City of Santa Barbara
Parks and Recreation Department

Memorandum

DATE: February 21, 2018

TO: Creeks Restoration/Water Quality Improvement Program
Citizen Advisory Committee

FROM: Jim Rumbley, Associate Planner

SUBJECT: **Post-construction Storm Water Best Management Practices Installed in the Public Right-of-way**

COMMITTEE DIRECTION – FOR DISCUSSION

That the Committee receive a presentation about Post-construction storm water best management practices (BMPs) installed in the public right-of-way (ROW).

DISCUSSION

Pursuant to the City's Municipal Code, post-construction storm water requirements are mandatory for both public and private projects proposing new/replaced impervious area in the public ROW. Projects subject to discretionary review and proposing between 1 and 500 sq. ft. of new/replaced impervious area must comply with Tier 2 storm water requirements, and projects proposing over 500 sq. ft. of new/replaced impervious area must comply with Tier 3 storm water requirements. Public ROW Tier 3 project site treatment areas are determined on a case-by-case basis.

Recently completed Tier 3 projects in the public ROW include the Las Positas Rd./Cliff Dr. Roundabout Project, the La Cumbre Rd. Sidewalk Infill Project, and the Old Coast Highway Sidewalk Infill Project. All upcoming bridge replacement projects will also comply with Tier 3 requirements.

The Planning Division, Public Works Engineering Division, and Creeks Division review development projects in the public ROW that trigger post-construction storm water requirements to ensure pollutants are removed from storm water falling on impermeable areas (e.g., streets, gutters, driveways, and sidewalks) before the water enters the storm drain system. These projects must install and maintain treatment measures, often referred to as BMPs, such as permeable pavement, bioswales, bioretention planters, underground infiltration chambers, and dry wells.

Dry wells are large underground concrete chambers installed over gravel and sandy soil that have the ability to capture and infiltrate a large volume of storm water runoff. Depending on soil conditions, dry wells are capable of treating up to two acres of impervious area and five acres of landscaped area. Currently, there are no dry wells in the City's public ROW. However, this year the Creeks Division intends to install two dry wells in the public ROW as a pilot project. Dry wells take up relatively little space in the public ROW and could potentially be an efficient, cost-effective way for large public improvement projects to meet post-construction storm water requirements and improve creek and ocean water quality.

Also, the upcoming episode of "Inside Santa Barbara" will feature a segment focused on BMPs, including dry wells, in the public ROW.

cc: Cameron Benson, Creeks Restoration/Clean Water Manager
Jill E. Zachary, Parks and Recreation Director