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Contact

Nina Erlich-Williams, nina@publicgoodpr.com

510-336-9566

New Report Shows Up to \$70.3 Billion in Economic Activity and Up to 429,000 Jobs to be Created Due to Litigation Aimed at Protecting Local Waters and Promoting a More Resilient Water Future

LA Waterkeeper's Litigation Impact Report highlights widespread community benefits generated through lawsuits and settlements secured by the organization over the past 30 years

Los Angeles – Clean water and environmental advocacy organization LA Waterkeeper recently released its [Litigation Impact Report](#), which details the outcomes of the organization's nearly three decades of legal advocacy to secure healthy coastal and inland waters and address environmental injustice throughout the Los Angeles region. Since its founding in 1993, LA Waterkeeper has filed more than 100 lawsuits, resulting in legal victories that established landmark water policy precedents and have transformed water policy and clean water enforcement throughout the region.

LA Waterkeeper's legal victories and settlements have led to a dramatic reduction in sewage spills throughout the City of LA, required cleanup plans for the region's most polluted waterways, helped address urban runoff pollution from roads and industrial and commercial facilities, and are paving the way for a more secure and resilient local water future.

"Despite being up against powerful interests with more money and political power, LA Waterkeeper has achieved precedent-setting victories that have led the LA region toward a cleaner and more secure water future," said LA Waterkeeper Executive Director Bruce Reznik. "While no one likes to go to court, a lawsuit is often the only way to get polluters and regulators to do the right thing."

Some of the organization's most important legal victories include:

- Bringing more than 90 LA-area industrial facilities into compliance with local stormwater regulations, protecting local water quality and leading to 1.3 billion gallons of water to be properly treated.
- Transforming the City of LA's sewage system from one of the worst in the western US to one of the highest performing in the nation, with more than a 90 percent reduction in spills since 2000, in response to litigation.
- Groundbreaking lawsuits demanding better countywide stormwater management and adoption of cleanup plans for the region's most contaminated waterways, helping to pave the way for Measure W (the Safe Clean Water Program), the \$280M/year stormwater funding measure that is helping to reduce water pollution, enhance local water supplies, and green local communities.

- A historic California constitutional challenge against the State Water Board that resulted in a judge's ruling that discharging hundreds of million gallons a day of wastewater constituted a "waste and unreasonable use of water" when that water could be purified and reused.

The organization's legal activities have varied widely, ensuring enforcement of the Clean Water Act throughout LA County; fighting urban and stormwater runoff to protect the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers as well as local marine environments; fighting expensive and energy-intensive desalination projects; and promoting water recycling to support a more climate resilient future for the region.

According to [Earth Economics](#), a global leader in science-based economics and quantifying environmental benefits, \$51.6 to \$70.3 billion in economic value and 331,000-429,000 jobs will be generated over the next 25 years as a result of LA Waterkeeper's legal efforts. LA Waterkeeper has also enabled \$15.8 million in [Supplemental Environmental Projects](#) funding that was passed through to 55+ local community-based environmental and environmental justice organizations to address pressing water quality issues, including in frontline communities that are overburdened with pollution.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the federal [Clean Water Act](#), the foundational piece of legislation that gave residents and conservation and environmental justice organizations the ability to hold polluters accountable through the courts. LA Waterkeeper's litigation has focused on protecting local waterways from toxic runoff and debris, holding local polluters accountable when they have been out of compliance with existing regulations, and creating a more sustainable and resilient Los Angeles County for all Angelenos.

"For all its successes, the Clean Water Act has still not met its promise of achieving and protecting drinkable, fishable, and swimmable waters for all," added Reznik. "LA Waterkeeper is here for the long haul, committed to ensuring a sustainable, resilient and – most importantly – equitable water future for Los Angeles."