

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations, or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state, or federal government body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles is committed to protecting water quality, public health, and environmental resources for all residents; and

WHEREAS, wetlands and small waterways provide essential ecosystem services including flood control, water filtration, groundwater recharge, habitat for fish and wildlife, and climate resilience; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Army Corps of Engineers have proposed a new definition of "Waters of the United States" that would dramatically reduce Clean Water Act protections, leaving only 19 percent of wetlands in the contiguous U.S. subject to federal oversight; and

WHEREAS, the proposed rule would require wetlands to have continuous surface water connection to relatively permanent waterways during wet seasons, ignoring scientific evidence about subsurface hydrological connections and intermittent water flows; and

WHEREAS, approximately half of states lack adequate state-level wetland protection programs, meaning the proposed federal rule would leave most wetlands in these states completely unprotected; and

WHEREAS, the proposed rule also narrows protection for streams by requiring "bed and banks," potentially eliminating Clean Water Act jurisdiction over numerous headwater streams and ephemeral waterways that contribute to drinking water supplies; and

WHEREAS, Southern California's unique hydrology includes many intermittent and seasonal streams and wetlands that could lose federal protection under this proposal, despite their critical importance to regional water quality and ecosystem health; and

WHEREAS, reduced federal oversight would increase regulatory burdens on state and local agencies to fill protection gaps with limited resources, as weakened wetland protections threaten to increase pollution, flooding risks, and infrastructure costs for the City; and

WHEREAS, clean water and healthy ecosystems are fundamental to public health, environmental justice, and quality of life for all Angelenos, particularly communities already burdened by environmental pollution;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2025-2026 Federal Legislative Program opposition to any action by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Army Corps of Engineers to redefine "Waters of the United States" which would eliminate Clean Water Act protections for over 80 percent of the nation's wetlands and numerous streams.

PRESENTED BY: Traci Park  
TRACI PARK  
Councilwoman, 11<sup>th</sup> District

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DEC 05 2025

of

SECONDED BY: [Handwritten signature]

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