



Memorandum

TO: TRANSPORTATION AND
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

FROM: Matt Cano

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: April 14, 2021

Approved

Date

4/23/21

**SUBJECT: GREEN STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE IMPLEMENTATION
UPDATE**

RECOMMENDATION

Accept this status report on the Green Stormwater Infrastructure Plan and recommendations for the investment of Measure T dollars in Green Stormwater Infrastructure Projects.

OUTCOME

This report provides the Transportation and Environment Committee with an update on program investments and achievements pertaining to the City's Green Stormwater Infrastructure program.

BACKGROUND

In September 2019, City staff presented the Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) Plan to City Council. The GSI Plan is a high-level comprehensive plan that sets the target and provides guidance on how to meet the requirement from the Municipal Regional Stormwater Permit and Baykeeper's consent decree. Council approved the GSI Plan and directed staff to develop an inclusive communication strategy, develop a list of near-term projects with a funding strategy to support the capital and maintenance of these projects, and report back to the Transportation and Environment Committee.

In late 2019, staff issued a service order for a consultant to develop a conceptual design and prepare an Environmental Impact Report for the River Oaks Regional Stormwater Capture Project for near-term implementation. This project is estimated to cost \$11 million, of which, \$3.2 million is anticipated to be supported by a grant from the Association of Bay Area Governments grant as part of the Integrated Regional Water Management program. The remaining \$7.8 million will be funded in the Public Safety and Infrastructure Bond Fund

(Measure T Clean Water Project), with approximately \$16.2 million remaining in Measure T that can be used to fund other near-term GSI projects.

ANALYSIS

As part of the September 2019 approval of the GSI plan, the Mayor and City Council provided additional direction to staff. The direction is summarized below as well as progress to date:

1. *Develop an inclusive communications strategy allowing for meaningful public education and engagement on GSI:* Materials regarding the benefits of GSI were developed and provided to staff in various City departments involved in GSI implementation to educate the public as needed. However, as a result of budget challenges in 2020, specific resources dedicated to GSI public outreach were not added, so the focus of communications has been on the selection of near-term GSI projects.
2. *Develop a list of near-term projects and approaches along with a corresponding funding strategy for capital and ongoing maintenance:* A list of near-term projects is provided below along with a discussion on the use of Measure T funding for design and construction. Staff will continue to evaluate alternatives during annual budget cycles for additional funding opportunities.
3. *Include elements from the GSI plan in projects where eligible grant funding is available:* During the design of the River Oaks Regional Stormwater Improvement Regional project, staff applied for and received a grant from the Integrated Regional Water Management program. Similarly, when planning for the West San Carlos Urban Village, a multi-modal and safety improvement project, staff applied for and received grant funds to support the GSI components of the project.
4. *Pursue partnerships:* Staff has actively engaged counterparts at Valley Water and the County of Santa Clara to discuss potential partnership projects. Staff will continue to engage these and other partners on site identification as additional funding and project opportunities arise.

Near-Term Projects and Approaches

During the last year and a half, Department of Public Works (DPW) staff expanded the database, refined the analysis, determined the magnitude of the GSI program, and coordinated with stakeholders to develop a list of near-term projects and associated costs. The updated database now includes all parcels and lots that are owned by the City, private entities, and other public agencies including the Valley Water, Valley Transportation Authority, Caltrans, County of Santa Clara, and school districts.

The analysis was completed in two steps, with the first step focused on site selection, where all feasible sites in the city were evaluated and sites selected until the clean water target identified in

the GSI Plan was reached. The site selection process took into account several factors consistent with the Council-approved GSI Plan, including the size of the site, soil characteristics, depth to groundwater, distance to collection system, size of the impervious area that drains to the site, and other critical criteria such as trash load and polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) reduction. The analysis identified a list of projects that potentially can be constructed to meet the requirements discussed in the GSI Plan. This list shows a combination of different types of green infrastructure projects. Additionally, regional projects on this list are found on both City-owned land and non-City-owned land. The total cost to achieve the long-term goal identified in the GSI Plan of capturing 1,068 acre-feet is estimated in the magnitude of \$6.95 billion including operations and maintenance (O&M).

Near-term projects were then selected from the list based primarily on site availability and utilization to ensure that the near-term projects are viable alternatives. DPW staff collaborated with other departments and met with various stakeholders including the Parks and Recreation Commission, Baykeeper, Save the Bay, Open Space Authority, City Council offices, park advocates and the community to obtain feedbacks related to these sites. The table below shows the list of potential near-term projects:

Location	Project Type	Estimated Treatment Capacity	GSI Component Estimated Cost
Story / Keyes (between SR 87 and 3 rd Street)	Green street	0.1 ac-ft	\$1.0M
Sycamore Terrace	Regional	0.5 ac-ft	\$3.0M
Monterey (near Umbarger Road)	Green street	0.43 ac-ft	\$7.0M
Hellyer Avenue Property	Regional	1.2 – 2.7 ac-ft	\$5.6 – \$7.0M
City Land South of Phelan	Regional	7.5 ac-ft	\$18.1M
Kelley Park Gravel Lot	Regional	11.0 ac-ft	\$23.1M

At this time, staff anticipates funding up to three projects from this list with Measure T funding. Staff recommends the following next steps:

- 1) Provide \$1 million of Measure T funding to incorporate green street elements to the Story-Keyes Corridor Complete Streets project as the feasibility analysis has already been completed and this project is approved to receive approximately \$12.9 million of grant funding from the Valley Transportation Authority. This recommendation will be incorporated into the bi-annual Measure T Bond Measure report to the Mayor and City Council;

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- 2) Conduct a detailed feasibility analysis for the Sycamore Terrace regional project and Monterey Road (Umbarger Road to Lewis Road) green street project for Measure T funding; and
- 3) Look for funding opportunities to advance a feasibility analysis for the Hellyer Avenue, City Land South of Phelan and Kelley Park Gravel Lot regional projects to ensure they are ready for implementation when the funding is available.

During April 2021 meetings with the Parks & Recreation Commission and the community, staff received feedback related to potential adverse impacts to special status species, project benefits versus the impact to existing groundwater basins, treatment needs at certain sites, and concerns about the O&M costs of the infrastructure. Staff will continue to conduct in-depth studies at these sites by performing further field investigations and environmental analyses, including coordination with appropriate agencies, to confirm the feasibility and cost of these projects. Following the results of this analysis staff will return to Council with additional recommendations. Any O&M costs associated with the projects will be analyzed and considered as part of the 2023-2027 Five-Year General Fund Forecast, which will be released in February 2022.

COORDINATION

This report has been coordinated with the Departments of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services, Environmental Services, Transportation, and the City Attorney's Office.

/s/
MATT CANO
Director of Public Works

For questions please contact Mathew Nguyen, Acting Deputy Director for the Department of Public Works at (408) 535-8300.