



# Storm Water Management Oversight Committee

Thursday, October 8, 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.

Call to Order (5 min)

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 August 13, 2020 Storm Water Management Oversight Committee Meeting (5 min)

New Business

2. Presentation from Mexico: Enrique Lomnitz, General Director of IslaUrbana ([www.islaurbana.org](http://www.islaurbana.org)) (30 min)
3. Staff Presentation on Capital Improvement Program Projects (10 min)
4. Staff Presentation on Green Stormwater Infrastructure Outreach and Community Engagement Efforts (15 min)
5. Staff Presentation on Stormwater Outreach Efforts (10 min)
6. Review and Discussion of Updated Stormwater Rebate Program Website (15 min)

7. Announcement of the SCAP Webinars (5 min)

Committee Member Comments and Announcements (10 min)

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

Adjournment

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITY ACT (ADA)

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## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

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## **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 1<sup>st</sup>.
    - 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

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**Rainwater Capture Experiences - Lessons from Mexico City**  
**A Presentation to the Palo Alto Stormwater Oversight Committee**  
**October 8, 2002**

Enrique Lomnitz, General Director of Isla Urbana will provide an overview of rainwater capture in urban environments in residential and commercial settings. Most experiences are generated in Mexico City.

Isla Urbana is an organization that focuses on developing sustainable water access in Mexico, primarily through the use of rainwater harvesting. It has over 11 years' experience promoting regenerative and resilience minded approaches to water management, and has directly installed over 20,000 rainwater harvesting systems, primarily in highly water-scarce homes in both urban and rural contexts.

Isla Urbana's team comprises a very diverse group of people and skill sets, working together to secure sustainable water access for as many people as possible. Given the highly complex realities of water management and scarcity, successfully doing this involves integrating many technical, social, environmental, economic, and policy considerations.

Isla Urbana's work includes direct implementation of rainwater harvesting projects, policy and program design, consulting, and education/capacity building. It has played a large role in advancing public and political acceptance for alternative water management strategies focused on sustainability, resilience and local self-sufficiency. Its core work is always focused on promoting sustainable water management that improves access for the most water-stressed people and communities.





## Professional resume

### Enrique Lomnitz Climent

He studied industrial design at the Rhode Island School of Design where he focused his graduate work on the topic of rainwater catchment in marginalized areas of Mexico City. In 2009, he joined IRRI Mexico and co-founded the Isla Urbana project to develop the practice of rain catchment as a viable solution to water supply problems in Mexico.

Through this organization, it has contributed to the development of catchment technologies designed for the Mexican context, and to the creation of projects to implement rain harvesting in various communities with different needs and problems. In 2010 he was co-creator of the Ha Ta Tukari project, an interdisciplinary project dedicated to supplying drinking water and triggering sustainable development processes with the Huichol people. Isla Urbana and Ha Ta Tukari have carried out the installation of more than 20,000 rainwater harvesting systems of all types and sizes, working in both urban and rural communities to establish models of sustainable water supply in Mexico.

For his work in Isla Urbana and Ha Tatukari, Enrique Lomnitz has received multiple awards, including the prestigious recognition from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (35 young innovators of the year globally) and the Visionaris award from the UBS bank for social entrepreneurship, among others. He has been Ashoka's partner since 2012.

