



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
County Manager



Date: April 7, 2017
Board Meeting Date: April 25, 2017
Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors
From: Jim Eggemeyer, Director, Office of Sustainability
Subject: San Mateo County Green Infrastructure Workplan

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a resolution approving a Workplan to develop a Green Infrastructure Plan in accordance with Provision C.3.J of the Municipal Regional Permit.

BACKGROUND:

The San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board's (Water Board) Municipal Regional Permit (MRP) regulates pollutants in stormwater runoff from municipal storm drain systems throughout San Mateo, Santa Clara, Alameda, and Contra Costa Counties. The MRP requires each jurisdiction, including the County of San Mateo, to develop a Green Infrastructure Plan that demonstrates how jurisdictions will gradually shift from traditional "gray" storm drain infrastructure—which channels polluted runoff directly into receiving waters without treatment—to a more resilient and sustainable storm drain system comprised of "green" infrastructure, which captures, stores, and treats stormwater using specially-designed landscape systems. In addition to managing runoff more sustainably, individual Green Infrastructure Plans must be designed to collectively achieve specific reductions in mercury and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in stormwater runoff by 2020 and 2040.

DISCUSSION:

The Water Board requires that jurisdictions subject to the MRP develop and submit a Green Infrastructure Plan (GI Plan) to the Water Board by September 30, 2019. By June 30, 2017, the Water Board requires that each jurisdictions' governing body or city/county manager approve a Workplan for developing the GI Plan. With guidance and technical support from the City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County (C/CAG), the Office of Sustainability coordinated with the Department of Public Works, Planning and Building Department, Parks Department, and County Manager's Office to develop the San Mateo County Green Infrastructure Workplan (Workplan) (Attachment A) for unincorporated San Mateo County.

The Workplan purposes are to provide background on the MRP requirements, describe the purpose, goals, and tasks to develop the GI Plan, and outline the time frames for completion of the GI Plan.

The attached Workplan includes an introduction describing what green infrastructure is, the regulatory requirements of the plan, and describes in detail the required elements and content that will be included in the County's GI Plan. The elements are:

- Outreach and Education
- Project Prioritization and Mapping
- Workplan for Completion of Prioritized Projects
- Project Tracking System
- Design and Construction Guidelines and Specifications
- Required Modifications to County Policies, Ordinances, and Other Legal Mechanisms
- Evaluation of Funding Options, including for Design, Construction, and Long-term Operations and Maintenance
- A Green Infrastructure Plan Development Schedule

The Workplan also details how County departments and other responsible organizations will work together to develop the GI Plan and meet the Water Board's requirements.

County Counsel has reviewed and approved the Workplan and resolution as to form.

SHARED VISION 2025:

Approval of the resolution contributes to the Shared Vision 2025 outcome of an Environmentally Conscious Community through the planning and construction of private and public green infrastructure projects, and provides benefits such as water quality improvement and groundwater replenishment, as well as the creation of attractive streetscapes, reduction of heat island effect, and bicycle and pedestrian accessibility. Approval of this resolution also contributes to the Shared Vision 2025 outcome of a Collaborative Community by using a watershed-based, collaborative approach involving multiple agencies, to achieve regional solutions to mandated pollutant load reduction targets.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no Net County Cost to prepare the Green Infrastructure Plan. County departments will collaborate to share resources and staff time to complete GI Plan tasks. Costs associated with implementing future County projects, requiring green infrastructure, will be included in the scope of work on a case by case basis for your Board's consideration at time of requested appropriation.

The long-term costs to retrofit existing urbanized areas with green infrastructure at levels necessary to achieve the required pollutant load reductions may be significant. C/CAG is coordinating efforts at a countywide level to determine how much green infrastructure may be required. The Office of Sustainability will update the Board on

long-term implementation costs and funding options in future presentations as the County's GI Plan is developed.

ATTACHMENT:

- A. San Mateo County Green Infrastructure Workplan