



PRESS RELEASE

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Culver City Completes Multiple SMBRC-Supported Approaches to Storm Water Treatment for Cleaner Ballona Creek and Santa Monica Bay

Los Angeles, CA (February 18, 2015) - The City of Culver City has completed a multi-faceted approach to help enhance water quality in Ballona Creek, local beaches, and coastal waters by implementing several projects. Funding for these projects was provided with Proposition 50 funds, which were awarded by the State Water Resources Control Board, as recommended by the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (SMBRC). Culver City's Stormwater Management Program is comprised of a series of Best Management Practices all working together to prevent pollutants originating in the City, such as trash, automotive fluids (oil, gasoline, antifreeze), and chemical wastes (paint, pesticides, fertilizers) from ending up on Santa Monica Bay beaches and in coastal waters.

Micheál O'Leary, City of Culver City Vice Mayor and Chair of the SMBRC, states, "Completing these projects demonstrates an important partnership with the SMBRC, the State Water Board, the EPA, and the City which are all working together to directly address goals outlined in the SMBRC's Bay Restoration Plan, as well as State and Federal regulations, to prevent storm water pollution. These improvements will benefit the entire community and fragile ecosystems, both on land and in the water."

The nine-mile-long Ballona Creek, once a natural stream that was channelized in the 1930's, drains a large portion of the Los Angeles basin, from the Santa Monica Mountains on the north, the Harbor Freeway (I-110) on the east, and the Baldwin Hills on the south. At 130 square-miles, the Ballona Creek Watershed is the largest watershed in the Santa Monica Bay, and is comprised of all or parts of the cities of Beverly Hills, Culver City, Inglewood, Los Angeles, Santa Monica, West Hollywood, and unincorporated communities of Los Angeles County.

Because Ballona Creek drains such a large area, it is particularly affected by all of the various pollutants that are dumped or deposited anywhere in its drainage area. To help address this issue, Culver City completed the following projects to either prevent pollutants from reaching the Creek or to help cleanse storm water runoff before it flows into the Creek:

www.smbrc.ca.gov and www.culvercity.org



Storm Drain Screens

The City installed more than 1,000 automatic retractable and connector pipe trash screens in storm drain catch basins. These screens help prevent trash, leaves, and other debris from flowing into the storm drain system. The automatic, retractable screens are installed at the street level to prevent large debris from entering the catch basin. A connector pipe screen is installed inside the catch basin to prevent debris as small as 5mm from entering the storm drain system. In dry weather, the automatic retractable screens are closed, and in wet weather they open to prevent flooding.

Trash and Recycling Bins

95 new “split line design” receptacles that accept both trash and recyclable materials were placed on major boulevards and in high-use areas throughout the City.

Rain Gardens

Several rain gardens, the first of which was installed in 2012, were designed and installed at select sites throughout the community. A rain garden is a landscaped area designed to infiltrate runoff or treat it before being discharged to the storm drain system, thereby preventing potential pollutants from entering the storm drain system and Ballona Creek. The four locations are as follows:

- The City’s first rain garden is located along the Ballona Creek bike path, adjacent to Farragut Elementary School and Culver City Middle School measuring 1,400 square feet and treating 3.4 acres of school property.
- The 4,000 square foot rain garden along Jefferson Boulevard at the City’s Public Works Building/City Yard also includes a 3,000-gallon cistern collecting roof runoff.
- The City’s Transfer Station has 2,050-square feet of rain gardens that treat 7,500 square feet of the station’s property, as well as approximately one acre of street drainage.
- Previous City landscaping in front of four homes at the corner of Baldwin Avenue and Farragut Drive was replaced with 2,100 square feet of rain gardens treating 5.6 acres of residential properties and streets.

“The City of Culver City appreciates the leadership of our project partners, which helped provide the much needed funding to implement these important projects. Together, we are cleaning, beautifying and improving Ballona Creek for years to come. The City is committed to pursuing projects that promote a clean and healthy environment, and protect our Ballona Creek watershed,” said Culver City Mayor Meghan Sahli-Wells.