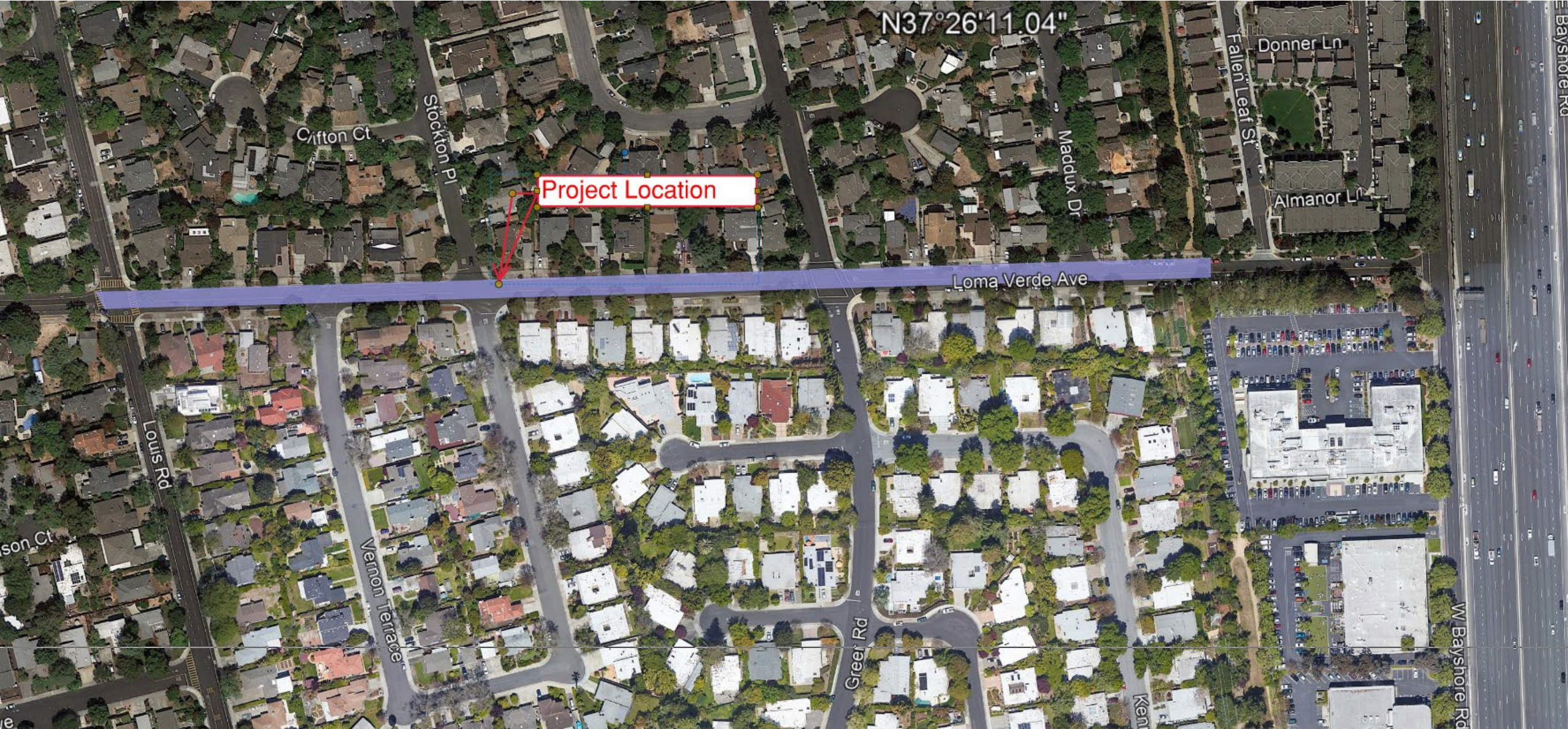


**LOMA VERDE  
AVENUE TRUNK LINE  
IMPROVEMENT  
PROJECT**

**OCTOBER 8, 2020**

**[www.cityofpaloalto.org/LOMAVERDE](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/LOMAVERDE)**

# PROJECT OVERVIEW







# CONSTRUCTION



CITY OF  
**PALO ALTO**



CITY OF  
**PALO ALTO**

# Stormwater Program Outreach



City of Palo Alto, Watershed Protection Group

[cleanbay@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:cleanbay@cityofpaloalto.org)

[www.cleanbay.org](http://www.cleanbay.org)



# Southgate Project Outreach

- October 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> workdays
- Collaborative outreach with residents and Grassroots Ecology
- Doorhanger distribution to neighborhood
- [Southgate webpage](#)

The City of Palo Alto is partnering with Grassroots Ecology to spruce up nearby “stormwater bioretention areas” with new native plants. These planted areas capture rain to decrease street ponding.

Work will occur on Wednesday, October 28th and Thursday, October 29th. A portion of Castilleja Avenue will be closed while work is in progress (see map below). Grassroots Ecology staff will also visit this location for preliminary work needed before the scheduled work dates (this will not require road closure).



The City is planning additional bioretention area upgrades throughout the Southgate Neighborhood.

### *Escobita Ave and Sequoia Ave*

The bioretention areas in this Southgate neighborhood were installed in 2014 and reduced deep street ponding during storms. Before then, Southgate did not have a storm drain system, and ponding occurred frequently.



