



Stormwater Management Oversight Committee

Minutes

Thursday, October 7, 2021
1 pm to 3 pm
Special Meeting

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

<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.

Committee Members Present: Catherine Perman, David Bower, Hal Mickelson, Dena Mossar, Marilyn Keller, Bob Wenzlau

Committee Members Absent: Ron Owes

Staff Present:

Karin North, Pam Boyle Rodriguez, Michel Jeremias, Vicki Thai, Rajeev Hada, Jamie Perez, Loretta Olmos

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)

- Mickelson: Call to order at 1:06 PM.

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.

- No public comment.

Old Business (5 min)

1. Approval of Minutes from the June 3, 2021 Stormwater Management Oversight Committee Meeting (5 min)
 - A. Keller: Two minor corrections.
 - B. Mossar: Move to approve minutes with changes incorporated.
 - i. Seconded by Mickelson.
 - ii. No objections. Minutes approved.

New Business (90 min)

2. Staff Update on CIP Projects (25 min)
 - A. Jeremias: Review of current 2017 Ballot Measure CIP projects and progress on upcoming projects.
 - B. Loma Verde Ave project completed and three other projects (Corporation Way & E Bayshore, W Bayshore & Fabian Capacity Upgrades, W Bayshore & Fabian Pump Station) currently in progress. Planning and prioritization of projects affected by location and section of the storm drain system. Construction may be completed in segments for these projects. Additional outside factors include funding and construction costs.
 - a. This is a pay-as-you-go project. We believe we will be able to fund these projects but it is a matter of timing and it may extend beyond the 15 years of the ballot measure.
 - b. We have borrowed money in the past and are paying that back in the current ballot measure. Some constraints have to do with staff capacity, don't have enough staff to complete all the projects at once. Projects are staggered.
 - C. Jeremias: Overview and highlight of recurring projects are included in the Storm Drainage System Replacement and Rehabilitation Project. Projects to improve flow to outfalls, pump stations, etc. in a rainfall event.
 - D. Hada: Update on Corporation Way and West Bayshore Road Pump Stations and System Upgrades including acquiring easement from Google to install pump station facilities on their property for these projects.
 - a. Comment regarding getting easement from Google it is not that unusual, depends on the project. If project is located in

public right-of-way, no easement is required. For some infrastructure projects that affect adjacent properties, the City has acquired temporary easements in the past. It happens with Utilities more often for example with transformers located on private properties because they can't be out in the street.

- b. Pump stations, and all City systems and facilities, are designed for a 10-year storm. A 100-year storm and when we talk about sea level rise, that is beyond the capacity of the system. Since it's a wet utility, don't have to worry about flooding as much. The components of this facility will be elevated and raised to meet the elements of 100-year flood event. As far as actual pump capacity, we are adding redundancy in these pumps. For example, assuming sea level rise and/or a flooding event were to happen, these pumps would run continuously and would be alternated on and off.
 - c. Adobe Creek appears to drain into the basin that has tidal gates. With climate change and sea level rise, we're talking about a basin that is already separated or controlled against sea level rise. Could you clarify the hydraulic model of Adobe Creek given setting it drains into? It takes in a lot of flows from Palo Alto and probably Mountain View and other creeks and drains into the flood basin. There's a separate project with the Army Corps and Valley Water related to sea level rise and potential levee alternative designs to protect flood basin from flooding and therefore protecting neighbors in Palo Alto. For Adobe Creek, during typical storm event, flows drain into basin, basin has shut tide gates that keep bay waters out. When bay water recedes during low tide, tide gates naturally through gravity allow flows collected to drain into the bay.
- E. Thai: Overview of and project updates for Storm Drain Replacement and Rehabilitation, 13 different locations for pipe replacements and lining. The main purpose of project is to preserve and improve integrity of storm system and keep it running. Because project is not centrally located, planning methods for public outreach and communication. In process of approving construction contracts.
- a. Anytime you cut into the street a street cut fee is required. Based on the trench width of project.
 - b. Jeremias: For some projects with street resurfacing, we may be able to get by with a temporary asphalt pavement on top of the trench that would last up to 2-3 years, then the streets group would use the money we give to them to restore the entire width of the street versus us restoring the trench. The

street cut fee has number of factors including we might be cutting into a recently paved road or cutting into a road to be resurfaced entirely in the future, and those fees from us and other groups will go into paying for those restorations.

