



Board of Directors

Chris Amandes
Garrick Behelfer
Leslie Berardo
Tricia Brasseaux
Dr. Sam Brody
Glenn Buckley
Collin Cox
Bill Evans
Jason Fuller
Dr. Lisa Gonzalez
Phillip Goodwin
Graciela Gilardoni
Bill Jackson
Deborah January-Bevers
Lee Lehourcade
The Honorable Sydney Murphy
Ben Patton
Carter Perrin
Dr. Daniel Price
Bill Prout
Dr. Loren Raun
Beth Robertson
Jennifer Ronk
Matt Stahman

May 2, 2019

Stephen Costello, P.E.
Chief Recovery Officer, Office of the Mayor
City of Houston
901 Bagby Street
Houston, TX 77002

RE: Letter of Support for Implementation of the Recommended Green Stormwater Infrastructure Incentives

Dear Mr. Costello:

On behalf of the Board of Houston Wilderness, I write in support of the draft Green Stormwater Infrastructure Incentives Study and the incentive recommendations in the Study. We believe that increased implementation of green stormwater infrastructure on private property will help enhance Houston's resilience.

As an advocate for nature-based infrastructure, and an active participant in the *Houston Stronger* coalition, Houston Wilderness supports these important efforts to continue addressing flood mitigation and disaster recovery through increased use of Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI).

Houston Wilderness also works with Harris County, and the 7 surrounding counties and multiple organizations and businesses on the *Gulf-Houston Regional Conservation Plan* (Gulf-Houston RCP) to implement an ecosystem resilience plan, with substantial help from non-structural infrastructure projects. The three RCP key goals are: **(1)** increasing the current 10% in protected/preserved land in the 8-County Gulf-Houston region to 24% of land coverage by 2040, **(2)** increasing and supporting region-wide land management efforts to install nature-based stabilization techniques, such as green stormwater infrastructure, living shorelines and bioswales to 50% of land coverage by 2040, and **(3)** providing research and advocacy for an increase of 0.4% annually in carbon absorption in native soils, plants, trees and oyster reefs in the region.

We support the City of Houston's efforts to provide stronger resilience to our large community, and we encourage utilizing nature-based infrastructure through GSI techniques as much as possible, including property buyouts, projects to create more detention, riparian buffering using natural design and bio-stabilization techniques, and working with native species where possible. Please contact me anytime for additional information.

Sincerely,

Deborah January-Bevers
President

5847 San Felipe, Suite 2050, Houston, Texas 77057
713-524-7330 - www.HoustonWilderness.org