For more information, contact Isabel Zacharczuk at 650-329-2585 or [Isabel.Zacharczuk@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:Isabel.Zacharczuk@cityofpaloalto.org) or visit [cleanbay.org/southgate](http://cleanbay.org/southgate)

# Southgate Project Flyer



The City of Palo Alto is partnering with Grassroots Ecology to spruce up nearby "stormwater bioretention areas" with new native plants. These planted areas capture rain to decrease street ponding.

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## What is Green Stormwater Infrastructure?

Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI), such as a bioretention area, is a design approach used to reduce street ponding in wet weather, capture and filter stormwater before it enters creeks and the Bay, and beautify neighborhoods. GSI can replenish groundwater by capturing runoff. Soil and plant roots filter pollutants such as oil and grease, heavy metals, and microplastics that would otherwise enter local creeks and the Bay.

### Escobita Ave and Sequoia Ave >

The GSI measures in this Southgate neighborhood were installed in 2014 and reduced deep street ponding during storms. Before then, Southgate did not have a storm drain system, and ponding occurred frequently.



Taken October 2011



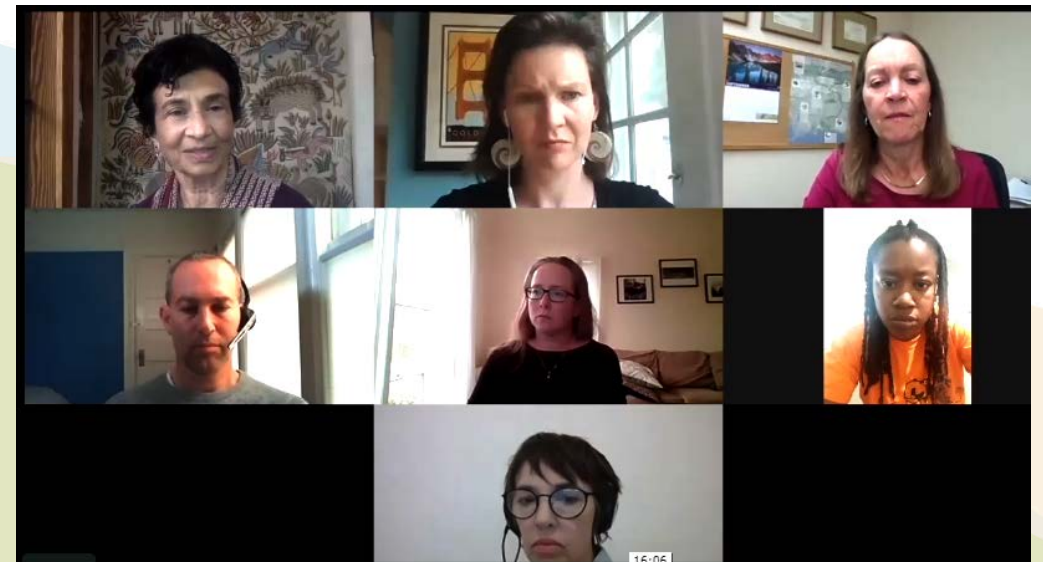
Taken December 2015



For more information, contact Isabel Zacharczuk at 650-329-2585 or [Isabel.Zacharczuk@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:Isabel.Zacharczuk@cityofpaloalto.org) or visit [cleanbay.org/southgate](http://cleanbay.org/southgate)

# Additional GSI Outreach & Community Engagement

- Rain and Stormwater Capture Workshop (10/3)
- Green Streets for Sustainable Communities Webinar Series
  - Keynote speakers
  - Attendee turnout
  - City participation



# Outreach Channels

- Online and print ads – local and regional
- Social media and newsletters
  - City Manager’s Office, Utilities, Zero Waste, Sustainability
  - GSI, Stormwater Rebate Program, creek cleanup, stormwater survey, upcoming events and workshops



*Feb 2020 Poison Baits campaign*

# Stormwater Utility Bill Inserts

# PROBLEMS WITH ANTS?

MANAGE SEASONAL ANTS LIKE A PRO.  
(NO ANTEATER REQUIRED)

## 1 DON'T USE ANT SPRAYS.

Sprays expose your family and pets to pesticides. They address less than 1% of the actual ant infestation (most of the colony is underground), and sprays are the top source of creek pesticide pollution in the Bay Area.

## 2 REMOVE WHAT THEY'RE AFTER.

Clean up ants, food and spills with soapy water to remove their scent trail.

