershed that would help protect public health and the environment by keeping toxic chemicals, harmful bacteria, and trash out of waterways such as the Ballona Creek, including projects to increase local groundwater supplies, which are an important source of drinking water.

The proposed fee would be used for projects that could generate thousands of local jobs in construction, engineering, landscaping, environmental work and other trades. By law, fees collected within the Ballona Creek Watershed will be used for projects and programs to improve water quality within that watershed. Fees collected in the other watersheds will be used for water quality projects and programs within those watersheds.

The measure does not earmark funds for specific projects and programs, but establishes criteria for the use of the funds and allows local jurisdictions to determine how best to use those funds to achieve water quality benefits.

Over time, the projects that the fee pays for will significantly reduce the degradation of waterways in Los Angeles County and improve the quality of the water in those waterways.

The projects and programs that could be funded with the fee include:

- Installation and maintenance of catch basin screens and treatment devices to reduce trash, chemicals and other harmful substances in stormwater and urban runoff;
- Street sweeping to keep trash out of storm drains;
- Diversion of stormwater and urban runoff before it pollutes lakes, rivers, and the ocean; this water is held, filtered and cleansed (both naturally and using manmade filters) in groundwater basins, and used to recharge underground drinking water sources;
- Programs to educate children and adults about keeping trash and other pollutants out of streets and storm drains and about reducing water runoff from their properties.

Multibenefit projects can combine fee revenues with other funding sources to improve water quality and provide other benefits to the public, such as:

- Increase local drinking water supplies;
- Provide recreational areas such as parks and ball fields;
- Protect open space and natural areas;
- Irrigate neighborhood parks, ball fields and school grounds;
- Create, restore and improve wetlands and habitat; and
- Protect public health and safety.

Notice to Property Owners of Public Hearing on Proposed Clean Water, Clean Beaches Measure

Proposed Fee

A clean water fee is proposed that would generate over \$200 million annually in dedicated funding for reducing pollution from stormwater and urban runoff in Los Angeles County waterways.

The proposed fee would be paid by property owners within the Los Angeles County Flood Control District, which includes most of the County, excluding portions of the Antelope Valley. All properties generate runoff, and the more impervious surfaces that a parcel has (such as buildings and pavement), the more runoff it generates. The fee is determined by the average amount of runoff that properties generate, based on parcel size (but not property value) and land use classification, such as whether the property is residential, commercial, industrial or undeveloped, because this is an indication of the percentage of the parcel that has impermeable surfaces.

The fee for your property is shown on the front page of this brochure. An Engineer's Report explaining the fee calculations for all properties can be found at: **www.LACountyCleanWater.org**.

As required by law, 40 percent of the fee revenues collected will be allocated to the city in which the properties are located, or to the County of Los Angeles for the unincorporated areas, for water quality improvement programs as determined by each city or the County. Another 50 percent of the fee revenues collected will be allocated to the watershed authority group established for the watershed in which the properties are located for water quality improvement programs in the watershed. The remaining 10 percent of the fee revenues must be used by the Los Angeles County Flood Control District for water quality monitoring, research, technical assistance and administration.

The fee will be collected every year with the property taxes and will continue annually until terminated by the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors. By law, fees cannot not be raised without another public hearing and election.

Program Accountability

These funds could not be diverted or used for any other purpose. All expenditures would be subject to independent annual audits, and all project information would be available for public review. In addition, an independent Oversight Board will ensure that the funds are only used for projects that meet established criteria.

Public Hearing

The California Constitution requires that the proposed fee go through a two-step approval process, which includes both a public hearing and an election. As the governing body of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles will hold a public hearing on:

**January 15, 2013 at 9:30 a.m.
Board of Supervisors Hearing Room
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012**

Auxiliary aids and services for people with disabilities are available with three business days notice by calling: 800-218-0018 or TDD, 626-282-7829.

At the public hearing, the Board of Supervisors will receive oral and written testimony about the proposed clean water fee. Any property owner may testify or file a written protest with the Executive Officer of the Board of Supervisors at any time before the end of the public hearing. A written protest must identify the parcel address and assessor's parcel number, and must be signed by the property owner or an authorized representative. You may use the protest form included below or write a letter.

Mail to:
Executive Officer
Board of Supervisors
P.O. Box 866006
Los Angeles, CA 90086

Or hand deliver to:
Executive Officer
Board of Supervisors
Kenneth Hahn Hall of
Administration, Room 383
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

The Board of Supervisors may continue the hearing to a future date. If the Board of Supervisors has not received written protests against the proposed fee by a majority of property owners before the end of the public hearing, the Board of Supervisors may authorize an election to approve the fee.

For more information, please:

- Visit www.LACountyCleanWater.org
- Or call 800-218-0018 (8am-5pm, M-Th)
- Or email water.info@dpw.lacounty.gov

Para el Aviso o información en Español, por favor

- visite www.LACountyCleanWater.org
- o llame 1-626-458-6981

Protest Form

Property owners or an authorized representative may complete this form or write a letter, and mail to the Executive Officer of the Board of Supervisors, P.O. Box 866006, Los Angeles, CA 90086 or hand deliver at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, Room 383, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA. To be counted as a protest, this form or your letter must include the Assessor's Parcel Number and parcel address, be signed by the property owner or an authorized representative and be delivered no later than the end of the public hearing. Only one protest per property will be accepted and counted. (The barcode contains a parcel identifier.)

☐ I protest the proposed clean water fee.

Print name _____

Sign name _____

Clean Water, Clean Beaches Program
County of Los Angeles Flood Control District
PO Box 861809
Los Angeles, CA 90086

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

Los Angeles County Clean Water, Clean Beaches Measure
Official Notice to Property Owners of Public Hearing

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Notice of Public Hearing for:
Los Angeles County
clean water, clean beaches measure

The Clean Water, Clean Beaches Measure would address water-related challenges in Los Angeles County:

- Polluted water is flowing through Los Angeles area rivers and creeks and into lakes, the bay and coastal waters.
- The Los Angeles area needs more local sources of water to use for drinking water.

The Clean Water, Clean Beaches Measure would fund projects to reduce pollution in Los Angeles County waterways, including projects that divert and cleanse stormwater and urban runoff to preserve and increase supplies of groundwater that are usable as local sources of drinking water.

More Information:

www.LACountyCleanWater.org
1-800-218-0018



Printed on paper containing a minimum of 30% post-consumer content.