



Transportation & Storm Water

FACT SHEET

Waterways Maintenance Plan

Updated July 2017

Background

The City of San Diego is updating the way it maintains and restores the storm drain system that protects homes, businesses and public properties from flood risk. The update effort is engaging the public and environmental regulators in building a replacement for the existing Master Storm Water System Maintenance Program (Master Maintenance Program) that expires in 2018.

The update effort will result in a new Waterways Maintenance Plan that will help the City fulfill its responsibility to minimize flood risk while protecting water quality as required by the San Diego City Charter. When completed, the Waterways Maintenance Plan will describe how the City will maintain drainage capacity by removing sediment, trash, debris and vegetation that can increase the risk of flooding. The Plan will also describe how the City will work with regulatory agencies to ensure maintenance efforts are conducted in a manner that continues to protect environmental resources.

Project Overview

Under the soon to expire Master Maintenance Program, the City is required to conduct detailed analysis of any segment of the 32 miles of storm drain channels where maintenance is needed, even concrete-lined channels overgrown with invasive vegetation. That analysis and the subsequent regulatory permitting process often requires nearly two years of effort for any given channel segment. The process is costly and limits the City's ability to conduct preventative maintenance of the storm drain system.



The new Waterways Maintenance Plan incorporates lessons learned from the Master Maintenance Program and integrates with other ongoing City programs to master plan the storm drain system and improve water quality. The Waterways Maintenance Plan will commit the City to an early schedule of analysis for all locations and will allow the City to identify where maintenance efforts can be avoided, saving time and money, and will expedite maintenance efforts for those areas that need it the most. With the help of regulatory partners and the public, the City will design the new Waterways Maintenance Plan to:

- Limit maintenance efforts to where they are needed most:
 - Up to approximately 26 miles of channels and 23 outfalls in critical flooding areas;
- Conduct up-front analysis identifying potential impacts from future maintenance efforts;
- Improve planned maintenance work schedules maximizing limited financial and staff resources;
- Establish methods for mitigating any unavoidable impacts that meet City, State and federal requirements, including exploring stream restoration and increasing drainage capacity; and
- Create a comprehensive list of as-needed and preventative maintenance efforts in the storm drain system.

Project Schedule

Public outreach meetings: Summer 2017

Environmental Impact Report Notice of Preparation and Scoping Meeting: Summer 2017

Regulatory permit application submittals: Fall 2017

Regulatory permit approvals: Summer/Fall 2018

For more information visit the City's website: <https://www.sandiego.gov/stormwater/services/wmp>