## 3 CAULK HOLES AND CRACKS.

Apply diatomaceous earth (DE) in wall openings or cracks before sealing. This is the most effective measure for ant proofing your home.

## 4 IF YOU CAN'T BLOCK OR FIND AN ENTRY POINT,

place an ant bait station on the trail the ants have been following. Resist killing the ants as they are carrying the bait back to their nest. Remove the bait station when ants have disappeared so you don't attract more ants into your house.

## 5 TOLERATE ANTS OUTSIDE WHEN YOU CAN.

Ants serve an important function in soil aeration and garden cleanup.

## 6 ANTS IN PET DISHES?

Partially fill a wide, shallow container with soapy water and place pet bowls in the water. The soapy moat breaks water surface tension and will drown ants.

## NEED EXPERT HELP?

Visit [ourwaterourworld.org](http://ourwaterourworld.org) for more information on managing ants, factsheets on other common pest problems, and links to more resources. Use the free Ask-the-Expert service to speak with a professional for specific advice. **Want to just hire a service?** Visit [ecowisecertified.org](http://ecowisecertified.org) for a pest control provider who understands how to safely stop reoccurring pest problems.



[WWW.CLEANBAY.ORG](http://WWW.CLEANBAY.ORG) / 650.329.2122

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## ARE YOU READY FOR WINTER STORMS?

This rainy season, learn what to do before, during, and after storms of any size to help you stay comfortable and safe.



### PROTECT YOUR FAMILY

- Visit [cityofpaloalto.org/preparedness](http://cityofpaloalto.org/preparedness) for help preparing family emergency plans and kits.
- **Make sure your emergency plan includes** pets, neighbors who need extra help, and safe routes to high ground. Keep an emergency kit stocked and handy at home, work, and in the car.
- **Emergency kits should include** drinking water, a first aid kit, essential medicines, food (remember special diets and pets), cash, a radio, flashlights and extra batteries stored in a water-tight plastic bag.
- **Turn around, don't drown.** Don't drive through standing water. It may be deeper than you think and your car may stall. Abandon your car if you are stuck in water.
- **Stay informed.** Keep the list of phone numbers on the reverse of this flyer handy on your refrigerator and in your phone.
- Sign up at [alertscc.com](http://alertscc.com) to have local emergency info sent to you via text or email.
- Bookmark [cityofpaloalto.org/storms](http://cityofpaloalto.org/storms) for up-to-date local storm information.
- **Stay powered safely.**
  - ✓ In case of undetected gas leaks, use flashlights during a power outage—never lanterns, matches or candles.
  - ✓ Keep generators outside, away from the house and in open air to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning. Never run a generator in your garage or near an open window.



### PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY

- **Know your flood hazard area and insure your property sufficiently.** Identify your flood zone designation at [cityofpaloalto.org/floodzones](http://cityofpaloalto.org/floodzones). Homeowner insurance policies don't cover flood damage so purchase flood insurance if you are in a high-risk flood area.
- **Clean out roof gutters, downspouts, landscape inlets and swales** to avoid clogged lines that could cause flooding. Downspouts shall drain away from building foundations. Ensure sump pumps are connected and functioning, and garage flood vents are unobstructed so that flood water can flow freely.
- **Build responsibly** by following building codes for any type of construction for your home.
- **Sandbag materials are available** at three locations in Palo Alto beginning November 15. See the reverse of this flyer for locations.
- **If your property has been damaged by a storm**, check with the City's Development Center to see if you meet FEMA standards for "Substantial Damage and Improvement." Call (650) 329-2442, or email [PlanDiv.Info@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:PlanDiv.Info@CityofPaloAlto.org).



### KNOW WHAT TO DO

- **DO NOT TURN GAS BACK ON YOURSELF.** Call City of Palo Alto Utilities for service at (650) 329-2579.
- **Don't handle live electrical equipment in wet areas.** If you have any concerns about electrical wiring, power lines or equipment on your property, call (650) 496-6914 to verify the safety.
- **Protect our creeks and Bay.** Do not dump. Call (650) 329-2413 to report hazardous material spills and illegal dumping in storm drains.



