

**FW: Stormwater Fees**

Paul Fugazzotto

**Sent:** Thursday, November 17, 2016 3:58 PM**To:** WATERINFO**From:** Christopher Mejia-Smith**Sent:** Tuesday, November 15, 2016 10:58 AM**To:** Gemela McClendon <Gemela.McClendon@Phila.gov>**Subject:** Stormwater Fees

Good morning,

I am writing to you today to voice my support for a full exemption from storm water fees for community gardens. I am a resident of West Philadelphia, residing on the 4900 block of Pine Street.

Community gardens are an important part of the green infrastructure of our city and play a key role in eliminating sewer overflows. Imposing storm water fees on these community resources places both a financial and administrative burden that may be prohibitive for many gardens, especially those that are managed by volunteers.

An exemption from this fee would free up key resources so that community gardens can continue to serve all Philadelphians, enabling infrastructure improvements as well as greater education and food distribution. I urge the Water Rate Board and the Philadelphia Water Department to exempt community gardens from this fee and allow these gardens to continue to expand their good work in our communities. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best,

Christopher Mejia-Smith