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August 26, 2024

TO: Honorable Members of the Los Angeles City Council
RE: Letter of Support for Sewer Service Charge Rate Adjustment
 CF 23-0600-S9 2023 Budget Recommendation / Sanitation / Fee Study / Preserve
 Operations (Email to: sansscrates2024@lacity.org)

My name is Ken Susilo, and I am the President of the Asian American Architects and Engineers Association - a 46-year-old professional nonprofit organization representing Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Founded in Los Angeles, our constituency is in Los Angeles and throughout Southern California; we work extensively in the Architecture Engineering and Construction space. I am also a Vice President and Senior Principal with Geosyntec Consultants, where I manage the water business throughout the State of California. I have been a practicing civil, environmental, and water resources engineer for over 30 years and have been named the Outstanding Civil Engineer in Private Practice by the American Society of Civil Engineers in the state of California twice. I also currently serve in an advisory capacity to the Departments of Civil and Environmental Engineering for both UCLA and UC Berkeley.

Management of water resources in Southern California is critical to ongoing sustainability within the region. Aging infrastructure makes our systems vulnerable, as do ever-increasing costs associated with construction and operations. Sustainable water directly supports the local economy through local jobs, and also provides the business environment and improves the quality of life, regardless of socioeconomic status. A robust water portfolio includes a wastewater system that reliably protects the environment and creates opportunities for sustainable reuse of water. By allocating resources through an increased sewer fee, it also allows for the programmatic advancement of water reuse and stormwater systems.

The City of Los Angeles wastewater system is massive, including thousands of miles of sewer lines. This fee provides the support needed to support major capital expenditures and maintain these systems and is needed to keep up with increased costs. As such, I support the proposed sewer service charge increase.

Respectfully,

Ken J. Susilo, PE (CA)

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