



**DATE:** September 10, 2019

**CATEGORY:** Consent

**DEPT.:** Public Works and Fire

**TITLE:** **Green Stormwater Infrastructure Plan**

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Approve the City's Green Stormwater Infrastructure Plan (Attachment 1 to the Council report) in compliance with the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board Municipal Regional Stormwater NPDES Permit, Provision C.3.j.i.(2) of Order R2-2015-0049.

### **BACKGROUND**

In 2009, the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) issued the Municipal Regional Stormwater NPDES Permit (MRP) to all municipalities and county agencies in the San Francisco Bay Area to control stormwater pollution at the local level. The MRP has a five-year term, and new requirements are typically included in reissued permits. For several years, MRP Provision C.3 has mandated the City to implement a control program for new and redevelopment projects to require certain projects to design and construct stormwater treatment controls as part of projects.

The current MRP expanded this provision to include a requirement that cities develop and implement long-term Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) Plans to retrofit existing public infrastructure to provide low-impact development features. Types of GSI features include installation of "green street" bioretention systems, stormwater tree well filter systems, pervious paving, infiltration facilities, and rainwater capture and use facilities. Adoption of the GSI Plan will provide multiple environmental and community benefits by planning and promoting green stormwater infrastructure implementation in public and private projects. Additionally, adoption of the GSI Plan complies with MRP requirements.

The City's GSI Plan development process started with the GSI Plan Framework, which was completed and submitted to the Regional Board with the City's Fiscal Year 2017-18

MRP Annual Report in September 2017. The Framework, which includes an outline for preparation and content of the GSI Plan, was approved by the City Manager and provided to the City Council in July 2017.

## **ANALYSIS**

The City is required to develop and implement the GSI Plan. Specific goals of the GSI Plan are to:

- Align the City's goals, policies, and implementation strategies for GSI with the General Plan and other related planning documents;
- Identify and prioritize GSI opportunities throughout the City;
- Establish targets for the extent of City areas to be addressed by GSI over certain time frames;
- Provide a work plan and address legal and funding mechanisms to implement prioritized projects; and
- Establish a process for tracking, mapping, and reporting completed projects.

Impervious area targets and prioritization processes were developed by the City in coordination with other Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program agencies to jointly address pollutant load reduction goals and requirements set forth in the MRP.

The GSI Plan contains the following components:

- Chapter 1 provides an introduction to the GSI Plan and includes a description of community characteristics and a regulatory basis for the GSI Plan.
- Chapter 2 describes technical GSI elements, including types and examples of GSI facilities.
- Chapter 3 describes the relationship of the GSI Plan to other planning documents and how those planning documents have been updated or modified, if needed, to support and incorporate GSI requirements.
- Chapter 4 outlines the method for prioritizing potential GSI project sites.

- Chapter 5 presents the strategy for implementing GSI planning efforts.
- Chapter 6 outlines the mechanisms that will be used to implement the GSI Plan.

When adopted, City staff will utilize the implementation strategy described in Chapter 5 and the mechanisms described in Chapter 6 of the GSI Plan to begin the process of planning and completing projects.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

The recommended action would have no fiscal impact. Opportunities to implement GSI features will be considered annually during the Capital Improvement Program budget process in association with individual project proposals. Projects with GSI potential will include the costs in the budget requests.

### **ALTERNATIVES**

1. Provide recommendations or changes to the Green Stormwater Infrastructure Plan.
2. Provide other direction.

**PUBLIC NOTICING** – Agenda posting.

Prepared by:

Eric Anderson  
Environmental Safety Coordinator

Approved by:

Michael A. Fuller  
Public Works Director

Juan F. Diaz  
Fire Chief

Audrey Seymour Ramberg  
Assistant City Manager/  
Chief Operating Officer

EA/2/CAM/151-09-10-19CR  
190575

Attachment: 1. Green Stormwater Infrastructure Plan