



**MONICA RODRIGUEZ
COUNCILWOMAN, 7TH DISTRICT**

September 28, 2020

Dear Members of the Measure W Administrative Oversight Committee,

Please accept these written comments for the public record in regards to item four on the Measure W Administrative Oversight Committee Meeting agenda dated September 17, 2020. Due to technical difficulties, oral comments on behalf of Council District 7 were not heard in committee.

On behalf of Councilwoman Rodriguez, I would like to express our office's support for the David M. Gonzales Stormwater Capture Project being put forward by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP).

David M. Gonzales is a critical community recreation space in the park-poor neighborhood of Pacoima, adjacent to the San Fernando Gardens public housing community. Pacoima is a disadvantaged community, and ranks amongst the most heavily polluted in California according to CalEnviroScreen. Investments in this type of green infrastructure here are long overdue. We are thrilled at the multi-benefit aspects of this project:

The scope of work for this project includes many highly-desired community recreational amenities for the park. We know that these are, in fact, community driven desires because they were born from active community participation in Prop 68 community outreach meetings. There were 420 surveys collected for that effort, with an average of nearly 100 participants at each of the three public meetings. Unfortunately, even after this incredible participation, our community was disappointed to learn the City was not awarded funds for this project. The LADWP David M. Gonzales Stormwater Capture Project helps achieve several of those recreational scope elements.

Beyond recreation use, the project would fulfill various environmental goals outlined by the community in the Upper LA River and Tributaries (ULART) Master Plan, including watershed management, development of multiple benefit projects, reduction of flood risk, and engaging with underserved communities. David M. Gonzales's location just over a mile from the Pacoima Wash, a proposed project site in the ULART plan, could create a great linkage towards a connected network of multi-benefit water quality improvements that complement one another.

The Seventh District has not seen the level of investment necessary through previous initiatives to reverse the decades of environmental impacts it has faced, therefore, we are excited for the opportunity to bring long overdue investments through Measure W for this initiative.

For these reasons, we ask for this body's approval to move forward the David M. Gonzales Stormwater Capture Project, in order to advance our systemic vision towards environmental justice for this long-overlooked community.

Sincerely,

Paola Bassignana
Planning Deputy, 7th District