



*City of Los Angeles  
Department of Public Works  
Bureau of Sanitation*

## **Proposition 0**

### **Clean Water, Ocean, River, Beach, Bay**

### **Storm Water Cleanup Measure General Obligation Bonds**

*Voters to decide on November 2, 2004*

### **General Obligation Bonds Would Fund Stormwater Management Projects that Protect Water Bodies and Meet Water Quality Standards (Total Maximum Daily Loads)**

The federal Clean Water Act requires that the nation's water bodies be protected from sources of pollution so that oceans, rivers, beaches, and bays comply with water quality standards called "Total Maximum Daily Loads", or TMDLs. TMDLs are the maximum amount of a pollutant that the water body can receive and still meet water quality standards.

Sixty-seven TMDLs will be adopted over the next several years. Nine major TMDLs have already been or will soon be adopted by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. These TMDLs include: (1) Los Angeles River Trash TMDL, (2) Ballona Creek Trash TMDL, (3) Santa Monica Bay Beaches Dry and Wet Weather Bacteria TMDL, (4) Marina Del Rey Dry and Wet Weather Bacteria TMDL, (5) Cabrillo Beach Dry and Wet Weather Bacteria TMDL, (6) Los Angeles River Nutrients TMDL, (7) Los Angeles River Metals TMDL, (8) Ballona Creek Metals TMDL, and (9) Ballona Creek Sediment TMDL.

### **Cost of Projects to Meet TMDL Water Quality Standards**

The cost to design and construct the many projects that would enable the City of Los Angeles to comply with the nine TMDLs above is estimated at more than \$500 million – *for the first five years* of a program that will extend more than a decade.

Rivers, Lakes, Beaches, Bays and Ocean Water Quality Protection Projects	\$250 million
Flood Water Reduction, River and Neighborhood Parks that Prevent Polluted Runoff and Improve Water Quality Projects	\$100 million
Water Conservation, Drinking Water and Source Protection Projects	\$75 million
Storm Water Capture, Clean-Up and Re-Use Projects	\$75 million
Total (nine TMDLs implemented over the first 5 years)	Approximately \$500 million

## ***Funding Proposition O***

The City's Stormwater Pollution Abatement Charge (SPAC) raises \$28 million annually and that funding is needed for existing watershed protection programs. In July 2004, the Los Angeles City Council directed the City Attorney and City Administrative Officer to place a General Obligation Bond on the November 2004 General Election Ballot.

When Los Angeles residents vote on November 2, 2004, they will consider funding the projects required for the City of Los Angeles to comply with mandatory water quality TMDLs. Highlights of Proposition O Bond and Fee assessment are:

- 💧 Two-thirds of all voters must approve Proposition O for it to pass.
- 💧 Upon passage, bonds would be issued over a period of five years, paced along with construction funding needs.
- 💧 A **tax assessment on the average property** (valued at \$350,000) would be approximately **\$0.67 per week**. This translates to \$35.00 annually over a 24-year amortization period. This would raise \$500 million to fund the construction of needed stormwater projects.

### ***Other Provisions of Proposition O: The Stormwater Projects General Obligation Bond, If Approved:***

- 💧 All bond funds would be placed in a special fund that can only be used for the purposes of the program.
- 💧 Salaries for administrators not directly involved in the program would be ineligible.
- 💧 A nine member Citizens Oversight Advisory Committee would be formed to monitor the program, the projects, the budgets and schedules. The Mayor would appoint four members; two based on their expertise and experience with clean water and two knowledgeable community representatives. The City Council President would appoint five members; three based on their expertise and experience with clean water (one of them to be recommended by the Regional Water Quality Control Board) and two knowledgeable community representatives. At least semi-annually, the committee would advise and report to the Mayor and City Council on the status of the program.
- 💧 A five member Administrative Oversight Committee would be formed to oversee and direct the program and projects in order to comply with approved schedules and budgets. Two committee members would be appointed by the Mayor and three by the President of the City Council. One member of the committee would represent the Department of Public Works.
- 💧 The City Council would consult with the two committees to develop and review criteria for the selection of individual stormwater control projects. The City Council would adopt criteria within 180 days of bond measure passage. The Integrated Resources Plan, the LA River Revitalization Plan and the Watershed/Water Management Plans would be used by the City Council as guidelines for the selection of individual projects. The committees would review these project proposals to confirm that they meet the adopted criteria and would make recommendations to the City Council following a specific time schedule.
- 💧 Beginning Jan 1, 2005 and every year afterwards, the City Administrative Officer would file an annual report with the City Council, reporting on program status and the amount of funds collected and expended. The City Controller would periodically audit stormwater quality projects.

As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and, upon request, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services, and activities.

A message from the City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works. Printed on recycled paper.