



STAFF REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

DATE: Regular Meeting of June 27, 2017

TO: Members of the City Council

SUBMITTED BY: Michael Roberts, Public Works Director/City Engineer

SUBJECT: Stormwater Runoff – Adoption of Green Infrastructure Plan Framework

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

City Council adopt a resolution approving the Green Infrastructure Plan Framework to comply with Municipal Regional Stormwater Permit Provision C.3.J.I(1).

FISCAL IMPACT OF RECOMMENDATION:

There are no immediate impacts associated with approving the Plan.

DISCUSSION:

In November 2015, the San Francisco Bay Region Water Quality Control Board issued the new Municipal Regional Stormwater Permit known as MRP 2 (formally called Order No R2-2015-0049, NPDES Permit CAS612008) to regulate stormwater runoff. Among its many new provisions, it expanded the implementation of Green Infrastructure to each permittee (i.e. City of Hercules).

MRP 2 defines Green Infrastructure as “the inclusion of low impact development drainage design into storm drain infrastructure on public and private lands, including streets, roads, storm drains, parking lots, building roofs, and other storm drain infrastructure elements.” The Board’s purpose of requiring Green Infrastructure is to reduce the adverse water quality impacts of urbanization and urban runoff, including meeting wasteload allocations for San Francisco Bay mercury and PCBs. This reduction is accomplished by installing stormdrain infrastructure that treats runoff by dispersing it to vegetated areas, rainwater harvesting, promoting infiltration and evapotranspiration, and using bioretention and other green infrastructure practices to treat stormwater runoff.

MRP 2 adopted a phased approach to incorporating Green Infrastructure, with the first required implementation date being the adoption of a Green Infrastructure Plan Framework by June 30, 2017 per Provision C.3.J.I(1). The Framework describes the specific tasks and timeframes for the development of the Green Infrastructure Plan which is required to be implemented by June 30, 2019 and meet water quality requirements in 2020, 2030, and 2040.

The Framework requires staff identify all the areas that may be affected by a Green Infrastructure Plan. This could include the municipal code, zoning ordinance, standard specifications and standard design details, as well as potential funding sources to ensure that “no opportunity is lost to incorporate

Green Infrastructure." As the plan is developed, staff will collaborate with the Bay Area Stormwater Management Agencies Association (BASMAA) and the Bay Area countywide programs in the creation of Green Infrastructure Guidance documents including specifications, detail templates, methodology on calculating the credits for Green Infrastructure, and the tracking of Green Infrastructure installations.

In a nutshell, the Framework will specify how the City will evaluate and implement opportunities to retrofit infrastructure that results in "green" rainwater runoff that's treated from "gray" runoff which is directly collected and conveyed to the nearest water body. Given the newness of the permit's requirement for Green Infrastructure, it has yet to be determined if a specific level of Green Infrastructure implementation will be required in the pursuit of achieving load reduction requirements, how load reduction through Green Infrastructure will be measured, or how credit to the required reduction will be allocated. Hercules staff will actively be engaged in these discussions through the Clean Water Program administered by the County.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution
2. Green Infrastructure Plan Framework

<i>Financial Impact</i>			
Description: Not applicable.			
Funding Source:			
Budget Recap:			
Total Estimated cost:	\$	New Revenue:	\$
Amount Budgeted:	\$	Lost Revenue:	\$
New funding required:	\$	New Personnel:	\$
Council Policy Change: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>			