

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD AGENDA LETTER



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
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Agenda Number:
Prepared on: 06/03/02
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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: South Turnpike Urban Runoff Treatment Control Pilot Project,
Second Supervisorial District

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Approve the South Turnpike Urban Runoff Treatment Control Pilot Project and the attached CEQA Notice of Exemption (post);
- B. Approve plans and specifications for the project; and
- C. Authorize the Public Works Director to advertise and receive bids for the project.

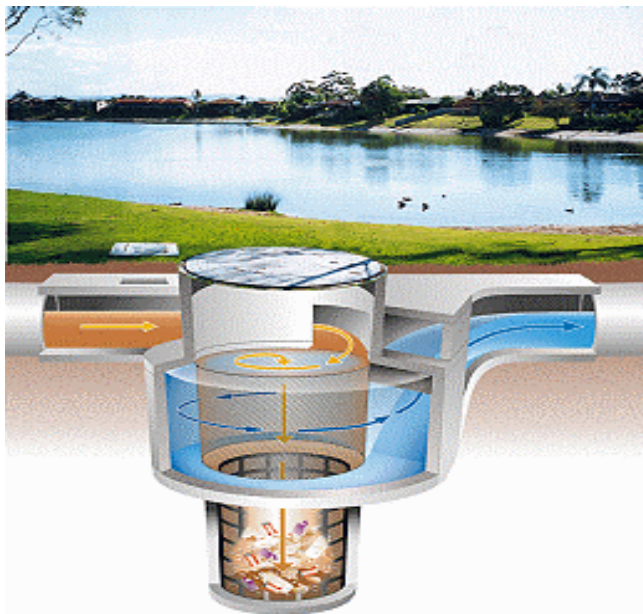
Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

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 install and operate a facility to treat storm water runoff in eastern Goleta. The project site is located between the southern terminus of South Turnpike Road and north of Atascadero Creek in the unincorporated portion of Goleta, outside the Coastal Zone. The site is an open, undeveloped County-owned property originally planned for an extension of Turnpike Road to the Moore Mesa area in the 1960's. (This road extension is no longer part of the GTIP or any proposed plan.)

The objective of the South Turnpike Urban Runoff Treatment Control Pilot Project is to improve water quality by removing pollutants such as trash, sediment, oil and grease, nutrients, pesticides and bacteria from the discharge to Atascadero Creek, which eventually is discharged to the ocean at Goleta Beach. Cost and effectiveness of the project will be closely monitored so that the community will have a basis for determining the desirability of similar projects in other locations.



Typical CDS Unit with circular manhole

This project consists a two-stage treatment approach: mechanical removal of pollutants and subsequent biological treatment in a bioswale. Larger, undissolved pollutants are first removed using a Continuous Deflective Separation (CDS) unit situated beneath the ground surface. The CDS unit is a non-powered, low maintenance concrete separator that will capture trash, heavier sediment, and oil and grease from low and moderate flows. The CDS unit captures flows from the existing 68-inch by 48-inch storm drain, which collects surface runoff from the commercial area and residential neighborhood to the north. The CDS unit will be maintained once or twice a year with a vactor truck.

Flows from the CDS unit will discharge to a newly designed bioswale for final treatment of the runoff. This low gradient, vegetated channel removes remaining pollutants through plant uptake, absorption onto plant stems, microbial degradation, percolation, and degradation by solar radiation. The bioswale will be approximately 40 feet wide and 590 feet long. The sides and bottom of the bioswale will be planted with locally grown native wetland vegetation. A redwood rail fence will be constructed around the perimeter of the bioswale.

At the southern end of the bioswale, flows will return to the existing stormdrain through a 24-inch diameter culvert. The combined system is designed to treat and convey lower flows and intensity, while higher flows will be bypassed to maintain public safety.

The Santa Barbara County Flood Control District and the Transportation-Traffic Division were included during the preliminary and final design phases to address any agency concerns. A 10-footwide dirt and gravel road will be constructed along the east side of the bioswale to allow for continued Flood Control maintenance access to Atascadero Creek. Neighborhood meetings were held to explain the projects and accept any comments and suggestions; trimming and replanting of existing vegetation were tailored to these comments. Finally, the bike trail spur that parallels the bioswale and connects to the main Atascadero Creek bike trail will be detoured during construction and will be reopened after construction. (The main bike trail paralleling Atascadero Creek will not be closed or detoured during construction.)

Mandates and Service Levels:

Water quality improvement efforts have been the goal of Project Clean Water. This pilot 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, and will assist in future decisions regarding the County's

compliance with the Municipal Operations component of the permit.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

The State of California will provide \$2.1 million for reimbursement to Project Clean Water in the general fund allocation for capital costs associated with this project. The funding will be distributed in phases under a 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 the FY 2001-02 and FY 2002-2003 budgets.

Costs associated with annual maintenance of the CDS unit, estimated at approximately \$3,000 per year, and costs associated with tri-annual maintenance of the bioswale, estimated at approximately \$1,000 every three years, will be included in the Project Clean Water budget for each fiscal year, as appropriate. The first year of maintenance in the bioswale, including establishing vegetation, is included in the construction costs. Responsibility for long-term maintenance of various project components will be shared among Water Resources and Transportation Divisions.

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.

Special Instructions:

Direct the Clerk of the Board to post the attached CEQA Notice of Exemption for the Project and also send a copy of the minute order of these actions to the Flood Control District office, Attn: Christina Lopez.