SBMRC hopes that data from the completed programs will be available in mid-2015. In the meantime, storm drain screens and trash/recycling bins are already at work preventing trash and other pollutants from entering Ballona Creek, and the rain gardens have been successfully filtering runoff from rainstorms, lowering the volume of polluted storm water heading into Ballona Creek and ultimately to Santa Monica Bay’s beaches and near shore waters.



About the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission

The Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (SMBRC) is a non-regulatory, locally-based state entity established by an act of the California Legislature in 2002. The SMBRC is charged with overseeing and promoting the Bay Restoration Plan by securing and leveraging funding to put solutions into action, building public-private partnerships, promoting cutting-edge research and technology, facilitating stakeholder-driven consensus processes, and raising public awareness. The SMBRC brings together local, state, and federal agencies, environmental groups, businesses, scientists, and members of the public on its 36-member Governing Board. The SMBRC is also supported by a Technical Advisory Committee, and a broad stakeholder body, the Watershed Advisory Council. (www.smbrc.ca.gov)

About the City of Culver City

The City of Culver City is a charter city incorporated in 1917, with a population of nearly 39,000 residents within five square miles and surrounded by nearly 370,000 households within a five-mile radius. Centrally located between the beach and downtown Los Angeles, Culver City is six miles north of Los Angeles International Airport and strategically located near the intersection of the Santa Monica (I-10), San Diego (I-405) Freeways, and the eastern terminus of the Marina Freeway (SR-90).

Culver City is a modern and progressive community with great shopping, dining, and entertainment, a vibrant business environment, and an exceptional quality of life. Culver City's unique combination of small-town charm and big-city amenities make it a great place to live and work. With roots in the early days of the motion picture industry, the City has now become a powerful and expanding multi-media hub, as well as a mecca for the fashion and design industries.

Culver City prides itself on being a good environmental steward. To this end, the mission of the City's Urban Runoff Management and Stormwater Quality Program is to protect and preserve the public health and the environment through the implementation of both traditional and innovative solutions to effectively reduce and eliminate urban runoff pollution from residential, commercial, industrial, and new development/construction sources.

The Goals of the City's Urban Runoff Management and Stormwater Quality Program are to:

- Comply with the federal and state water quality regulations, including National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) requirements;
- Protect and preserve creeks, ocean, shoreline/beaches, and help ecosystems by reducing or eliminating pollution;
- Plan and implement various Best Management Practices (BMPs) to effectively reduce urban runoff pollution;
- Provide continuous public education and outreach about pollution prevention to foster community awareness and environmental stewardship;
- Implement a sustainable, cost-effective program; and
- Enforce urban runoff regulations.

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Rain Gardens

Baldwin Avenue Rain Gardens (four each)



2100 SF rain gardens to treat and infiltrate flows from 5.6 Ac. residential area.

Public Works Yard Rain Gardens and Cistern



4000 SF rain gardens to treat and infiltrate surface runoff and 3000g cistern to store roof drainage.

Ballona Creek Rain Garden



Rain garden to treat and infiltrate runoff from 3.4 Ac school property.



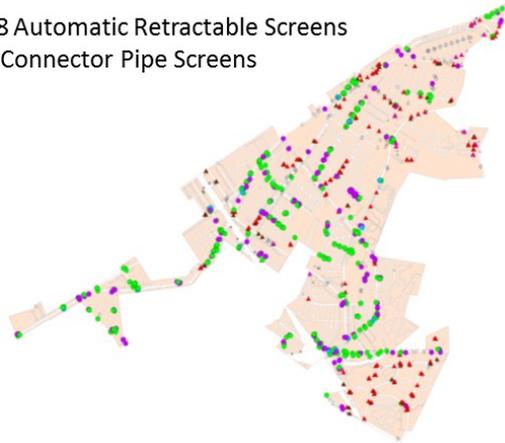
Transfer Station Rain Gardens



2050 SF rain garden to treat and infiltrate runoff from 3.4 Ac Transfer Station and street drainage.

Trash Screens on Catch Basins

1058 Automatic Retractable Screens and Connector Pipe Screens



Automatic Retractable Screen



Connector Pipe Screen

Trash and Recycling Receptacles

95 Trash and Recycling Receptacles

