

STORMWATER FUNDING OPTIONS

Update on Implementation of the Los Angeles County Stormwater Funding Options Report

A presentation to the
Southern California Water Dialog
By
Richard A. Watson, AICP
Richard Watson & Associates, Inc.

Los Angeles, California
27 January 2016



Stormwater Funding Options Report

- Sub-titled “Providing Sustainable Water Quality Funding in Los Angeles County”
- Prepared for the League of California Cities, Los Angeles County Division and the California Contract Cities Association
- Final Report published October 14, 2014
- Lead by an Elected Officials Steering Committee and a City Manager Work Group
- Developed as an educational tool and contained 42 recommendations related to a variety of topics



Stormwater Funding Options Report

(Continued)

- Recommendations include: Organizational Recommendations, Education and Outreach Recommendations, Recommendations for Legislation, Clean Water, Clean Beaches Recommendations, Local Funding Options and Recommendations to the Regional Water Board.
- Report also contains 60 pages of appendices
- Has been generally well received
- Today, I want to talk about how we are moving forward to implement some of the recommendations.



2015-16 Follow-Up

- Contract Cities and the Los Angeles County Division of the League of Cities taking the lead
- 60 Cities in Los Angeles County have agreed to fund a \$204,000 budget to fund the work plan to address developing a funding options “tool box.”
- A 10-member Elected Officials Steering Committee has been formed – ½ League, ½ CCCA
- Two organizational meetings were held late last year.



Initial Actions

- Revise work plan
- Revise budget
- Organize a City Manager Committee
- Organize a Public Works Officials Subcommittee
- Organize a Public Information Officials Subcommittee
- Organize a Stakeholder Committee



Draft Work Plan

- Clean Water, Clean Beaches
 - Initiate discussions with County staff re: CWCB Initiative
 - Meet with Members of Board of Supervisors
- Partnership with Los Angeles County Sanitation District
 - Work with LACSC on Implementation of SB 485
- Capture and Use of Stormwater
 - Explore technical and regulatory hurdles to to capture and use of stormwater
 - Explore legislation to resolve liability issues surrounding stormwater infiltration projects on public lands.



Draft Work Plan

(Continued)

- Proposition 218 Reform or Option
 - Work with organizations that are exploring a Constitutional Amendment – Coordinating with League and Water Foundation
- Special Assessment District
 - Explore the use of Assessment Districts for stormwater, including whether legislation should be needed
- Water Conservation Districts
 - Explore possible amendments to the Water Conservation District Act for form Urban Water Conservation Districts
- State Projects
 - Explore legislation to require State projects, including school construction, community college improvements and park projects constructed with state bond funds comply with water quality standards and to require that the State Architect assure that school projects are consistent requirements in MS4 Permits.



Draft Work Plan

(Continued)

- Source Control Legislation
 - Consider sponsoring or supporting legislation on the removal of zinc in tires and/or tire fees
 - Engage in the DTSC rulemaking process
- Local Funding Options
 - Explore local funding options (i.e. stormwater development impact fees and amendments to refuse fees and street sweeping contracts)



Draft Work Plan

(Continued)

- Regional Water Board Recommendations
 - Initiate discussions with Regional Board on the report's recommendations on how best to assist local government
- Other Items
 - Engage in State Water Board's efforts to implement its strategic plan
 - Coordinate with U.S. Conference of Mayors on federal issues
 - Meet with State Board members and staff on need to follow federal Fiscal Capability Analysis (FCA) policy.



Draft Work Plan

(Continued)

Education and Outreach Programs

1. Inventory the existing public education and outreach programs – revise the public education and outreach effort; form a subcommittee to work on the public education programs.
2. Educate local elected officials.
3. Outreach to the local State legislative delegation.
4. Reach out to the school districts, as well as to federal and state officials – set meetings with the Steering Committee.



Draft Work Plan

(Continued)

Education and Outreach Programs (Continued)

5. Communicate with the Governor and the legislature on the need for additional funding opportunities – set meetings with the Steering Committee.
6. Initiate a program to conduct outreach to the local Congressional delegation – set meetings with the Steering Committee.
7. Encourage the incorporation of best science into the Basin Plan.
8. Steering Committee to meeting with MTA Board members and key staff.



Conclusions

- Appears that County will wait for support from cities before moving forward on a stormwater fee
- There is not a single answer to solve the funding needs for the orphaned stormwater utilities.
- Efforts this year will be directed toward a “tool box” of funding options.
- With the development of WMPs and EWMPs there is a lot more information on project costs and local elected officials have a better understanding of the need for additional funding.
- Outreach and education will be critical.



CONTACT

Questions?

Richard Watson, A.I.C.P.

Richard Watson & Associates, Inc. (RWA)

Tel. 949.855.6272

Email: rwatson@rwaplanning.com

