



bay restoration commission

STEWARDS OF SANTA MONICA BAY

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November 15, 2013

Agenda Item # 3 a iii

To: Executive Committee, SMBRC
From: Shelley Luce, Executive Director
Subject : Vermont Avenue: Stormwater Capture and Green Street Project

Action Requested of the Executive Committee:

- Recommend Governing Board adoption of up to \$1 million for the Vermont Avenue Project.

Background

The City of Los Angeles Watershed Protection Division is requesting \$1,200,000 in funding from the SMBRC Proposition 84 Program (administered through the State Water Resources Control Board) towards the construction of a series of storm water Best Management Practices (BMPs) along the Vermont Corridor in South Los Angeles.

The Vermont Avenue Project will be implemented along a half-mile segment of Vermont Avenue from Gage Avenue to Florence Avenue, and in three high priority sub-watersheds that terminate at storm drains on Vermont Avenue, flowing west from Hoover St. The project area is entirely within the Ballona Creek watershed. The project is located in a high priority site, identified during the City's TMDL implementation planning process. This area was also identified as a high priority catchment in the Green Solutions Project conducted by Community Conservation International for the SMBRC and other three state Conservancies in 2008.

The Project and Water Quality Improvements

The project will provide a multi-benefit retrofit along the public right-of-way bordering Vermont Avenue through the installation of BMPs found in the City's Green Street Standard Plans. Green Street Standard Plans are pre-approved engineering and construction details for stormwater BMPs that improve water quality and increase water use efficiency by diverting street runoff into vegetated areas to cleanse stormwater and urban runoff, provide irrigation for landscaping, and recharge groundwater. Potential Green Street Standard BMPs being evaluated include; parkway swales, vegetated stormwater curb extensions, tree wells, and dry wells.

Additional, non-standard BMPs are also being considered. On Gage Avenue, curb inlets and gutter modifications on an existing triangular-shaped median island will be used to divert flow from the street into the median to create a bio-filter that will connect to a multiple-chambered dry well, will add system storage capacity and relieve nuisance flooding.

The project will target capacities for unit BMP installation in the public right-of-way to meet or

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exceed the runoff volume of a 3/4 inch design storm in a 24-hour period from the sidewalk, parkways, and adjacent roadways. Though this goal has been met or exceeded on local Green Street pilot projects at a small scale, to date, a larger highway-scale or collector-scale Green Street pilot project that meets design storm criteria has not been completed in the Los Angeles area. The City’s goal is to capture and infiltrate or reuse 51,000 cubic feet of runoff per storm event. Pollutant load reductions are estimated in the table below.

Pollutant Loading Reductions:

TSS	1231.117	Kg/yr
TP	3.519	Kg/yr
TN	25.134	Kg/yr
F Coli	103160.678	Billion Colonies/yr
F Enteroc	54737.418	Billion Colonies/yr
F Strept	111076.373	Billion Colonies/yr
T Coliform	167752.701	Billion Colonies/yr
Cu	0.459	Kg/yr
Pb	0.170	Kg/yr
Zn	3.334	Kg/yr

The Watershed Protection Division will also implement a localized public education and outreach program targeted to businesses, schools, and residential community members along the Vermont Corridor neighborhood (between Gage Ave. and Florence Ave.) in association with the proposed projects. The program will encourage stewardship of the project and support voluntary efforts to capture storm water on private properties for added runoff volume and pollutant load reductions. The public education and outreach program elements may include workshops, community forums, tabling events, and neighborhood clean-ups.

Additional benefits include:

- refinement of existing, and development of new Green Street Standard Plans,
- reduction in impervious surface,
- improved air quality and heat island impacts reduced through planting of native trees and other vegetation.



Budget

	SMBRC	LA City Match	MTA	IRWMP	Total
Design/Engineering		\$502,320			\$502,320
Permitting/Environmental		\$100,000			\$100,000
Construction Contracting		\$67,000			\$67,000
Construction	\$1,000,000	\$858,150	\$900,000	\$523,650	\$3,281,800
Construction Admin.		\$100,464			\$100,464
Contingency		\$138,530	\$100,000	\$96,350	\$334,880
Standards Development		\$185,440			\$185,440
Monitoring and Reporting	\$99,536	\$101,856			\$201,392
Outreach / Education	\$100,464				\$100,464
Direct Project Admin.		\$83,720			\$83,720
Grand Total	\$1,200,000	\$2,137,480	\$1,000,000	\$620,000	\$4,957,480

Staff Recommendation

Although the City has requested \$1,200,000 from SMBRC for this project, staff had previously reserved \$1,000,000 in the current fiscal year to implement the Vermont Ave. project. Staff has discussed this with the City, and the City has agreed to the reduced award. Staff recommends that the Executive Committee recommend that Governing Board approve up to \$1 million for the Vermont Avenue Project.

The SMBRC currently has \$11,249,500 available in Prop 84 funds. If the project is approved by the Governing Board, that amount will be reduced to \$10,249,500.