Public Comment Form

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Meeting: LLAR WASC

Date: 2/22/2022

☑ LA County Public Works may contact me for clarification about my comments

*Per Brown Act, completing this information is optional. At a minimum, please include an identifier so that you may be called upon to speak.

Phone participants and the public are encouraged to submit public comments (or a request to make a public comment) to SafeCleanWaterLA@dpw.lacounty.gov. All public comments will become part of the official record.

Please complete this form and email to SafeCleanWaterLA@dpw.lacounty.gov by at least 5:00pm the day prior to the meeting with the following subject line: "Public Comment: [Watershed Area] [Meeting Date]" (ex. "Public Comment: USGR 4/8/20").

Comments

Good afternoon, my name is Michael Scaduto and I am commenting as the acting Principal Engineer overseeing the City of Los Angeles' Safe Clean Water Implementation Division. I would like to inform the committee on the City of Los Angeles' process of acknowledging and supporting projects within our jurisdiction. That includes projects originating from our own City of Los Angeles departments, Council Offices, and from other organizations.

Within the City of Los Angeles, the Mayor's Office and City Council has established a Safe Clean Water Administrative Oversight Committee (AOC) which is tasked with the approval of which projects within the City of Los Angeles shall be submitted for regional funding consideration in each watershed area. Moving forward, the AOC will be tasked with providing letters of support or non-objection to projects and studies seeking funding within the City of Los Angeles' jurisdiction. This effort is in line with the County's Guidance outlined in the Safe Clean Water Implementation Ordinance. Additional information regarding the City's governance structure is available on the Sanitation website at http://lacitysan.org/safecleanwater

With that, we are requesting that the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) and Scoring Committee require and confirm that non-municipal Project applicant/developers proposing studies on municipal facilities have obtained permission approval from the Municipality to access the facilities. Proponents should also be required to obtain an initial letter of support from the Municipality in which the project is proposed that includes concurrence with the plan for access, coordination, and future operations and maintenance before allowing them to progress to the Watershed Area Steering Committees for funding consideration. In both the previous round and this current funding round, the City of Los Angeles has seen projects reach a Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) for funding consideration without support from the Municipality. This has caused, and continues to cause, undue discussion and confusion for this committee.

Having outlined the City of Los Angeles' approach, the City of Los Angeles has significant concerns on the Gaffey Nature Center Facility Scientific Study being considered by the CSMB WASC. This project has failed to follow the City of Los Angeles' process and as a result, the City has not given formal support; nor has the City of Los Angeles approved any access to the publicly owned parcels or construction within the public right of way for the purpose of this study.

It is the City of Los Angeles' intent to continue working collaboratively with this committee and the community in reaching our mutual goals of supporting water quality, water supply, and community enhancement projects. I thank this committee for their due diligence and their service to the entire watershed and appreciate your consideration.