

STORMWATER COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting
Thursday, May 21, 2020
2:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

The Stormwater Committee met remotely via Zoom, per C/CAG's shelter-in-place policy and consistent with state and county directives to manage COVID-19. Attendance at the meeting is shown on the attached roster. In addition to the Committee members, also in attendance were Matt Fabry (C/CAG Program Manager), Reid Bogert (C/CAG staff), Sandy Wong (C/CAG Executive Director), Susan Wright (County of San Mateo), Jennifer Lee (City of Burlingame), Rachel Krai (Lotus), Scott Durbin (Lotus), Steve Carter (Paradigm), Sarah Scheidt (City of San Mateo), Sven Edlund (City of San Mateo), Jim Eggemeyer (County of San Mateo), John Allan (County of San Mateo), Susan Wright (County of San Mateo), Doug Silverstein (Thrive Alliance) and Darren Choy (RRM). Chair Breault called the meeting to order at 2:32 p.m.

1. Public comment: Doug Silverstein, who leads the Thrive Alliance group in San Mateo County, introduced himself and welcomed future engagement between the Thrive Alliance and other groups like C/CAG who are making progress on various sustainability initiatives in the County.

2. Stormwater Issues from C/CAG Board Meetings: May – Adopted Reso 20-21 authorizing the application for \$97,671 in grant funding from the California Resilience Challenge for the Resilient San Carlos Schoolyards project to develop schoolyard greening concept plans for three sites/six schools in the San Carlos School District.

3. ACTION – Approval of the draft minutes from the April 16, 2020 Stormwater Committee meeting. Motion: member Machida, second: member Nagaya. Approved (15:0:0).

4. INFORMATION – The following items were covered in announcements:

- COVID Response Letter to Regional Water Board – Matt Fabry notified the Committee of the response letter sent on behalf of the countywide stormwater program and San Mateo County permittees outlining the general response to compliance issues related to the COVID-19 shelter-in-place orders from the State and County Health System. Fabry worked with the Ad-hoc Workgroup members of the Committee to refine the response which was based primarily on the approach and response letter submitted to the Regional Water Board by the Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program. Water Board staff have confirmed receipt of the letter and there are plans to discuss at the next Bay Area Stormwater Management Agencies Association (BASMAA) meeting on May 28.
- Funding Opportunities – Fabry provided updates on several funding solicitations:
 - EPA Water Quality Improvement Fund – This solicitation closed on May 13. There were 13 applications submitted requesting \$18 million in funds from \$5.9 million available.
 - CNRA Urban Flood Protection and Urban Greening Grant Programs – the California Natural Resources Agency has updated its solicitations for the Urban Flood Protection and Urban Greening Grant Programs. The Urban Flood Protection Grant Program has \$87.5 million available for two cycles, and applications are due June 15. The Urban

Greening Grant Program has approximately \$28.5 million available with applications due July 15.

- Prop 1 Stormwater Grant Round 2 – There is a Central/South Coast solicitation, for which San Mateo County projects are eligible, with \$3 million available to fund stormwater related infrastructure projects. Applications are due July 31.
- Regional Projects Updates – Fabry provided an update on the three regional projects that are being advanced in San Mateo County, including projects at Red Morton Park (Redwood City), Twin Pines Park (Belmont) and at the I-280/380 interchange (San Bruno). The project in Belmont is being advanced under a separate process run by the City and the Flood and Sea Level Rise Resiliency District with a paired project to restore part of Belmont Creek using Department of Water Resources Funds. The other two projects are being advanced by a joint RFP in collaboration between C/CAG, the County and the Cities of San Bruno and Redwood City. The solicitation includes two pots of funds administered by the California Natural Resources and the US EPA, and the sponsoring cities will enter into contracts with consultants to advance the project designs so that C/CAG is not acting as a pass-through for the funds. C/CAG and the County will be contracting with consultants to do additional project opportunity identification and prioritization with a portion of each pot of funds. The solicitation was released on May 8, with proposals due June 12. There was a pre-proposal webinar for consultants on May 15.
- Other – Fabry provided an update on communications with Regional Water Board staff regarding the Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD) requirements to be submitted in early July in preparation for reissuance of the Municipal Regional Permit. Water Board staff have requested additional information to be included in the ROWDs from each countywide program, including summaries of documents that are not due for submittal until Annual Reports in September. There are plans to further discuss the Water Board staff's request at the upcoming BASMAA Board of Directors meeting on May 28.

