



Councilmember Jack Weiss

200 N. Spring St. ♦ Los Angeles ♦ CA 90012

COUNCIL PASSES WEISS, GARCETTI RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF STORMWATER CLEANUP MEASURES

State Constitutional Amendment would allow City to seek funding to fight stormwater and urban runoff pollution.

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LOS ANGELES – To improve the City's ability to clean up its waterways, the Los Angeles City Council today today passed a resolution sponsored by Councilmember Jack Weiss and City Council President Eric Garcetti that supports amending the California Constitution to give the City of Los Angeles more options to fund water pollution management by allowing local assessment fees.

"For too long our waterways have been harmed by pesticides, bacteria, and trash that flow into our storm drains. Allowing the City to use fees for cleanup efforts would help restore the Los Angeles River and protect Santa Monica Bay," said Weiss, who chairs the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission, a state agency that oversees grants for water quality improvements.

"Angelenos vote at record levels to support cleaner water, and this Council hears them loud and clear," said Council President Eric Garcetti. "Today we're taking responsibility for our rivers and bays."

The federal Clean Water Act has placed more responsibility on local governments to monitor and treat stormwater and urban runoff. While Proposition 218 passed in 1996 permits local agencies to collect water, sewage, and garbage collection fees, it excludes fees to fund stormwater and urban runoff management. Currently, fees for stormwater pollution efforts require either a majority of property owners or a two-thirds vote of residents in a specific area to raise property-related fees.

"Heal the Bay commends the City of Los Angeles for providing leadership in supporting this critical funding effort. Passage of SCA 12 will save lives, protect property, safeguard public health, and clean up California's most polluted streams, beaches, and coastal waters," said Mark Gold, President of Heal the Bay.

The Weiss-Garcetti measure endorses the efforts of SCA 12 (Torlakson-Yee, co-authored by Kuehl) to give cities the right to collect stormwater and urban runoff management assessments under the California Constitution. If passed, SCA 12 would put a measure on the state ballot for voters to consider amending the state constitution to allow local assessment fees for stormwater pollution control. The state legislation is scheduled for a committee hearing on June 27.

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