



**WESTSIDE CITIES**

- BEVERLY HILLS
- CULVER CITY
- LOS ANGELES
- SANTA MONICA
- WEST HOLLYWOOD
- COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

**Date:** September 18, 2008

**TO:** Westside Cities Council of Governments

**FROM:** Jody Hall Esser, Executive Director

**SUBJECT:** **Presentation RE Water Quality Funding Initiative Sponsored by the County of Los Angeles Chief Executive Office and the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (District),**

At the WSCCOG Board meeting on September 18, 2008, Mr. Hector Bordas with the Los Angeles County Flood Control District will give a brief presentation to the Board regarding this Initiative which aims to establish a dedicated, long-term funding source—a stormwater drainage fee—to address stormwater and urban runoff pollution.

If County of Los Angeles voters approve, this new revenue source would provide for facilities to clean up runoff, and for ongoing maintenance to keep those facilities functioning far into the future.

**Background**

The EPA has determined the maximum amount of various pollutants that can go into water and still meet water quality standards. Each pollutant has its own specific Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), and every City and unincorporated area must meet these TMDL requirements.

Individual cities and the unincorporated areas do not have the funds to address TMDLs. The Los Angeles County Flood Control District, as a regional entity providing flood protection to the cities and unincorporated areas, recognizes that water quality is a problem that affects all jurisdictions. As a regional agency, the District is in a unique position to facilitate a solution that works for the whole community. The District intends to collaborate and partner with the cities to lead the effort to identify and implement watershed level solutions to the water quality problem.

**Connection to COG**

It is clear that cities, the unincorporated areas of the County, and the District are facing immediate, steep challenges to comply with their stormwater permits. The District is meeting with COGs, elected officials, and city managers to understand cities' issues and concerns, what they have already done to meet TMDL requirements, and their anticipated needs in meeting future TMDLs. An advisory committee of city managers has been formed to work with the District as the initiative moves forward. (Representatives

from the City Managers' offices in Beverly Hills and Santa Monica are representing the Westside cities.) In addition, a separate advisory committee of public works directors/city engineers is being developed to provide technical input into projects.

All of the information gathered will be carefully evaluated and used to make recommendations on various aspects of the project.

**Anticipated Schedule**

Currently, a property owner mail ballot election for this initiative is planned for early 2010.

**Action Requested**

None. Presentation only.