c. The project is funded by the stormwater fund. The Stormwater Management Fund is broken into different pieces. This is about a third of the ballot measure funding for rehab/replacement. The money accumulates and we spend it when we have enough funds or as needed for projects that are higher priority.

d. Budget review will occur in a future meeting

F. North: City Council decided all meetings could be virtual until January 1st. Potential for SWMOC to continue meeting virtually in the future.

a. Mickelson: Are there any objections to continuing to meet on a virtual basis in the future?

b. No objections.

3. Staff Update on GSI Implementation Project and Field Visit Site Findings (30 min)

A. Boyle Rodriguez: We have kicked off implementation of the GSI Plan. Overview of work with consultants and next steps for GSI Plan for next few months.

B. Havens: Introduction of Geosyntec consulting team working with the City.

C. Constantinescu: Introduction of LWA consulting team working with the City.

D. Havens: Overview of GSI types and presentation of visuals of GSI installations and inspirations.

a. Mickelson: In gray model, you are capturing the water to put it in system to be applied to gray water uses; in green stormwater it's going back into the soil and potentially back in the stormwater control system we have?

b. Havens: Yes, typically we think of gray stormwater infrastructure as the pipe network that takes water off the street that lets it flow away from areas that could flood. Typically no capture for water reuse or treatment, sometimes there will be gray storage or detention to allow for some flood management. With green stormwater infrastructure, there is vegetation and soil focusing on the water quality and benefits. The water is filtered through the process to remove oil or

other urban pollutants.

- c. Mickelson: If we made no changes to the way we thought about this 10 years ago, did we have a gray system?
 - d. Havens: May have been some GSI pre-10 years ago but there's been quite a bit more implemented over the past 10 years and hopefully still more to come.
 - e. North: Yes, previous traditional method was through gray water systems. Pipes underground with capture systems getting water out of streets to avoid flooding and ponding. Now with new regulatory requirements, we need to remove pollutants out of the water.
- E. Havens: Overview of tasks in progress as part of 3-year GSI Plan implementation project scope.
- a. Wenzlau: Hope that as deliverables can be shared in private sector projects to help/benefit commercial and residential development.
 - b. Boyle Rodriguez: Yes, we are looking at sharing handbook and maintenance monitoring manual after we're able to test it out with City projects. If it can be used it will result in more standardization of GSI measures.
- F. Havens: Overview of GSI measures visited by City staff and consultants for evaluation and lessons learned. Lessons Learned included issues related to bioretention design, other facility design such as impractical access and elevation issues, and bioretention/bioswales.
- G. Constantinescu: Maintenance done by crews that maintain other areas of the City. Recommend more training provided or that a dedicated crew established for the maintenance of GSI areas because of differences in maintenance requirements/practices for these areas. Maintenance is not a one-size-fits-all for GSI areas, working to address this in the Maintenance and Monitoring Manual.
- a. Wenzlau: Always want City to be aware of where the plumes are because of concern for groundwater pollution. For performance measures, a metric presenting how many gallons or what percentage of the stormwater we're actually accomplishing through GSI would be helpful. Encourage overall generation of GSI metrics that could be shared.
 - b. Boyle Rodriguez: Will be sharing work on GSI specifications in December. Started working on flow charts to help staff and consultants identify where GSI can be installed and what type of measure might be best implemented. Talked about

creating maps to identify different criteria about the City including where groundwater contaminated plumes are, trying to get more detailed information about soil type where we can infiltrate to groundwater. Will share that with you in December.

