



PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

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PLANNING COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

Meeting: August 13, 2019

Subject

Presentation on Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) and the City's Municipal Regional Permit (MRP) requirement to consider future adoption of a long-term GSI Plan.

Recommended Action

Receive presentation and provide any input.

Discussion

The City is subject to the requirements of the Municipal Regional Stormwater NPDES Permit (MRP), which covers 76 municipalities and flood control agencies (Permittees) in the San Francisco Bay Region. The MRP requires each Permittee to adopt a long-term GSI Plan by September 30, 2019, demonstrating how the agency will gradually shift from traditional "gray" storm drainage infrastructure to a more resilient and sustainable storm drain system comprised of "green" infrastructure. GSI plans must include a mechanism to prioritize and map areas for potential and planned projects and an implementation plan and time schedule consistent with the mandatory milestones for achieving pollutant load reductions.

The first step in this process, as required by the MRP, is to adopt a GSI Work Plan describing the steps the City would take to develop a long term GSI Plan. On April 18, 2017, the GSI Work Plan was approved by the City Council and submitted to the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) (Attachment 1). The next step is for the Council to consider adoption of the long-term GSI Plan (Attachment 2), which expands upon the GSI Work Plan and aligns it with key long-term planning documents, identifies GSI opportunities, and includes evaluation of potential funding mechanisms. Council's consideration of adoption of this plan has been tentatively scheduled for August 20, 2019.

Jill Bicknell, P.E., will give a brief presentation on GSI. Ms. Bicknell is a water resources engineer and manager at EOA, Inc. and serves as the Assistant Program Manager for the Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program (SCVURPPP). Ms. Bicknell specializes in assistance to municipal agencies with implementation of green stormwater infrastructure planning. The presentation will provide a summary overview identifying the community and water quality benefits of GSI, an explanation of the MRP requirement for cities to adopt long-term GSI plans, and potential opportunities to incorporate GSI within the City's infrastructure, both existing and planned.

Sustainability Impact

The benefits of GSI as a replacement for impervious hardscape include improving water and air quality, water conservation, preserving and creating habitat and biodiversity, traffic calming, and increased pedestrian mobility.

Fiscal Impact

The adoption of the City's Green Stormwater Infrastructure Plan will not result in an immediate fiscal impact; however, the City's capital improvement project (CIP) list must be evaluated annually to determine the feasibility of each project to install GSI. Specific explanation must be reported in the City's annual report to the Water Board for any CIP project that does not contain a GSI element.

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Reviewed by: Roger Lee, Director of Public Works

Approved for Submission by: Benjamin Fu, Director, Community Development

Attachments:

- 1 - GSI Work Plan - April 18, 2017
- 2 – Draft GSI with Appendices
- 3 – GSI Presentation