

CHOLLAS CREEK METALS TMDL STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP

March 30, 2009
9:00 AM – 12 Noon
Conference Room No. 1
City of San Diego, Storm Water Department Offices
9370 Chesapeake Dr, Suite 100
San Diego, CA 92123

WORKSHOP SUMMARY

1. Opening Remarks (15 Minutes)

WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES:

- To obtain feedback from Stakeholders on workshoped watershed activities and the Chollas Creek Metals TMDL Implementation Plan.
- To obtain feedback about the composition of watershed activities so this information may be applied to other watershed activities.

2. Progress to Date (15 Minutes)

The Dischargers have been meeting and discussing this Implementation Plan since June 2008. The Office of Administrative Law approved the Dissolved Metals TMDL on October 22, 2008. Implementation Plan takes effective October 22, 2009.

During the first Stakeholder Meeting (October 6, 2008) Stakeholders provided feedback on the Integrated TMDL Watershed Approach and the outline for the Implementation Plan strategy. During second Stakeholder Meeting (December 2008) Stakeholders provided feedback on the monitoring plan and watershed activities. During these meetings, Dischargers were advised to incorporate ordinance changes into the Implementation Plan. Dischargers were also advised to consider specific monitoring locations and constituents. These comments have been incorporated into the 1st draft Implementation Plan. The 1st draft is out for public comment/review until April 10, 2009. The Dischargers will then be updating the draft Implementation Plan in preparation for a fourth Stakeholder Meeting tentatively scheduled for May 18, 2009. During the fourth meeting, Stakeholders will be invited to review how their comments have been incorporated into the Implementation Plan and provide a final rotation of commentary.

3. 1st Draft TMDL Implementation Plan (45 Minutes)

An overview of the Implementation Plan was provided to the group. The Plan contains an adaptive management strategy designed to improve implementation efforts as agencies gather more information about the effectiveness of various water quality protection efforts.

Stakeholders were provided an introduction to the Design Storm concept, which will be presented in more detail in the 2nd Draft of the Implementation Plan. The Design Storm is based on existing historical data and existing design standards, and is a guideline which will help Dischargers size the structural BMPs (such as LID, or low impact development projects).

Stakeholders were provided an overview of the Compliance Monitoring Strategy and Special Monitoring Studies. The Compliance Monitoring Strategy and Special Monitoring Studies use the same structure as discussed during December 2008 Stakeholder Meeting. The monitoring has been divided into “Compliance Monitoring” and four “Special Studies.” Separate special studies were created to allow Dischargers to selectively participate in monitoring programs.

Compliance Monitoring

- The two compliance monitoring sites, SD8(1) and DPR2, are located above the Tidal Prism. These sites represent flows from the North Fork and South Fork of Chollas Creek and the greater watershed.
- These sites are historical monitoring locations. SD8(1), which is located at the end of the culdesac at 33rd and Durant, has been monitored since 1993. DPR2, which is located at the bridge overpass at 38th and Alpha, has been monitored periodically since 1998.
- Three storms per year will be monitored under this program.

Special Study #1 – Jurisdictional Boundary Monitoring

- The same analytes monitored under the Compliance Monitoring program will be monitored at LG-1 and LM-1 (the jurisdictional boundaries) during two storm events. This program will be implemented during FY 2009-2010.

Special Study #2 - Activity Assessment Grab Samples for Metals

- The sites and watershed activities to be assessed under this Special Study are still being identified by Dischargers (based on their Watershed Activity Lists). One storm will be monitored under this program and monitoring will be implemented during FY 2009-2010.

Special Study #3 – Synthetic Pyrethroid Monitoring

- The objective of this Special Study is to send data to the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) to have pesticides containing synthetic pyrethroids banned. Typically the DPR only considers human health impacts. The Dischargers will use the data collected through this Special Study to build the case for the environmental impacts of synthetic pyrethroids.
- Three storms will be monitored at the two Compliance Monitoring sites, SD8(1) and DPR2. Two storms will be monitored at the two Jurisdictional Boundary monitoring sites, LG-1 and LM-1. This program will be implemented during FY 2009-2010.

Special Study #4 – Bacteria Monitoring

- Three storms will be monitored at the two Compliance Monitoring Sites, SD8(1) and DPR2. Two storms will be monitored at the two Jurisdictional Boundary monitoring sites, LG-1 and LM-1. This program will be implemented during FY 2009-2010.

Stakeholder Questions And Answer Session:

Q: How does the water quality in the North and South forks of Chollas Creek compare?

A: The water quality trends at SD8(1) and DPR2 are similar, but DPR2 typically has fewer exceedances. This may be due to the restoration efforts in the south fork which reduces water flow velocities.

Q: Where is DPR2 relative to portions of restored Creek?

A: DPR2 is a historical monitoring site located upstream of a widened flood plain area. Arrundo was recently removed from the areas upstream of DPR2.

