

# SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD AGENDA LETTER



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
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**Agenda Number:**  
**Prepared on:** 12/17/02  
**Department Name:** Public Works  
**Department No.:** 054-04-07  
**Agenda Date:** 01/14/03  
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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
County of Santa Barbara

**FROM:** Phillip M. Demery  
Public Works Director

**STAFF CONTACT:** Thomas Fayram, Deputy Public Works Director, Ext. 3436  
Cathleen Garnand, Civil Engineer Associate, Ext. 3561

**SUBJECT:** Rhoads Bioswale Project, Second Supervisorial District

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## **Recommendation(s):**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Approve the Rhoads Bioswale Project;
- B. Approve plans and specifications for the project; and
- C. Authorize the Public Works Director to advertise and receive bids for the project.

## **Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:**

The recommendations are primarily aligned with Goal No. 2. A Safe and Healthy Community in Which to Live, Work, and Visit.

## **Executive Summary and Discussion:**

This project would provide a storm water quality treatment facility within the unincorporated area of eastern Goleta Valley. The project site is located within Walnut Park Townhomes, a condominium complex along Rhoads Avenue. The project is an element of Project Clean Water, a multi-agency effort led by the County to address storm water quality issues in the County. The overall objective of the project is to improve the quality of storm water and nuisance flows before the water reaches Atascadero Creek

The project is part of a two-tiered treatment train. First, the project involves installation of two upstream water quality devices in existing storm drains. These will provide primary treatment to capture sediment, trash, and other gross pollutants (paper, plastics, cigarette butts). The bioswales will then provide final or polishing treatment to remove fine materials and associated pollutants, particularly hydrocarbons, metals, nutrients, and bacteria.

Currently, drainage is conveyed via two concrete channels. Construction involves minor excavation and planting of carefully selected native riparian shrubs and low-growing perennial herbs and grasses adapted for seasonally moist conditions. No existing trees or shrubs will be removed. The swales will be about six inches deep and require excavation and off-site removal of about 260 cubic yards of soil.

High flows during rain events will by-pass the bioswale and be conveyed along the concrete sidewalk-swale, as under current conditions. The County will initially maintain the bioswales through a signed contract agreement. Thereafter, the Condo Association will be responsible for maintaining the bioswales as part of the routine landscape maintenance program. Maintenance activities include watering and weeding to ensure that the plants in the bioswale are kept in good condition, and that there is a complete ground cover. Large plants will be pruned or removed. Dead plant material will be periodically thinned. All weeding would be accomplished by hand crews.

### **Mandates and Service Levels:**

Water quality improvement efforts are the goal of Project Clean Water. This project will also support the County's upcoming requirements under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II regulations of the Clean Water Act. The County of Santa Barbara must apply for the Phase II NPDES permit by March of 2003. This pilot project is a structural Best Management Practice that can be used in areas of new development or existing development. Information on installation, maintenance, and overall effectiveness will be used for potential future projects, and will help address County compliance with the storm water management plan required under the Phase II NPDES permit.

### **Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

This is the continuation of a series of projects funded through the State of California. The funding will be provided through a \$2.1 million grant agreement with the California Coastal Conservancy. A resolution agreeing to the terms and conditions of the grant agreements and authorizing the Public Works Director to enter into each agreement with the Coastal Conservancy to receive these funds was approved by your Board on November 14, 2000.

The County has provided, and will continue to provide, its share of costs for administration of the project, permitting and environmental analysis, and management as staff time in FY 2002-2003 budget.

This project was included in a final budget adjustment in the 2002-03 Adopted Budget in the Water Agency cost center of the Water Resources Division. The costs associated with this project will be paid from Dept: 054, Fund: 3060, Acct: 8700, Program: 3008. Long-term maintenance of the CDS units will be funded by Project Clean Water and will be included each year in the Water Agency cost center of the Water Resources Division budget.

### **Special Instructions:**

Direct the Clerk of the Board to send a copy of the minute order of these actions to the Water Agency office, Attn: Christina Lopez.