



Storm Water Management Oversight Committee

Thursday, August 13, 2020
1 pm to 3 pm
Special Meeting

*****BY VIRTUAL TELECONFERENCE ONLY*****

<https://zoom.us/join> Meeting ID: 990 9847 5635 Phone: 1(669)9006833

Pursuant to the provisions of California Governor's Executive Order N-29-20, issued on March 17, 2020, to prevent the spread of Covid-19, this meeting will be held by virtual teleconference only, with no physical location.

Agenda posted in accordance Government Code Section 54954.2(a) or 54956.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Members of the public who wish to participate by computer or phone can find the instructions at the end of this agenda. To ensure participation in a particular item, we suggest calling in or connecting online 15 minutes before the item you wish to speak on.

Committee Members Present:

David Bower, Peter Drekmeier, Marilyn Keller, Hal Mickelson, Dena Mossar, Ron Owes, Bob Wenzlau

Committee Members Absent: None

Public Members Present: None

Staff Present:

Michelle Austin, Phil Bobel, Michel Jeremias, Karin North, Loretta Olmos, Jamie Perez, Pam Boyle Rodriguez, Vanessa Silva, Vicki Thai, Isabel Zacharczuk

Call to Order (5 min): 1:10 pm by Chairperson Mickelson

Oral Communications (5 min)

Members of the public may speak to any item NOT on the agenda. A reasonable time restriction may be imposed at the discretion of the Committee Chair.

Old Business (5 min)

1. Approval of Minutes from the May 13, 2020 Storm Water Management Oversight Committee Meeting (5 min)
 - i. Minutes approved at 1:12 pm

New Business

2. Staff Presentation on the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget for the Storm Water Management Fund and Update on Overall City Budget (20 min)

- i. Perez: budget slide updated from FY21 *Proposed* Budget (May SWMOC Meeting) to *Adopted* Budget
 - 1. Primary change was a compensation adjustment for management, which included savings that were achieved through wage freezes, furloughs, and reduced management benefits.
- ii. Perez: GSI Preliminary Plan changes:
 - 1. \$70k from FY20 requested for re-appropriation—staff won't know if this was approved until October 2020. \$130k requested for re-appropriation for GSI Plan Implementation.
- iii. North: budget for Rinconada Park GSI is going to Council within the next two weeks.
- iv. Mickelson: what are the expectations for administrative support from City staff for the Valley Water partnership for \$25k per year?
 - 1. Boyle Rodriguez: CPA staff will continue to be involved with the Rebate Program instead of fully handing off the program to Valley Water. Now, residents will *only* apply through Valley Water (except for pervious pavement projects) and will be eligible for both the Valley Water and City of Palo Alto rebate through that single application. Residents will have to apply directly to the City of Palo Alto for pervious pavement rebates since Valley Water does not provide rebates for pervious pavement. CPA staff will continue conducting inspections and ensure that proper building permits have been received.
- v. Boyle Rodriguez: staff has not yet begun the process for Bioretention Area Maintenance in the GSI Budget Plan (for \$80k).
- vi. Bobel: the Stormwater Management Fund did not see many cutbacks for the FY21 budget since it is an Enterprise Fund. The General Fund has seen most of the cutbacks associated with the \$40 million budget reduction. Staff that was laid off (70 positions) can “bump” other staff based on seniority. The Stormwater Fund did not receive any employee “bumps”.

3. Staff Presentation on Capital Improvement Program Projects (20 min)

- i. Thai: Loma Verde Trunk Line Improvements Project is currently under construction (started August 3, 2020, expected to last until December 2020). Upgrading from 36” pipe to 48” pipe. Some pipes need to be relocated to avoid utility conflicts. Contractor is staging materials at 2999 W Bayshore Road at the Colorado Pump Station
- ii. Jeremias: Rajeev is working on the next Storm Drain project for designing Corporation Way and West Bayshore Pump Stations. Schaaf and Wheeler is the consultant assisting with this project. Staff is also working on rehab projects throughout the City to identify pipe segments that need to be replaced (these projects will not be a CIP in terms of adding capacity to the storm drain system).