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Integrated Pest Management

Storm Tips and Resources

# GSI Utility Bill Inserts

## GREEN STREETS IMPROVE COMMUNITIES

"Green Streets" slow, absorb and filter pollution in stormwater runoff and enhance pedestrian and bicycle features. Learn more about Green Streets and the City's Green Stormwater Infrastructure Plan at [cityofpaloalto.org/GSI](http://cityofpaloalto.org/GSI) or call 650-329-2122.



### Stormwater Planters

capture, filter, and slow roof runoff from disconnected downspouts.

### Permeable Pavement

reduces runoff by percolating rain into the soil below.

### Tree Well Filters

utilize suspended pavement systems so that roots can extend further; this allows trees to grow taller, provide more shade, and absorb more runoff.

### Bioretention Areas

filter runoff collected from hardscapes through drought-tolerant plants and well-draining soils. They can also provide traffic-calming features.

Funded by your monthly Stormwater Management Fee.



# REBATES TO SLOW THE FLOW

These rebates help residents and businesses save money while reducing water pollution in our creeks and San Francisco Bay.

## Rain Barrels



Rain barrels are placed at the base of roof downspouts to collect rainwater for landscape irrigation.

Rebate at \$70 per barrel.\*

## Pervious Pavement

Pervious pavement reduces stormwater runoff and filters pollutants as rain percolates into gravel below.



Rebate at \$1.50 per square foot.

## Cisterns



Cisterns are large tanks that collect rainwater for landscape irrigation. Cisterns can be above or below ground, depending on the site.

Rebate at \$1.00 per gallon.\*

## Rain Gardens



Rain gardens are landscaped areas that capture and treat rainwater. They reduce the amount of stormwater that runs off a property and provide habitat for local wildlife.

Rebate at \$1.00 per square foot of roof captured.\*

\* Total rebate is combined from Valley Water and City of Palo Alto funding. See website for more information.



Learn more at  
[www.cityofpaloalto.org/stormwater](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/stormwater)  
or call 650-329-2122.

Funded by your monthly Stormwater Management Fee.



# School Programs

- Grassroots Ecology
- COVID response
  - 175 downloads to date
- 6 virtual lesson plans: 5 Elementary, 1 Middle
  - Problem Plastics
  - Bugs in Our Ecosystems
  - Who Dirtied the Bay?
  - Watershed Warriors
  - Mercury: Past and Present
  - Microbes in Sewage



# Public Events

- City-sponsored events, corporate Earth Day and health fairs, workshops
  - Stormwater pollution prevention, less toxic pest management, stormwater rebates
  - Games, quizzes, rain barrel drawings, brochures
- 2019 CY: 18 events and workshops



