

## Meeting Comments

### Waterways Maintenance Plan Workshop

Valencia Park/Malcolm X Library - Community Room

5148 Market Street, San Diego, CA 92114

6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 13, 2016

COMMENTS	RESPONSES
WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS	
<b>The existing storm drain system is unable to handle the runoff due to the over-development that the City has allowed over the years.</b>	City Transportation and Storm Water Department staff recognize that portions of the storm drain system are undersized and/or constricted for current developed conditions. The City is currently implementing a Watershed Master Plan project to evaluate current system capacity and improvement opportunities in the Chollas Creek watershed. Results from the Watershed Master Plan and work conducted as part of the City's Water Quality Improvement Plan-driven efforts in other watershed areas will be used to inform future Waterways Maintenance Plan (WMP) processes.
<b>The City needs a plan to prevent the filling in of creeks and overdevelopment.</b>	Development is heavily regulated through local, state, and federal processes. Some examples of local environmental regulations with regard to development include the City's Environmentally Sensitive Lands regulations and the Biology Guidelines within the City's Land Development Code. The City's Planning and Development Services Departments enforce restrictions on development within creeks to avoid and minimize adverse impacts.
<b>Adopt prohibition of invasive plants, such as Castor Bean. This could be a potential mitigation measure.</b>	The City does not allow planting of invasive species by its departments or as a result of activities that require discretionary permit approvals (e.g., development). Transportation & Storm Water Department staff anticipate that removal and control of invasive species, as a means of eradication, would

COMMENTS	RESPONSES
	be included in the WMP as a maintenance protocol or mitigation measure.
<b>Water Quality Issues, such as those listed below, should be addressed in the Waterways Maintenance Plan:</b> <b>-Bacteria</b> <b>-Metals</b> <b>-Nutrients</b> <b>-Hydrocarbons</b>	Potential water quality and hydrology impacts associated with the WMP will be thoroughly analyzed as required by CEQA. Potential pollutants generated during construction, operation, and maintenance will be analyzed and avoidance/minimization measures will be incorporated when necessary. The WMP will coordinate with other City watershed planning efforts such as the Water Quality Improvement Plans (WQIP's) aimed at addressing highest priority water quality and other conditions in each watershed.
<b>FLOOD RISK MAINTENANCE</b>	
<b>Why aren't more retention basins being constructed to prevent flooding?</b>	It is anticipated that opportunities for retention basins will be evaluated as part of the Watershed Master Plan process, the City's Capital Improvement Plan, and other planning efforts. The current regulatory framework prevents the conversion of urban creeks to retention basins or other flood control or water quality improvement best management practices (BMPs). Adjacent land is often developed and under private ownership, which is a factor that limits the construction of retention basins.
<b>Will upstream and downstream impacts be considered?</b>	As part of the WMP CEQA analysis, the Hydrology and Biological sections will include analysis of effects of the WMP that occur upstream and downstream of planned maintenance activities.
<b>Real time modeling of the upstream/downstream/entire storm drain conveyance system would help identify at-risk areas.</b>	Comment noted. The City is preparing a Watershed Master Plan, which includes a robust storm water conveyance system capacity modeling effort focused on the Chollas Creek watershed. The modeling may be used to assess areas with increased flood risk, identify system capacity deficiencies and inform future capital improvement and other projects to reduce flood risk, support WMP implementation

COMMENTS	RESPONSES
	efforts, inform WQIP activities, and comply with regulatory requirements. Results from the Watershed Master Plan may be used to inform expanded storm water conveyance system capacity modeling efforts in other watersheds and/or areas determined to have increased flooding risk.
<b>Drone or radar mapping should be considered to identify at-risk areas of the storm drain conveyance system.</b>	Comment noted. The City is open to evaluation of new technology to improve processes.
INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS	
<b>Additional water storage basins should be constructed to assist in flood management.</b>	Comment noted. It is anticipated that opportunities for water storage basins will be evaluated as part of the Watershed Master Plan process, the City's Capital Improvement Plan, and other planning efforts. The current regulatory framework prevents the conversion of urban creeks to water storage basins or other flood control or water quality improvement best management practices (BMPs). Adjacent land is often developed and under private ownership, which is a factor that limits the construction of water storage basins.
<b>How will stream protection and restoration be integrated into the City's plan for infrastructure improvement?</b>	Stream protection and restoration is a primary objective of the Watershed Master Plans that were initiated in 2016, starting with the Chollas Creek subwatershed. The City is also incentivized to identify stream restoration areas within City-owned lands to serve as mitigation for City infrastructure and operations/maintenance project impacts.
STREAM RESTORATION	
<b>Check the Climate Action Plan for carbon sequestration.</b>	Comment noted. The City will evaluate the need to integrate aspects of the Climate Action Plan into the WMP.

COMMENTS	RESPONSES
<b>Additional retention basins could be integrated into the system.</b>	Comment noted. The City Capital Improvement Plan and other planning efforts are used to evaluate potential opportunities for BMPs to reduce flood risk throughout the City's jurisdiction.
<b>GENERAL COMMENTS RECEIVED AT THE WORKSHOP</b>	
<b>Why is Switzer and Chollas in the same grouping? Why are segments grouped together? Downtown is different than Chollas.</b>	The facilities are grouped by watershed. The Chollas Creek Channel and the Switzer Creek Channel are within the same watershed (Pueblo San Diego Watershed). The City uses watershed mapping as provided by SANDAG/SANGIS.
<b>What CEQA process will you use? What will mitigation look like?</b>	<p>Several potential CEQA scenarios and mitigation options are being reviewed to determine which process will best suit the WMP. A CEQA document will be required and will be available for future public review. The City will respond to comments and adopt certification of the CEQA document through City Council action, with consideration of public comments received.</p> <p>A concept for developing mitigation sites, an in-lieu fee program, and/or purchase of mitigation credits will likely be developed to demonstrate how maintenance of facilities could be feasibly mitigated.</p>
<b>Not sure that "maintenance" should be in the name Waterways Maintenance Plan. Should change "maintenance" to "management", "improvement", or something similar.</b>	Comment noted.