Agenda Item No._____

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CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: July 15, 2008

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Creeks Division, Parks and Recreation Department

SUBJECT: Technical Guidance Manual For Post-Construction Storm Water Management

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council receive a report and provide comments on the City's Technical Guidance Manual for Post-Construction Storm Water Management.

DISCUSSION:

Storm water runoff carrying sediment, nutrients, bacteria, hydrocarbons, metals, pesticides, and trash is the single largest source of surface water pollution in Santa Barbara. The City of Santa Barbara's Storm Water Management Program (SWMP) is in place to reduce the discharge of non-point source pollutants into creek and ocean water. As called for in the SWMP, City staff has produced a Technical Guidance Manual (Manual) to provide assistance in meeting existing post-construction storm water management standards. Specifically, the Manual assists project applicants including developers, engineers, planners, landscape architects, and property owners in the selection, integration, design, and implementation of a variety of storm water best management practice (BMP) options for a project site. The Manual identifies and describes a range of BMPs including rain barrels, bioswales, and infiltration basins which are designed to capture and treat storm water runoff from new development and redevelopment projects. The term "post construction" means that the selected BMPs will remain in place to continue protecting water quality after construction is complete.

<u>The Manual</u>

Preparation of the Manual is a key task identified in the City's SWMP. The Manual also responds to requests from City land development review staff and project applicants for guidance in attaining the City SWMP's storm water peak runoff, treatment, and volumetric standards. It is important to emphasize that the Manual is an administrative document intended to provide guidance; it is neither regulatory nor punitive.

In October 2007, Council authorized staff to execute a professional services agreement with Geosyntec Consultants to prepare the Manual. Work on the Manual began in November 2007, and has included extensive community outreach. Outreach efforts to date have included dozens of meetings with builders, developers, engineers, architects, landscape architects, Realtors, business groups, and environmental organizations. Creeks Division staff has closely collaborated on the Manual with other City and County departments including Airport, Building and Safety, Community Development, Engineering, Fire, Planning, Transportation, Wastewater, Waterfront, Water Resources, Flood Control, and Vector Control. Finally, the Manual has been presented at numerous public workshops and hearings including the Creeks Advisory Committee, Architectural Board of Review, Historic Landmarks Commission, Single Family Design Board, and Planning Commission.

The Manual will provide a detailed guidance tool for City staff and private land development professionals. It is intended to be an evolving, innovative document that will be updated periodically to reflect new information and technological changes. The Manual's Table of Contents is attached to this staff report to summarize the broad range of BMPs discussed. The entire Manual is available for review on the City Creeks website at: *http://www.santabarbaraca.gov/Resident/Community/Creeks/Reports_and_Studies.htm.* (www.sbcreeks.org). Hard copies of the Manual are available for review in the City Clerk's office, Council Reading File, and Creeks Division office.

The Manual identifies simple and inexpensive storm water BMPs that can be used for smaller projects (Chapter 5), and more technical engineering design drawings and sizing formulas for larger discretionary projects (Chapter 6). In general, larger discretionary projects must incorporate storm water BMPs into their project in order to meet the storm water runoff standards required by the City's SWMP. The BMPs identified in Chapter 6 are primarily meant to be used by engineers, architects, and contractors. Some minor discretionary projects, identified in Appendix K of the Manual, will be exempt from the SWMP standards. Creeks Division staff worked closely with stakeholders and the City's Community Development Department to develop appropriate exemptions.

Next Steps

Two shorter, more user-friendly versions of the Manual will be produced. One version will be geared toward design professionals who do not need the specific formulas, equations, and detailed technical information. Also, a small brochure will be produced with photos and easy-to-understand descriptions of basic BMP options. Training on the design concepts and how to implement the Manual will be provided for City staff, design professionals, and residents during Fiscal Year 2009. City Building and Safety, Engineering, and Planning staff will continue to implement the SWMP storm water standards, and integrate the Manual into the existing development review and permitting process.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

The total cost of the contract to prepare the Manual was $75,798. Complete funding for Manual preparation was included in the Fiscal Year 2008 Creeks Division operating budget. Funding for Manual printing costs, brochure design, and training is included in the Fiscal Year 2009 Creeks Division operating budget.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

Controlling urban runoff pollution from new development after construction is critical for both the protection of water quality in the City and for success of the City's Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP). The goal of the Manual is to minimize runoff pollution, erosion, and flooding typically caused by land development and improve water quality in the creeks and ocean.

ATTACHMENT: Technical Guidance Manual's Table of Contents

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APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office

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