4. Staff Presentation on Green Stormwater Infrastructure Plan Implementation (Including Stormwater Rebate Program) (20 min)
- i. Boyle Rodriguez: funding analysis was scheduled to start in March, but will start in September due to delays with City's overall budget. Will focus on methods to fund both construction and maintenance of GSI that are specific to the City. This effort will involve a lot of staff interviews as well as interviewing the SWMOC.
 - ii. Boyle Rodriguez: Trash Reduction Plan was created in 2014 and is being re-visited to see how we can better meet trash reduction goals for the City.
 - iii. Wenzlau: consider using GIS as a platform for the public to submit work requests (the City's current system is 311). ESRI products are also beneficial for outreach materials. Staff should continue keeping in mind proprietary ESRI information to ensure that the public can still access GIS information.
 - iv. Boyle Rodriguez: staff is in the process of finalizing the GSI Plan implementation contract. Consultant will be part of future SWMOC meeting to present on scope of work.
 - v. Boyle Rodriguez: staff is working on quantifying the amount of impervious surface throughout the City. Urban Forestry is currently trying to develop a tool to calculate canopy cover in parallel.
 - 1. Wenzlau: ideal scenario would be for the City to incorporate this into an overall City-wide hydrological model (including stormwater, groundwater flow, flood analysis, etc.).
 - 2. North: City is working on a One Water approach, which looks at water holistically as a resource, including stormwater, pumped groundwater, dewatered water, recycled water, treated effluent, and imported potable water.
 - 3. Mossar: does the City look at new and redevelopment projects as previous impervious surface and replacement impervious surface?
 - 4. Boyle Rodriguez: the current stormwater permit has requirements for projects to install stormwater treatment. The current trigger is 10,000 square feet of impervious surface.
 - 5. North: any issues with residential single family home construction projects can be emailed to Karin and Pam. Staff is still going into the field on a limited basis during SIP and can visit these projects.
 - vi. Boyle Rodriguez: staff plans on re-visiting Southgate neighborhood for updated bioretention projects at the end of October.
 - 1. Owes: consider conducting outreach throughout the City since other neighborhoods may also be interested in this project.
 - vii. Boyle Rodriguez: City is providing rebates for rain gardens as of July 1st.
 - 1. Owes: Oregon has bee-friendly gardens. Applicable residents have signs that can be posted outside of the home confirming that this is a "bee-friendly" home.

2. PBR: staff is considering signs for all public GSI projects as an educational measure.
 3. Wenzlau: consider conducting outreach through neighborhood associations—some are very active throughout the City.
- viii. Boyle Rodriguez: current stormwater permit is being updated. Draft will be out by the end of this September for review by municipalities. Some requirements will likely be onerous for cities to implement, particularly due to current times with COVID.
- ix. North: Sustainability Climate Action Plan was approved by Council. Staff is currently working with consultants to focus specifically on mobility and sea level rise. Staff is also developing webinars to gather additional insight on S/CAP from residents. The first webinar will be on sea level rise.
1. Boyle Rodriguez: GSI is part of both the Natural Resources and Water chapters for the S/CAP. Water will not have its own webinar, but the Natural Resources chapter will have a dedicated webinar that includes GSI.
- x. Wenzlau: can staff consider pitching the conceptual hydrological concept to Stanford students for development (as opposed to being developed by outside consultants)?
1. North: Palo Alto has been active with Renew-It and also contributes funding.
- xi. Mickelson: for the GSI funding analysis, consultant would receive direct feedback that residents will likely not be amenable to providing additional funding since residents already voted and passed the stormwater ballot measure.
1. Boyle Rodriguez: staff intends on reviewing multiple different fees, including partnering options, and revisiting other funds throughout the City, as opposed to just increasing the SWMF.

5. Staff Presentation on Grassroots Ecology Partnership (10 min)

Committee Member Comments and Announcements (10 min)

Tentative Agenda Items for Future Meetings and Review Action Items (5 min)

- Mickelson: SWMOC is always interested in reports on on-going inspections of the storm drain system and Public Works Services maintenance.
- Drekmeier: interested in rain water harvesting and practical examples. How much water does this keep out of creeks?
 - North: Stanford focuses on rain water harvesting, but it's not as prevalent throughout the City of Palo Alto.
- Wenzlau: There is a lot of work being done with rain water harvesting through Sister Cities program in Mexico City (i.e. low technology approaches and high technology approaches).

Adjournment: adjourned at 3:00 pm

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITY ACT (ADA)

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1. Spoken public comments using a computer will be accepted through the teleconference meeting. To address the Council, click on the link below to access a Zoom-based meeting. Please read the following instructions carefully.
 - A. You may download the Zoom client or connect to the meeting in browser. If using your browser, make sure you are using a current, up-to-date browser: Chrome 30+, Firefox 27+, Microsoft Edge 12+, Safari 7+. Certain functionality may be disabled in older browsers including Internet Explorer.
 - B. You may be asked to enter an email address and name. We request that you identify yourself by name as this will be visible online and will be used to notify you that it is your turn to speak.
 - C. When you wish to speak on an Agenda Item, click on "raise hand." The Clerk will activate and unmute speakers in turn. Speakers will be notified shortly before they are called to speak. When called, please limit your remarks to the time limit allotted.
 - D. A timer will be shown on the computer to help keep track of your comments.
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3. Spoken public comments using a phone use the telephone number listed below. When you wish to speak on an agenda item hit *9 on your phone so we know that you wish to speak. You will be asked to provide your first and last name before addressing the Council. You will be advised how long you have to speak. When called please limit your remarks to the agenda item and time limit allotted.

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