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# **ericGARCETTI**

## **LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL**

District 13 ? 200 N. Spring St. Room 470 ? Los Angeles ? CA 90012



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **GARCETTI HAILS VOTE FOR CLEAN WATER**

Councilmember Garcetti applauded the unanimous vote of the Los Angeles City Council today to place a \$500-million bond measure on the November 2004 city ballot. The measure would raise funds to pay for the city's compliance with the stringent federal Clean Water Act requirements that protect Angelenos' recreational bodies of water from harmful pollutants, including trash, toxins and bacteria. After fighting these regulations in court for several years with limited success, the city has turned to the hard work of cleaning up its waterways and complying with the Act.

"From the Los Angeles River to Santa Monica Bay, LA's waterways aren't clean enough," said Councilmember Garcetti. "What's inspiring us to go forward today is that from Granada Hills to San Pedro, our constituents are telling us that they want clean water and a safe, healthy environment to live and work in."

The final proposal that will go before the voters will include provisions establishing a Citizens' Oversight Advisory Committee comprising both traditional water-quality experts and neighborhood activists with expertise in protecting and improving their own communities.

The City Council heard strong support from members of the environmental community, including speakers Fran Diamond from the Regional Water Quality Control Board, and Andy Lipkis, President of Tree People.

Other provisions included in the measure will protect the taxpayers' investment by making sure that funds are directed primarily to efforts to comply with the State Clean Water Act, and providing for audits by the Los Angeles Controller's office. Bond funds may not pay for salaries for administrators. Projects will be designed to maximize utility; for example, projects that provide open space in addition to cleaning water sources will be favored. (An example of this can be found in the 13<sup>th</sup> District's Bimini Slough, where a pocket park combines with a grassy swale that filters trash and toxins out of run-off waters naturally).

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