

Agenda Item

DATE: September 15, 2021
TO: Facilities Committee Members
FROM: Bettina Mayer, PE District Engineer
SUBJECT: MS4 Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP) Annual Report

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

That the Committee provide opportunity for public comment on the Storm Water Management Plan and direct staff to file the Annual report.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

DISCUSSION:

In 2013, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) issued a new National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit and Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for storm water discharges from small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s), Order 2013-0001-DWQ which replaces the general permit under which the Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP) was developed in 2009. One of the primary purposes of this new order is to ensure statewide consistency for regulated MS4s and to streamline the requirements and implementation of storm water programs. Under the Order, each small MS4 is required to prepare a storm water management document, referred to as the Guidance document, which provides an outline of how requirements of the Order will be met. In accordance with section F.3. Maximize Efficiency, non-traditional small MS4s may use existing programs to meet required storm water provisions in order to leverage existing staff and resources. Since the District's 2009 Stormwater Management Program (SWMP) already meets many of the requirements of General Permit, the District will continue use programs and BMPs developed in the SWMP. The new Guidance document submitted to the SWRCB in February 2014, and approved July 8, 2015, references and updates existing SWMP elements to meet many of the requirements of the new General Permit. The annual report for the SWMP 2020-2021 year is attached for review and comment.

As discussed in previous years, the District has consistently been proactive in promoting information and practices that benefit the community and environment overall. The SWMP

provides a framework to track and report on the effectiveness of the storm water pollution prevention activities. On an annual basis, the District is required to document and evaluate each element of the SWMP program. The purpose of this annual report is to evaluate the effectiveness of the SWMP. By identifying the programs strengths and weaknesses, the program can be modified to be more effective over time.

The strongest elements in the program are Public Education and Outreach, and Public Involvement and Participation. Many of the BMP's are part of a countywide effort to prevent storm water pollution and the District participates regularly with the County and other local agencies through the *Central Coast Partners for Water Quality* (Partners). While still an informal organization, the Partners were able to develop and disseminate a consistent storm water message throughout the County, utilizing shared resources to develop public education and participation information. The most successful programs within the District itself were outreach programs at existing events, such as Creeks to Coast Clean Up, where the District provided information and mobilized volunteers, collecting trash and promoting reusing and recycling.

The District submitted the Trash Implementation Plan on November 30, 2018 in response to the State Water Resources Control Board Water Code Section 13383 Order to Submit the Chosen Method to Comply with Statewide Trash Provisions dated June 1, 2017. The District has elected Track 2 and will demonstrate the ability to achieve Full Capture System Equivalency within 10 years of the Phase II MS4 permit reissuance through biannual On-Land Visual Trash Assessment Protocol C – Area based surveys and following the Trash Assessment Minimum Level of Effort (TAMLE) recommended by the State Water Resources Control Board. Baseline trash generation levels have been assessed and the first progress surveys have been completed. This reporting year, two additional progress surveys have been completed.

As with many areas of local and State government, the most challenging issue with respect to implementation of the SWMP will continue to be the budget, with its related issue regarding staffing, inventory, and available resources. State and County mandated COVID-19 restrictions create additional challenges especially in regards to essential work, reduced staffing, public events, and outreach. In the 2020-2021 reporting year, the District will continue to provide the most cost effective public education and outreach programs. Due to continuing COVID-19 concerns, Creeks to Coast Clean Up, in conjunction with EcoSLO, was modified so volunteers could help their community while maintaining social distancing. Volunteer groups signed up for a clean-up kit for a specific area of Templeton and enough materials for 5 people. The event took place from Saturday, September 26, 2020 through Wednesday, September 30, 2020 with all volunteers operating independently at their desired time and date. As an additional outreach effort, articles

originally prepared for Templeton Magazine will instead be available on the website and in the District office lobby.

The Stormwater Management Plan 2020-2021 Annual Report is attached and also may be found on the District's website at: <http://templetoncsd.org/DocumentCenter/View/1280>.