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**Cecília Maria Almeida, DsC**

**Yutao Wang, PhD**

*Journal of Cleaner Production*

Co-Editors-in-chief

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Dear Dr. Almeida and Dr. Wang,

I would like to submit the manuscript entitled “***An integrated hydro-finance approach towards sustainable urban stormwater and flood control management***” for publication as a research article in the ***Journal of Cleaner Production***. The work was done by the following researchers: Iporã Possantti (corresponding author), Ana Paula Dalcin, Itzayana González, Júlia Daiello, Fernando Todeschini, Guilherme Marques and Joel Goldenfum.

The work presented is well suited within the scope of the journal, as it brings a novel integration of the areas ***Environmental and sustainability assessment*** with ***Governance, legislation, and policy****.* The proposed methodology framework combines a detailed hydrological evaluation of runoff potential at the lot scale with long term stormwater planning finance analysis at the watershed scale to support the proposition of stormwater utility fees that address both affordability and finance sustainability challenges.

Our methods and findings may be of great interest to both academic and technical community working on the finance sustainability challenge of stormwater management, which is an important factor for sustainable and resilient cities.

Key aspects of the manuscript are the following:

1. Broader, integrated approach: The paper introduces a novel contribution to the stormwater finance sustainability challenge with an approach that integrates the decision on how to invest in stormwater management (i.e. the different combinations of gray, green, structural and non-structural solutions, their operating costs and expansion schedule) with the decision on how to share the costs (the stormwater utility fee).

2. Innovative methodology: The paper proposes a single methodology framework capable of determining the impact of different stormwater solutions, and their time strategies, in the stormwater utility fee. This is done using a novel cost-sharing mechanism based on a Hydrologic Externality Index and an externality-based ranking system.

3. Dynamic simulation and evaluation: the approach enables the dynamic simulation of various stormwater fee structures and funding scenarios, offering a comprehensive evaluation of financial sustainability and household affordability. This is a key capability to support the negotiation and consensus process among stormwater managers, stakeholders and public administration to update the stormwater plan and solutions as needed, ensuring long run effectivity and adaptability.

Thank you for considering our manuscript for publication in the *Journal of Cleaner Production*. We look forward to the opportunity to contribute to your esteemed journal.

Sincerely,

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