*2017 MSC Open House*

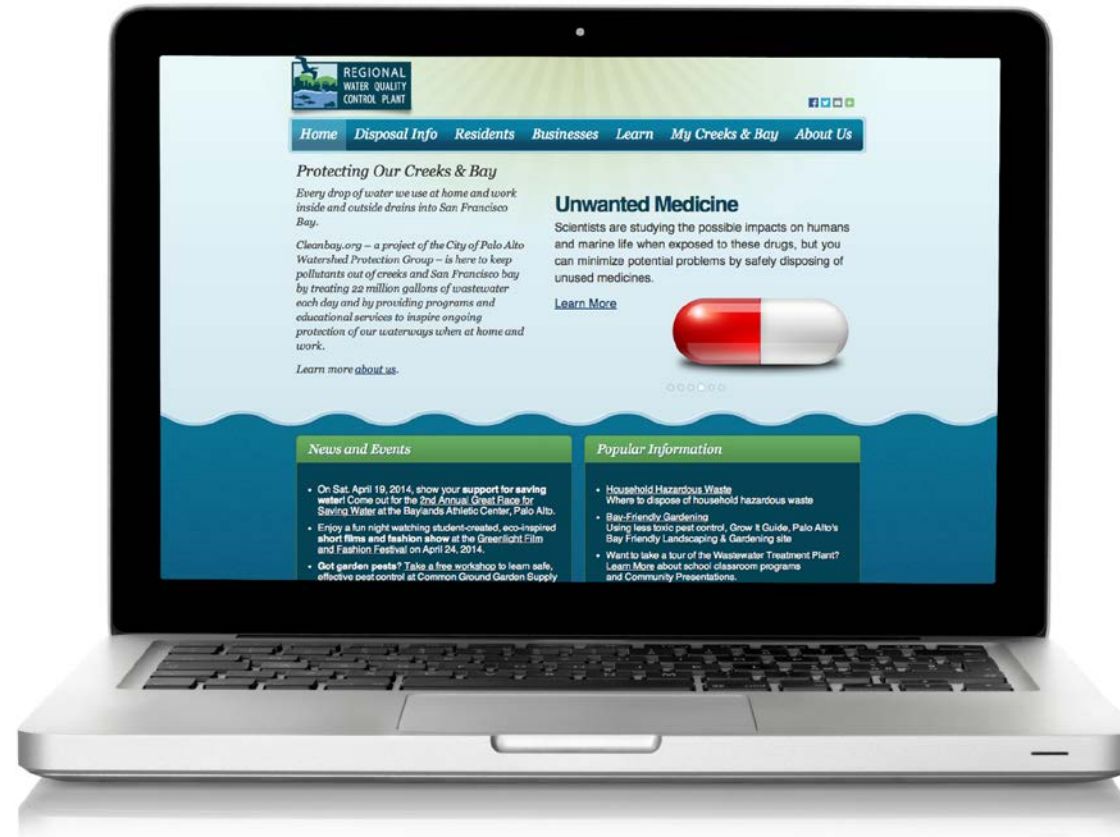




# Creek Cleanup Month

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# Thank you!



For more information, visit [cleanbay.org](http://cleanbay.org)

# Stormwater Rebate Program Webpages

- Purpose of webpages
- External website challenges
  - Valley Water partner
  - Blue Barrel vendor



# Previous Rebate Homepage

## Stormwater Measures Rebate Program

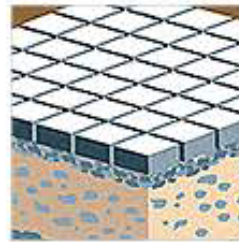


Palo Alto property owners voted in April 2017 to approve a new Stormwater Management Fee that replaced the 2005 storm drain fee. This became effective June 1, 2017 and includes the Stormwater Measures Rebates Program, introduced in 2008, funded at a rate of \$125,000 per year. The goal of this program is to improve the quality of stormwater runoff and reduce the amount that goes into the storm drain system.

The City of Palo Alto Storm Drain Utility is offering stormwater rebates to residents, businesses, and City departments. Buy and install a qualifying product and receive rebates on the following items:



Rain Barrels



Permeable Pavement



Cisterns

**PLEASE NOTE: REBATES FOR GREEN ROOFS ARE CURRENTLY ON HOLD UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.**

# Previous Rebate Homepage

## How to Apply

- Read the [Terms and Conditions](#) of the Palo Alto Stormwater Measures Rebate Program.
- Complete the Stormwater Rebate Application Form below.
  
- **Step 1 - Design Review (not required for rain barrels)**
  - Submit completed Application Form
  - Submit design plans and details to Public Works Watershed Protection. Cisterns, permeable pavements, and green roofs require design review and approval by Public Works Department staff prior to the start of work in order to be eligible for a rebate.
  - Secure City building permit, when required. Rain barrels or cisterns connected to a potable water or automatic irrigation system and green roofs require City building permits. Obtain any necessary permits or approvals through the City of Palo Alto Development Center. Please call (650) 329-2496 or visit the [Development Center](#) for permit requirements.
- **Step 2 - Installation**
  - Install eligible stormwater measure per approved design.
  - All eligible stormwater measures must be inspected by Public Works Department staff upon completion to ensure proper installation and functionality prior to issuance of a rebate.
  - Rain barrels or cisterns connected directly to a potable water or automatic irrigation systems and green roofs must be permitted, inspected and approved by the City Building Inspection Division prior to installation. Rain barrels or cisterns connected directly to a potable water or automatic irrigation system must be equipped with a certified backflow device.
- **Step 3 - Final documentation**
  - Submit proof of purchase and supporting documentation, including:
    - Completed Application Form
    - Supporting product information
    - Receipts for costs incurred
    - If applicable, City of Palo Alto building permit with final approval
  - Submit all documentation on online application form below.