Q: What assessment monitoring would be conducted for a restoration project?

A: Pre- and Post-restoration monitoring would need to be conducted at an approximate cost of \$70,000.

Q: Will the results of the Special Studies be made available online?

A: Yes. These reports would be posted on the ThinkBlue website for public review.

Q: What is the purpose of Special Study #4?

A: See Description for Workshop #4, found on page 7.

Q: Would dry weather monitoring study for bacteria be more effective (RWQCB)?

A: See Description for Workshop #4, found on page 7.

4. Activities Workshop (90 Minutes)

All Stakeholders were able to participate in all Workshops and project overviews in Conference Room No. 1.

Workshop #1 - Southcrest Park Workshop (City of San Diego)

Project Objective: To collect a volume of storm water (from both onsite and offsite) and infiltrate it through the soil to achieve a removal of dissolved metals.

The conceptual design for the City of San Diego's Large Infiltration BMP Project at Southcrest Park includes: porous pavement, rain barrels, and large underground vaults which capture infiltrated water (infiltration LIDs). These underground vaults are not currently planned for water reuse. A restoration opportunity at Southcrest Park was also identified during conceptual design. This is a preliminary planning effort and will require feedback and approval by the manager of Southcrest Park and the community.

The City of San Diego provided an overview and displayed photos from past restoration efforts in the Chollas Creek Watershed, specifically the Chollas Creek Water Quality Protection and Habitat Enhancement Project. The City of San Diego asked Stakeholders for feedback about the design of this project and what factors should be considered in any future restoration projects.



Stakeholder Comments and Questions For Workshop #1:

- As a general policy – open space preservation should always have a community education link.
- Dischargers should identify opportunities to leverage restoration efforts being conducted by NGOs and other regional Stakeholders as much as possible.

- The Restoration project at Southcrest Park should extend to the foot bridge. The contrast between restored and non-restored areas will help improve neighborhood “ownership” and provide a strong visual education/outreach message.
- Water reuse should be incorporated into restoration and large LID-type projects as much as possible. The City of San Diego noted that rain barrels will capture and reuse water in the rain barrels at the Southcrest Park Recreation Center for irrigation.
- Recreation projects and storm water projects should be linked together through a master planning effort. In 2002, the City of San Diego developed the Chollas Creek Enhancement Plan and uses this document as a guide for these large planning projects, such as the restoration project at Southcrest Park.

Q: Has the City of San Diego tested the soil percolation rates at Southcrest Park?

A: Yes, a preliminary soils assessment was completed, and determined that the soils do infiltrate. The project was concept planned using this information.

Q: Does the suite of projects at Southcrest Park have a monitoring component?

A: Yes. The City of San Diego is designing on a monitoring strategy to establish a baseline for the infiltration LIDs and rain barrels projects.

Q: Does the Southcrest Park LID concept plan address Hydrocarbons?

A: A unit will be installed in the storm drain system which captures runoff from the offsite residential street area adjacent to the Park which is designed to remove gross solids and would include a hydrocarbon treatment sponge (or similar).

Workshop #2 – Development Regulations Review For Lid Barriers Workshop (City of Lemon Grove)

Project Objective: To develop a comprehensive and proactive stormwater policy. To promote low impact development (LID). To incorporate LID (and storm water) into the City of Lemon Grove’s new City-wide Sustainability Plan which will translate to improved water quality/runoff in the long term.

The City of Lemon Grove considers LID to be an opportunity to be proactive on storm water because it ties into the “buzz” around sustainability. LID is applicable to new developments, redevelopment, City projects, and residential projects. The City of Lemon Grove will first educate City staff across departments (Storm water, Engineering, Construction, CIP/Public Works, Public Education, etc) about LID and promote its implementation for new City projects. In the future the City of Lemon Grove has the goal of incorporating a community aspect into the Sustainability Plan.

Stakeholder Comments and Questions For Workshop #2:

- Education and outreach about sustainability should be conducted in parallel to the regulatory changes. Education and outreach efforts should target students in order to ensure a long term cultural paradigm shift. This is also an opportunity for Stakeholder/Discharger partnerships.
- The City of Lemon Grove should review the LID/stormwater polices implemented in other Cities or Countries. Possible references include:
 - Regulatory changes made in New Zealand and Australia.
 - Planning document developed by Karen Franz of Coastkeeper (ACTION ITEM for Coastkeeper to provide this 10 page white paper to the Dischargers).
 - Port of San Diego's Master Plan for Sustainability (six pronged approach of policy, internal training/education, and reviews). The Port's model has shown the balance between short and long term cost benefits.



