March 5, 2015

To: Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti and the Members of the Los Angeles City Council
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: CIS support for Green Sustainable Streets (Council File 14-0748)

The Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council represents over 60,000 Los Angeles stakeholders who reside, own property, or conduct business in our neighborhood. All of us are experiencing the worst drought in the history of the city and the warmest winter anyone can remember. We have been asked to restrict water usage and upgrade our homes to reduce water demands. We are all cognizant that when it does rain, the pollution that runs into our sewer system continues on to our rivers, wetlands and the ocean. We also know that due to its failing infrastructure, the City is in a period of continual street construction and reconstruction.

City policy must prioritize multi-benefit solutions so that every project undertaken to repair and improve transportation and safety also incorporates elements designed to minimize flooding, reduce watershed pollution and increase storm water capture. A multi-benefit approach requires department to review and assess their performance metrics to better measure the efficiency and effectiveness of such projects.

The Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council would like to voice its support for expediting the Green Sustainable Streets Motion by council members Felipe Fuentes and Mike Bonin requiring that all new street projects in the public right of way incorporate storm water management elements. By adding green street elements, we can remove pollutants from water to keep them out of the LA River and other urban waterways and capture water for groundwater recharge.

Sincerely,

Monica Alcaraz, President
Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council