## Terms and Conditions

1. Rebates valid only on specified stormwater measures installed at a residence or business within the City of Palo Alto. Funding is on a first come, first served basis, or until funds are depleted.
2. Rebates are limited to one rebate per stormwater measure per calendar year for each address.
3. Stormwater measures (except rain barrels) must be installed by a professional contractor licensed to perform work in the State of California.
4. The City of Palo Alto reserves the right to change, modify or reduce rebate levels, as well as add or drop specific eligible measures at any time without prior notice.
5. Applications must be approved prior to the start of the installation of eligible stormwater measures. Required supporting documentation must be postmarked and submitted no later than 90 days after the purchase/installation date of the eligible measure in order to receive a rebate.
6. Qualifying measures previously rebated under any other City of Palo Alto program are not eligible.
7. Failure to provide appropriate documentation will result in rebate ineligibility. The City of Palo Alto reserves the right to validate all information, including proof of purchase by a Palo Alto resident or business, and completeness and functionality of installation before issuing a rebate.
8. City of Palo Alto disclaims any and all liability from any property damage or loss that may arise as a result of the applicant's or contractor's participation in this program.
9. City of Palo Alto is not responsible for claims regarding rebate amounts, program dates or guidelines made by contractors, retailers or other third parties. Final determination of rebate eligibility will be governed by the Terms and Conditions.
10. City of Palo Alto is not responsible for items lost or delayed in the mail, nor any remittance delayed due to incorrect rebate applications. Incomplete applications cannot be processed and will be returned.
11. The Internal Revenue Service requires the City to issue an IRS Form 1099 (Miscellaneous Income) to rebate program participants receiving a total of \$600 or more in storm water and/or water conservation rebates from the City. Rebates may be considered taxable income. Please consult with your tax accountant to determine what impact this may have on your tax situation. Applicants are required to fill out and submit the enclosed IRS Form W-9 (Request for Taxpayer Identification Number) along with their rebate application.

# Previous Rain Barrel Webpage



Rain barrels are low-cost, effective, and easily maintainable water conservation devices that can be used to reduce runoff volume and, for smaller storm events, delay and reduce the peak runoff flow rates from residential and commercial sites. By storing and diverting rainfall runoff from roofs, these devices reduce the undesirable impacts of runoff that would otherwise flow swiftly into gutters and storm drains and contribute to flooding and erosion problems in creeks. Due to their relatively small volume, rain barrels are most commonly used as a secondary source of

water for gardening in residential areas. If larger water storage volumes are desired, larger tanks called cisterns can be used to collect rooftop runoff. Rain barrels can provide a source of chemically untreated 'soft water' for gardens and compost, free of most sediment and dissolved salts. Because residential irrigation can account for up to 40% of domestic water consumption, water conservation measures such as rain barrels can be used to reduce the demand on the municipal water system, especially during the hot summer months.

For residential applications, a typical rain barrel design will include a hole at the top to allow for flow from a roof downspout, a sealed lid, an overflow pipe and a spigot at or near the bottom of the barrel. The spigot can be left partially open to detain water or closed to fill the barrel. The top opening must be fitted with a screen in order to control mosquitoes and other insects. The stored water can then be used for lawn and garden watering. Rain barrels can be connected to provide larger volumes of storage.

Rain barrels should generally NOT be directly connected to your home's potable water or automatic irrigation system. Rain barrels connected directly to a potable water or automatic irrigation system must be equipped with a certified backflow device and must be permitted, inspected and approved by the City Building Inspection Division prior to installation.

**Purchase and install a rain barrel and receive a \$50 rebate.**

- [Overview of Rain Barrels](#)
- [Rainwater Catchment Q&A](#)
- [Controlling Mosquitos](#)

Installation of innovative stormwater measures may qualify for "points" under one of the green building rating systems specified in the [City's Green Building Ordinance](#).

**Green Building Rating Systems:**

- [Build it Green](#) - for residential construction
- [LEED](#) - for commercial construction

# Next Steps for Rebate Program

- Update webpages
- Post video instructions
- Post workshop recording
- Signage for Rebate sites
- Review City beta site
- Prep for updated site next year



*Example Signage (Seattle RainWise Program)*

# Sustainability (S/CAP) Webinars

- October 22: All-Electric Homes 101
- Nov 18: Getting to 80 x 30: Your Transportation Vision for Palo Alto
- December 8: The Importance of the Natural Environment in Meeting our Sustainability Goals
- November / December: Update on the Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan
- January – Feb 2021: Virtual Forum – Reviewing the Results of the Impact Analysis
- February 2021: Webinar on S/CAP Packages Of Options