Mr. Pestrella,

BizFed and the LA Chamber look forward to meeting with you this Thursday as part of the business community meeting on the Water Resiliency plan. Jessica Duboff (LA Chamber; cc’d) and I (BizFed) very much appreciate the opportunity you have given our members to meet with you. I am attaching a copy of our letter to the Board of Supervisors on the proposed stormwater or resiliency tax/fee for your reference.

We had productive meetings last week in the Board offices, which were very helpful and informative. During tomorrow’s meeting, our members would be interested in hearing about the work your Department is doing on stormwater and water resiliency, as it relates to the proposed County tax or fee.

To increase our knowledge and understanding, we would appreciate hearing your thoughts on the following:

1. The status of your Department’s plans to meet the requirements of MS4 as they apply directly to LA County. Information on specific projects, compliance schedules, budget and funding, and planned collaboration with cities and agencies such as LA County Sanitation Districts on specific projects will be appreciated.

2. The conclusions of any studies done with the Federal Bureau of Reclamation, the LA County Sanitation Districts, and other local agencies, on water supply needs, stormwater capture opportunities, and costs. It would be most useful if you can relate these conclusions to MS4 compliance by the County and specific cities as a part of any new water supply development plans or opportunities.

3. Is it the Department’s position that additional water supplies need to be developed to serve the needs of County unincorporated territory, and if so, to what extent is it the Department’s plan to meet those needs with stormwater? Has an analysis been done to compare new water supply options to meet the projected need, and if so, what are the conclusions?

4. Many cities in the San Gabriel Valley have argued that much of the stormwater that is generated above and in their communities is already captured by existing LA County flood control facilities. Is this true of dry weather flows as well? Is there opportunity to allow these cities to get credit for their MS4 obligations for the capture of stormwater in these existing facilities? What if they are willing to fairly contribute to the cost of O&M and for enhancements? Wouldn’t this be a more efficient, cost effective way to help achieve MS4 compliance in these areas? Could the new tax/fee proceeds collected in these areas be used to pay these costs? Wouldn’t that free up existing County funds to use for other “resiliency” projects in the County?

5. Relative to dry weather flows, has the Department done an analysis of opportunities to capture and treat dry weather flows in the LA Sanitation and LA County Sanitation District systems? This infrastructure exists. With continuing progress on water conservation there should be capacity in the sanitation systems to treat dry weather flows, and to manage them without adverse impacts on local groundwater, storm channels, and beaches. Cities could potentially manage their dry weather flows and meet their MS4 obligation much more cost effectively if this were an option. Could County tax/fee proceeds allocated to cites be used to pay for this service? What is the current method for measuring dry weather flows in local cities, and what role can the County play in helping to locate and quantify these flows for planning purposes?

Of course, we look forward to any other information or ideas you want to share with our members at the meeting. Thank you.