



**CITY OF SANTA BARBARA**  
**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT**

**AGENDA DATE:** July 22, 2015  
**TO:** Parks and Recreation Commission  
**FROM:** Creeks Division, Parks and Recreation Department  
**SUBJECT:** Storm Water Management Program Report

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Commission receive a presentation on the City's Storm Water Management Program.

**DISCUSSION:**

Introduction

The Federal Clean Water Act's regulations govern storm water discharges from small municipalities that operate storm drain systems. The State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board), and the Regional Water Quality Control Boards, are responsible for implementation of federal regulations. The City's Storm Water Management Program, which has been in effect since 2006, is a result of those regulations. The Program's primary goal is to reduce pollutants that are discharged to the creeks and ocean through the City's storm drain system.

The Creeks Division provides overall coordination and administration of the Storm Water Management Program, and submits annual reports to the Water Board. The most recent annual report, submitted to the Water Board in October 2014, demonstrates the City's compliance with the new requirements and reflects the City's successful program management and effectiveness.

Program Components and Permit Requirements

1. Construction Site Storm Water Runoff Control – The permit and the City's Municipal Code now require construction projects proposing any soil disturbance to employ storm water runoff control measures. The City's Building and Safety Division requires these development projects to submit erosion and sediment control plans to comply. Erosion and sediment control plans indicate where measures such as sediment basins, sand/gravel bags, silt fences, straw rolls, and erosion control blankets will be installed to minimize erosion to prevent sediment pollution to the creeks and ocean.

Building and Safety staff must complete permit mandated training related to reviewing erosion and sediment control plans and inspecting sites implementing these plans. Staff is also required to maintain a construction site inventory of all current construction projects and maintain inspection records for current projects that have erosion and sediment control plans.

Last year, the Building and Safety Division reviewed erosion and sediment control plans for 43 construction projects.

2. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination – The objective of this program element is to identify and eliminate sources of water pollution to the City's streets, storm drains, creeks, and ocean. The Creeks Division employs a Code Enforcement Officer that investigates reports of water pollution, ensures pollution is cleaned-up, and coordinates removal of items illegally dumped in the creek.

Recent permit requirements related to illicit discharge detection and elimination include creating an inventory of commercial/industrial facilities that require discharge permits, mapping the location where storm drains spill into creeks, training all City field staff to recognize illicit discharges, and creating the City's Enforcement Response Plan.

Last year, 100% of the almost 200 reports of illicit discharges were investigated on the same day that the report was received. In addition, over 100,000 lbs. of trash were removed from the City's creeks and beaches in clean-ups.

3. Outreach – The Creeks Division employs a full-time outreach coordinator who manages education and outreach efforts related to creek and ocean water quality. This includes developing media campaigns, providing youth education, coordinating volunteer opportunities, hosting Creek Week annually, and tabling at community events.

Recently, in response to a permit requirement, the City implemented a Community Based Social Marketing campaign. This involved a partnership with cities of Santa Barbara County to achieve a measurable behavior change. The campaign attempted to persuade dog owners to clean up after their dogs using the slogan, "Close the Poop Loop". Each community involved with the campaign chose one area within their jurisdiction where informational signs were installed to target dog owners. The City chose the Arroyo Burro off-leash dog area. This year, the consultant implementing the campaign will submit a final report on the outcome of the project.

4. Post-construction – The Planning Division, Building and Safety Division, and Creeks Division review development projects to ensure pollutants are removed from storm water falling on hardscape (e.g. roofs, driveways, patios, and walkways) before the

water enters the storm drain system. To achieve pollutant removal from storm water, many development projects are required to install and maintain treatment devices such as permeable pavers, bioswales, infiltration basins and bioretention planters. The City has been successfully implementing post-construction storm water requirements for development projects since July 2008.

The permit required the City's post-construction program to become mandatory and enforceable for certain projects through a change in the Municipal Code. In 2013, the City complied with this requirement by adopting a storm water ordinance.

Recent projects that will comply with post-construction requirements include La Entrada and the Cabrillo Pavilion and Bathhouse renovation.

5. Water Quality Monitoring – Every year, the Creeks Division's Water Quality Research Coordinator develops a Research and Monitoring Plan to obtain information through water sampling that the City can use to develop strategies for water quality improvement and to communicate effectively with the public about water quality.

This year's research plan proposes dry weather sampling to detect illicit discharges, sampling impacted water bodies for bacteria and toxicity, and a "special study" to quantify pollutant load reduction for the City's permeable paver capital projects.

#### Next Steps

In February 2013, the Water Board adopted a new five-year permit for municipal storm water discharges, which included new requirements for the City that went into effect on July 1, 2013. Creeks Division staff will continue to administer the Storm Water Management Program and comply with the additional requirements.

Creeks Division staff, along with other City staff, will be working to make sure all year three requirements of the permit are satisfied by June 30, 2016. Also, staff will be completing the Fiscal Year 2015 Annual Report for year two of the permit, which is due October 15<sup>th</sup>.

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