



**COUNCILMEMBER CHRIS CATE
CITY OF SAN DIEGO
SIXTH DISTRICT**

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: November 13, 2015

TO: Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer
David Alvarez, Chair, Environment Committee

FROM: Councilmember Mark Kersey, District 5
Councilmember Chris Cate, District 6

SUBJECT: Proposed Municipal Stormwater Alternative Compliance Feasibility Study

As the City of San Diego and regional stakeholders anticipate the implementation of MS4 regulations in December 2015, we must explore all options for the development of a well-defined and robust alternative compliance program that protects San Diego's precious waterways while providing certainty and flexibility to the development community.

It is inevitable that copermittees will experience steep costs in order to maintain compliance with the water quality standards of MS4, which are anticipated to total nearly \$4 billion over the course of the next fifteen years. Regional regulators have provided flexibility by allowing an offsite alternative compliance program in lieu of meeting structural best management practice standards on project sites. The City must develop a comprehensive alternative compliance program that outlines potential mitigation sites, filtration and capturing projects, costs, and fee banks to ensure environmental protection and provide much-needed certainty to the development community.

After working with representatives of the environment and development communities, our offices have requested the establishment of a working group of stakeholders to provide guidance and feedback for an alternative compliance program. Representatives of San Diego Coastkeeper and the Building Industry Association of San Diego County have agreed to assemble a panel of experts to review and identify potential alternative compliance sites before the end of 2015. Our offices request that one staff person from the Transportation and Stormwater Department participate in this important process as well.

As the working group develops a slate of recommendations, we request that our current contract with AECOM be reviewed and adjusted to authorize the commencement of a citywide alternative compliance feasibility study. The purpose of the study would be to identify and analyze potential sites that could be utilized for stormwater capture, filtration, and repurposing.

The study would evaluate the various hydraulic and hydrological components of each site to verify viability, in addition to identifying the potential of a new and independent source of potable water. We believe the authorization of the study should begin as soon as possible and incorporate the recommendations of the working group once that process is completed. It is estimated that the study will cost \$300,000-\$400,000.

We further request that this item be docketed for discussion at the next available Environment Committee meeting.

cc: James Nagelvoort, Director, Public Works Department
Kris McFadden, Director, Transportation and Stormwater Department
Halla Razak, Director, Public Utilities Department