- c. Havens: Yes, we could develop draft maps by then.
- d. Mossar: As you evaluate sites for future GSI, knowing how much water you're retaining and getting back into the ground is an important factor. For example, a green roof is a small area that collects water but another facility may collect from a much larger drainage area. Per Bob's point, we need to know the cost associated with capturing the water to know which strategy is the most cost effective.
- e. Boyle Rodriguez: Appreciate that point. We're looking at funding opportunities and methods to track costs but no data right now. Hope to have a much better sense of that in future.

4. Staff Update MRP Permit (25 min)

- A. Boyle Rodriguez: The current permit extended and draft of new permit recently came out for public review, released to cities for comment for a 60-day period. We will be providing comments in writing in collaboration with Santa Clara County in November. Hearing in February for permit adoption, effective July 2022. Proposed requirements may have significant resource impacts.
- B. Boyle Rodriguez: Overview of progress on current requirements and draft permit requirements for new/redevelopment and impervious surface impacts, enforceable trash reduction, and PCBs and mercury reduction.
 - a. The abatement falls upon the current owners. We would look at historical records to identify areas using PCBs in the past. Start sampling on surrounding street and if PCBs found, we talk to owners to obtain permission to sample on property. Based on results, submit those findings to the regional control board as needed who would issue a notice for abatement and come up with some type of remediation plan.
- C. Boyle Rodriguez: Overview of other requirements including bacteria controls, discharges associated with unsheltered populations, cost tracking, and asset management.
 - a. Permit can change until it's adopted. Once the permit is adopted in February that's when we can have a better idea for forecasting the financial and staffing impacts.

5. Rain Barrel Program (10 minutes)

- A. Boyle Rodriguez: To make the program less complicated, worked on streamlining the program with this pilot. Entered into an agreement with Rain Water Solutions (RWS), company that sells rain barrels, to reduce price. Program is open to everyone and available to employees. Distribution event is planned for December 4th. Barrel is 50 gallons and made from 100% recycled plastic and is \$80 compared to \$134 on the Wayfair site.
 - a. Wenzlau: Bought one on Monday. Went through the Santa Clara Valley process to get qualified for the rebate. One thing to consider in the confirmation maybe, slightly confusing as to how to apply the purchase back to the rebate.
 - b. Boyle Rodriguez: We are working on steps to follow for clarity and will be posting those. Those will be sent out in the email.

Committee Member Comments and Announcements (10 min)

- Wenzlau: Overview of Neighbors Abroad project on Art and Sustainability with the idea that Palo Alto and our sister cities would partner with an artist. In Oaxaca we have an artist working on a project that speaks largely to themes of water. In Palo Alto, artists would work on murals. I wanted the Committee to be aware of this initiative. This could be another channel to introduce themes of green infrastructure.
 - Mickelson: So for this Committee, the objective is for us to have the awareness of this initiative?
 - Wenzlau: Yes, there isn't an ask at the moment. Information is important to be shared with staff and the Committee.
- Bower: Over the last few months with my reintroduction to the construction world, it is astounding how costs have increased. Important to be aware of this for the future.

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

- North: The next meeting is December 2nd and we are probably going to talk about the preliminary budget.
- Mickelson: The meeting is December 2nd from 1-3 PM. You can submit or add agenda items through email.

Adjournment

- Mickelson: Motion to adjourn?

- Bower motions, Wenzlau seconds.
- Meeting adjourned at 3:11 PM.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITY ACT (ADA)

Persons with disabilities who require auxiliary aids or services in using City facilities, services or programs or who would like information on the City's compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, may contact (650) 329-2550 (Voice) 24 hours in advance.

Public Comment Instructions

Members of the Public may provide public comments to teleconference meetings via email, teleconference, or by phone.

- Written public comments may be submitted by email to the staff liaison, Karin North at karin.north@cityofpalalto.org.
- 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.
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - A timer will be shown on the computer to help keep track of your comments.
- Spoken public comments using a smart phone will be accepted through the teleconference meeting. To address the Council, download the Zoom application onto your phone from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store and enter the Meeting ID below. Please follow the instructions B-E above.
- 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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