

October 19, 2014

TO: Board of Directors, Los Angeles County Division, League of California Cities
FROM: Mary Ann Lutz, Mayor, City of Monrovia
Re: MS4 Affordability and Federal Legislation – Request for funding to support activities

As many of you know I have been deeply involved with water quality and stormwater runoff for many years. From 2002 – 2012, I served on the Los Angeles Regional Quality Control Board as the municipal member during which I served as chair for two years.

The topic of water has gained notable attention in recent times primarily due to the drought. Water supply and delivery are a topic most people understand and a conversation they are engaged in. However; water quality, stormwater runoff, MS4 permits and TMDL's are a far more complex topic that have equally significant impacts and costs to our communities and have not made their way to the general public or the media.

My efforts in fighting for our local communities with these topics include working to create a unifying voice for LA County through the LA Permitting Group, which includes 61 cities and the County to negotiate for a MS4 permit.

Through the US Conference of Mayors, I have served tirelessly on the Environment Committee: Mayors Water Council. This group deals directly with US EPA and we have begun negotiating a guideline document discussing Integrated Planning. The significance of this is that the Municipal Stormwater and Wastewater Planning Approach Framework was adopted in June of 2012 and I presented it to the LA Permit Group which adopted it as a key provision in planning for the MS4 permit. Serving on the Water Council has allowed me find a common theme across the country of unfunded mandates placed on cities and counties through the Clean Water Act that are financially strangling our communities. For our cities and county the primary concern is TMDL's and MS4.

In 2013 we began a new conversation with US EPA dealing with the integrated framework document and the affordability of the unfunded mandates. In the spring of 2013 I submitted a Resolution to the US Conference of Mayors addressing the unfunded mandates of the Clean Water Act – in particular the MS4 issues and the need for addressing the affordability. That same year I submitted an almost identical resolution to the League of CA Cities and it passed as well. These resolutions have led to the drafting of new federal legislation dealing with the affordability of unfunded mandates. My input and language has been included to address the MS4 issues as well as Prop 218 and its impacts on raising local revenues in California. The Mayors Water Council is currently discussing this legislation with Members of Congress in order to pick up sponsors. We in LA County are fortunate to have Congresswoman Grace Napolitano serve on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee who has expressed interest in co-sponsoring the legislation.

The impacts of these unfunded mandates are not only borne by the cities and county. Surveys have been conducted – of which many of your cities have participated – to determine the costs of water passed on to citizens as a result of the Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water Act. Results show that the lowest income residents are paying the most for water costs, some as high as 16% of their median household income. These surveys are key to the discussion with US EPA and to support our legislation.

I write to ask for consideration of assistance in travel funding for these efforts. With all our city budgets being slashed my travel budget cannot accommodate the amount of travel I do and I have been personally paying for my travel on behalf of all of our cities for this very important topic. I am requesting consideration for funding at \$7,000 to be used as follows:

Estimated 4 trips to Washington D.C.	\$5,600
Estimated 2 trips to Northern CA.	\$1,400
Total:	\$7,000

Washington D.C. Trips (4) – Flight and hotel only approximately \$1,400

Sacramento (1) – Flight and hotel only approximately \$700

San Francisco (1) – Flight and hotel only approximately \$700

I ask that you consider funding this request in that all cities will benefit from legislation addressing the unfunded mandates currently in place. Furthermore, the fact that I am the only representative on this topic from California and that while this is federal legislation – our issues and interests are very different to those from other parts of the country. As always I am available to discuss and update you on the current status as well as provide clarity to the potential impacts on your community.

I thank you for consideration of my request.