5. INFORMATION – Receive an update on C/CAG's Sustainable Streets Master Plan.

Matt Fabry provided a project update on C/CAG's Sustainable Streets Master Plan (SSMP), focusing on the climate change scenario modeling and associated green infrastructure stormwater capture analysis and the results of the project opportunities and prioritization analysis, as detailed in two technical memorandums which will be distributed to the San Mateo County permittees in about a week. Fabry reviewed the goals of the SSMP and the different typologies for categorizing sustainable streets opportunities, including curb extensions/bulbouts at intersections, connectivity projects, streetscape redesigns and frontage improvements for new/redevelopment projects. The prioritization process included evaluating and ranking the identified opportunities from all known transportation planning documents among San Mateo County jurisdictions, as well as new project opportunities based on a geospatial analysis of intersections on arterial or collector streets within a half mile of schools or transit hubs and on streets with low pavement condition indexes. The next step for the prioritization work is to distribute an online viewer of prioritized project opportunities after additional QA/QC, along with the final prioritization technical memorandum and a workbook of the prioritized project lists for existing and new opportunities and a project concept proposal spreadsheet to submit candidates for developing project concepts, for which the project is scoped to develop up to ten. C/CAG staff will be working with the member agencies on selecting up to ten project concepts to support grant opportunities. Fabry also mentioned the deliverables to develop model sustainable streets policies, council resolution and condition of approval documents to support broadscale implementation of sustainable streets and frontage improvements associated with new/redevelopment. These model policy documents will be included as appendices with the Master Plan. The climate change modeling and green infrastructure

analysis has been completed and the results and methodology are summarized in a technical memorandum to be distributed with the prioritization memorandum. The downscaled climate modeling was conducted using the median of ten General Circulation Models for two climate forcing scenarios (RCP 4.5 (which characterizes reduced emissions) and RCP 8.5 (which characterizes business as usual green house gas emissions)). The modeling compares historical with projected increases in precipitation and stormwater depth for a six-hour storm and for a variety of return frequencies (2, 5, 10, 25, 50 and 100-year storms) projected out to 2100. The results show significant projected increases in stormwater runoff ranging from 15% to 50% increases depending on storm sizes. The analysis was conducted for the bayside and coast side to help understand the pollutant load reduction benefits and water volume managed benefits of implementing green infrastructure. To evaluate the stormwater capture benefits of green infrastructure under climate change, the green infrastructure scenarios from the San Mateo Countywide Reasonable Assurance Analysis (RAA) were used calculate the percent of increased runoff managed by green infrastructure in future conditions, for both overall watershed runoff and that just associated with roadways/sustainable street projects. Notably, the modeling shows that green streets (excluding new and redevelopment related green infrastructure and regional projects) can manage 100% of projected increased runoff caused by climate change for a 2-year design storm and approximately 40% of projected increased runoff for a 10-year storm. C/CAG staff will distribute the revised climate change modeling and green infrastructure technical memorandum along with the prioritization technical memorandum and associated project review files.

Committee members discussed some of the assumptions in the climate modeling, including the extent to which the models may characterize projected drought conditions. Though the models evaluate wet weather conditions, the median precipitation values from the ten General Circulation Models do capture a range of potential conditions, including projected drier and wetter conditions. Committee members also discussed the potential for other infrastructure like pump stations to handle increased flows under changing climate regimes.

6. INFORMATION – Received update on budget assumptions for the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Countywide Water Pollution Prevention Program budget.

Matt Fabry provided an update the draft Fiscal Year 2020-21 Countywide Water Pollution Prevention Program budget, focusing on assumptions for reduced/modified program starting balance, future revenues and other minor changes. Fabry noted modified assumptions for the starting balance, with reduced funds anticipated from the County property tax roll and the Measure M vehicle registration fee in the current fiscal year. The program starting balance has been reduced from \$1,175,000 to \$1,060,000, with a reserve balance of \$120,000 and an ending balance from the previous fiscal year of \$500,000, which is being reserved for a countywide funding initiative. The projected revenue and available funds for Fiscal Year 2020-21 have been increased from \$2,481,000 to \$2,581,000 as a result of accumulated interest earnings from the NPDES Fund (property fee) based on a previous approval of the C/CAG Board to allocate interest earnings on this fund to the stormwater program. These interest earnings will help offset the projected reduced revenues from the tax roll and Measure M funds next year. The projected expenditures have also changed slightly from the previous draft budget, with minor increases in staff salaries, administrative overhead, distributions for the rain barrel rebate program (which has been revamped to include stackable rebates with rain garden designs), as well as a reduction in funds for consultant services (which includes reduced funding for BASMAA regional projects and administrative costs). C/CAG staff plans to issue Task Orders for consultant support to meet the minimum requirements for completing the last year of the five-year permit term under the Municipal

Regional Permit, while also dedicating staff time and grant resources (not included in the budget) to further advance countywide stormwater management objectives (i.e., Sustainable Streets Master Plan, schoolyard greening concepts in San Carlos and advancing regional project designs for projects in Redwood City, San Bruno and Belmont). The budget does include a \$50,000 placeholder for grant writing support, to align with development of the Sustainable Streets Master Plan and other project implementation efforts. The Program budget does retain a projected unplanned/unrestricted fund amount of \$256,000 for the fiscal year end balance.

Committee members provided some input on the budget process, including a request to have more detailed information than what is provided in the agenda packet and staff report. Fabry suggested providing access to the larger, more detailed C/CAG program budgets, to help Committee Members find more detail to share with local jurisdiction staff during the budget review process. Fabry also mentioned that the \$500,000 fund balance reserved for a future funding initiative could be made available if revenues come in significantly lower than expected.

7. Regional Board Report: None.

8. Executive Director's Report: None.

9. Member Reports: None.

Chair Breault adjourned the meeting at 3:39 p.m.