



Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC)

February 1, 2023

Agenda - WRAC

1. Determination of a Quorum and Introductions
2. Approval of October 5, 2022 Minutes
3. Approval of November 2, 2022 Minutes
4. Consider Endorsing Application by Tayler Simpson for Member, Development At-Large
5. Open Discussion Regarding Recent Storm and Flooding
6. Receive Presentation from County Staff Regarding Updates to the County's LID Manual
7. Ongoing Updates
8. Future Agenda Items
9. Public Comment



Item 1: Determination of Quorum and Introductions



Item 2: Approval of October 5, 2022 Meeting Minutes



Item 3: Approval of November 2, 2022 Meeting Minutes



Item 4: Consider endorsing application by Tayler Simpson for Member, Development At- Large



Item 6: Receive Presentation from County Staff Regarding Updates to the County's LID Manual



Presentation Outline

- Stormwater Low Impact Development in the Central Coast Region.
- Notable features of the new Post-Construction Stormwater Guidebook.
- Project timeline.



Low Impact Development Summarized:

- Low Impact Development in the context of stormwater:
- Design the developed site to mimic the runoff pattern of the undeveloped watershed.
 - Slow it, spread it, sink it.
- End the practice of sending a fire hose of stormwater runoff to the nearest roadway or waterway.



Low Impact Development



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Regional Post- Construction Stormwater Requirements

- 'The PCRs' were adopted in 2013 by the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board.
- Exceed State standards for treatment, retention, and management of post-construction stormwater runoff from new and redevelopment projects in urbanized areas.
- The County's LID handbook provides supplemental guidance document for implementing the PCRs and completing plan check and approval.



Regional Post- Construction Stormwater Requirements

- New construction and redevelopment projects that create or replace 2,500sf of impervious surface area.
- When and where are ‘the PCRs’ applied?
 - Within all incorporated cities.
 - Within the County’s ‘Census Designated Places’



LID Handbook Update

- Most recent substantial updates to the LID Handbook were completed in 2014.
- New technology has come on the market, drought has persisted, and perspectives have changed.
- Address new technologies.
- Provide specific guidance to help expedite plan review.
- Shift the focus from LID philosophy to real-world strategies.



So, it's a handbook *update*?

- No, it's a full rewrite.
- Guided by County staff who interact with development community on a regular basis, supported by professional consultants.
- Reference the best technical resources published by municipalities around the state.



Notable features of the new Post-Construction Stormwater Guidebook



Comprehensive guidance for underground infiltration systems

- Technology has advanced considerably, with subsurface systems increasingly common.
- Updated guidelines for infiltration testing, setbacks, and use restrictions.
- Registration with EPA Region 9.



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Formulas, calculations, and strategies

- Clarifying approved formulas and calculations.
- Thresholds for designing 'self-retaining' areas and pervious surfaces.
- Strategies for managing County flood control requirements in addition to the PCR's.



Stormwater feature plant palettes

- Early guidance documents included *extensive* lists of plants.
- Refined lists with emphasis on drought-tolerant native species.
- Selected palettes based on locally successful plantings and commonly desired traits.



Expanded Guidance for Source Control Measures

- Incorporating pollution prevention into site design.
- Guidebook provides a checklist of simple pollutant source control strategies instead of referencing external documents.



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Expanded information on operations & maintenance agreements

- Agreements are a key element of preserving stormwater management features once construction is complete.
- Department of Planning and Building manages this long-term monitoring program.
- May require CC&Rs, Agreements, or long-term Encroachment Permits.



Example projects

- Methods for demonstrating LID in addition to structural controls.
- Examples demonstrate calculations, strategies, and templates in use.



Project Timeline



From start to finish

- Update project kicked off in March 2022.
- Preliminary draft will be released in Spring 2023.
 - Technical Focus Group and public review and comment period: 30 days.
- Final draft anticipated Summer 2023.
 - Technical Focus Group and County staff review.
- Official launch workshop and training anticipated fall 2023.



Ways to participate

- Comment on the preliminary draft. (Spring 2023)
 - Staff are convening a 'Technical Focus Group' and are happy to add additional members.
- Attend the launch workshop and training.
(Fall 2023)



Thank you!

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Item 5: Open Discussion Regarding Recent Storm and Flooding



Open Discussion Regarding Recent Storms

- Brief comments about intensity of rainfall
- Update about Lower AG Creek
- Shared Photos and Videos



Open Discussion Regarding Recent Storms

Major rainfall-runoff event for nearly entire County

- ◇ 5- to 25-year rainfall event for most creeks and streams
 - Larger drainages (AG Creek, Morro Creek, SLO Creek, etc.) strongly affected
- ◇ Saturated soils prior to storm → more runoff, more quickly
- ◇ Strong winds and early intense rain → debris issues for rest of storm
- ◇ Sustained duration (12+ hours) of substantial rain was rarest aspect
 - Duration of high flows and flooding more extraordinary than peak flows
- ◇ Most significant regional flooding event in 25+ years (1995/1998)

		Approximate recurrence [years] of peak rain intensity over:					
		30 min	1 hr	3 hr	6 hr	12 hr	
Relatively normal rainfall for Cambria-Hwy 46 Area	→	North - Coastal	1	1	1	1	2
Very uncommon rainfall for Templeton-Atascadero Area	→	North - Inland	5	10	20	40	50
		Central	2	5	5	10	25
		South	2	5	15	15	75



Arroyo Grande Creek Update

- January 9th/10th:
South levee overtopping,
levee breach overnight



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Arroyo Grande Creek Update

- January 10th:
County began to repair the levee, initiated a manual breach on the south levee to drain the valley



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Arroyo Grande Creek Update



Arroyo Grande Creek Update

- January 11th: Repair began at various other spots of the levee



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Arroyo Grande Creek Update

- Today: Levee breach repaired, RSP in place at north levee, working on long-term solutions to repair damaged sections of levee and remove sediment and debris



Photos



El Camino Real @ Santa Margarita Creek
(County Public Works)





Laguna Lake (Christine M.)





Templeton CSD Pond (Debra L.)





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Item 7: Ongoing Updates



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Item 8: Future Agenda Items



Future Agenda Items

- March 1st:
 - Presentation from John Lindsey (pending confirmation)
 - Selection of Officers
 - Annual Report
 - Consider Forming Ad hoc Subcommittee to Review Bylaws
- April 5th:
 - TBD
- May 3rd:
 - Presentation of Flood Control District Budget



Item 9: Public Comment for Items not on the Agenda



Thank you!

Next WRAC Meeting: March 1, 2022.

Location: SLO City/County Library Community Room

Questions? Contact Brendan Clark

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