Workshop #3 – Sustainable Canyons - Maple Street Canyon Workshop (City of San Diego)

Maple Street Canyon is located east of Balboa Park at Maple Street, Northwest of Downtown San Diego, within the Pueblo Watershed. Although it is not immediately within the Chollas Creek Watershed, the project drains into San Diego Bay and lessons learned in this demonstration project would benefit any potential future efforts within the Chollas Creek Watershed.

Project Objectives: There are multiple objectives (ie, potential benefits) to the project: to reduce velocity of storm water runoff and canyon erosion; to improve water quality; to address deferred maintenance in failing storm drain outfalls that are eroding canyons; to leverage possible opportunities for restoration and mitigation. The Project is planned to include BMPs on the developed mesa (such as, rain barrels, street sweeping), canyon restoration and improved public access, inline and off-line natural treatment systems, and deferred maintenance of eroded storm drain outfalls.

The Sustainable Canyons Project is in a preliminary concept phase. The City of San Diego is currently completing the concept designs and will integrate current efforts with neighborhood input. Once the design is finalized, implementation of this project is expected to take 6 to 7 years due to the complexity of the project and permitting requirements.

Stakeholder Comments and Questions For Workshop #3:

- The City of San Diego should explore opportunities to partner with the Coastal Conservancy and/or other Stakeholder groups to obtain funding. The City of San Diego has had dialogue with Coastal Conservancy and is exploring these types of partnerships.

Workshop #4 - Monitoring Plan and Special Studies Workshop

An overview for this program was provided in Section 3 of this meeting summary.

Stakeholder Comments and Questions For Workshop #4:

- Further discussion and clarification on Special Study #4 was requested by Regional Board staff.

Special Study #4 is not a Source Identification Study. Special Study #4 is designed to help Dischargers characterize bacteria loads within the Chollas Creek Watershed. It will provide valuable information about how bacteria loads are characterized by jurisdiction. It will also help Dischargers with create the pre-Implementation Plan baseline water quality data which will be used in the future to assess watershed activities and establish long term loading trends.

This Special Study would be leveraged with other wet weather monitoring efforts. Costs associated with the Special Study are minimal because it is simply the cost of an extra

analyte. A dry weather monitoring study would answer different study questions and have a higher cost.

The City of San Diego has implemented bacteria source identification studies in other watersheds (Tecolote and San Diego River). Dischargers will apply lessons learned and trends observed in these other watersheds based on the baseline data for the Chollas Creek Watershed collected through Special Study #4.

Coastkeeper has collected dry weather samples from Harbor Drive. Because this sampling location is within the tidal prism, bacteria sources were questionable. Coastkeeper would be willing and able to share this data with the Dischargers.

UPDATE: COMMUNITY BASED SOCIAL MARKETING (CBSM) PROGRAM

Community based Social Marketing Process:

1. Identifying a program in a particular area
2. Identifying a behavioral or structural solution
3. Identifying the barriers to implementing these solutions
4. Implementing an Intervention
5. Assessing effectiveness of Intervention

Project Location: Along the 94 at Intersection of 15 (Costco along Market Drive and Gateway Center Drive – mixed of residential and commercial areas)

Targeted Constituent: Trash

The City of San Diego has partnered with I Love A Clean San Diego of this project. The City has collected the baseline data (December 2008) and is currently designing the intervention for the Trash CBSM project. The intervention may include targeted outreach effort towards boy scout and/or girl scout groups.

Initial Results:

- Significant intentional littering in these areas (100% of cigarette butts were dropped on the ground)
- Preliminary conclusions: not enough trash cans, not enough cigarettes containers
- Age was a major factor in littering (youths littered significantly more than adults)

Stakeholder Comments and Questions For The CBSM Program:

Q: Has the City of San Diego considered trash collection operations as a potential source of trash?

A: The focus of the project was littering. The City of San Diego created a set observation area and noted activities of individuals when they were within this set space. During nine days of observations, the City of observed 114 individuals in

the two study areas, between the hours of 8:00 AM to 3:30 PM. The City of San Diego was not informed of illegal dumping incidents.

- City of San Diego will discuss the “trash collection as a source” concept with the CBSM project team.

GENERAL COMMENTS and QUESTIONS

- Dischargers should pursue opportunities for data sharing and/or project collaboration with regional Stakeholders and NGOs. For example, partnering on or sharing data from the Cesar Chavez School Rain Barrel Program or the Jacobs Foundation restoration projects.
- Dischargers coordinate with stakeholders who are creating a web-based tool for coordinating public participation efforts and to enable sharing of data/reports, and new projects. This may be connected with the ThinkBlue website.
- Dischargers should open communication with the Chollas Creek Project Implementation Group, a group representing different Stakeholders in the Chollas Creek Watershed with projects currently implemented in the watershed. The Chollas Creek Project Implementation Group has a shorter-term and narrower agenda than the TMDL Stakeholder group, but this is an opportunity to obtain up-to-date information about NGO/stakeholder activities within the Watershed.