

Lompoc City Council Agenda Item

City Council Meeting Date: February 16, 2009



TO: Laurel M. Barcelona, City Administrator

FROM: Stacy L. Lawson, Senior Environmental Coordinator
s_lawson@ci.lompoc.ca.us

SUBJECT: Consideration Of The Option To Participate In A Joint Effort To Develop Long-term Low Impact Development and Hydromodification Criteria To Meet Conditions of the City's Municipal Storm Water Permit.

Recommendation:

That the City Council:

1. Authorize the City of Lompoc's participation in the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board's (RWQCB) Joint Effort; and
2. Direct staff to prepare the Joint Effort Agreement (Attachment 1) for the Mayor's signature; and
3. Direct staff to amend the City's Storm Water Management Program (SWMP) to add the requirements and Best Management Practices found in Attachment 3, to the SWMP.
4. Direct staff to submit the Joint Effort Agreement; and
5. Direct staff to submit the Revised SWMP to the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, on receipt of RWQCB notification that a contract has been awarded for the Joint Effort Scope of Work.

Background:

The City of Lompoc is currently operating under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, Phase II, Municipal Storm Water Permit. The City must comply with conditions placed on the permit by the RWQCB. One of these permit conditions requires the City to provide long-term watershed protection that will achieve the RWQCB's goal of achieving an Effective Impervious Area of no more than three to ten percent (3-10%) of the watershed area within the City of Lompoc, depending on local conditions. Effective Impervious Area is impervious area that drains directly to the street and storm drain, without first draining to a pervious area, such as landscaping or gravel.

Discussion:

The City is currently in Year 2 of our permit. Achieving long-term watershed protection, as defined by the RWQCB, is expected to be difficult to achieve and substantiate. Each municipal permittee within the RWQCB's jurisdiction is required to comply with this same condition. To assist permittees in complying with this condition, the RWQCB has provided a Scope of Work (Attachment 2) outlining a Joint Effort between permittees and the RWQCB. Permittees are being asked to sign an agreement (Attachment 1) and incorporate specific requirements and Best Management Practices (Attachment 3) into their Storm Water Management Programs, in order to participate in this Joint Effort.

In the first phase of the Joint Effort, consultants for the RWQCB will develop methodology for establishing the long-term criteria for each jurisdiction. In the second phase, the permittees will apply the methodology to their communities and establish their individual long-term low impact development and hydromodification criteria.

The advantage of the Joint Effort is that the RWQCB will have accepted the methodology developed before local jurisdictions are required to apply it, saving permittees the expense of developing acceptable methodology themselves. A second advantage is that each regulated community in the Central Coast Region will have criteria based on the same methodology. All other Central Coast Region 3 cities and counties that are subject to Phase I or Phase II of the Municipal Permit have initially agreed to participate in the Joint Effort (Attachment 4). Participation in the Joint Effort appears to be the most expeditious means of compliance with the long-term LID and hydromodification permit requirement.

Fiscal Impact:

The fiscal impact of participation in the RWQCB's Joint Effort is unknown. At this time, \$600,000.00 in funding has been obtained by the RWQCB for use in Phase 1 of the Joint Effort, which is expected to result in an approved methodology for criteria development. The RWQCB has stated it is attempting to secure funding to assist Joint Effort participants in Phase 2. If funding is not obtained by the RWQCB for application of the methodology to local communities, each jurisdiction would have to provide an unknown amount of funding to complete the application of the methodology and the implementation of the criteria. However, this potential cost should be balanced against the similarly unknown cost of developing and applying long-term methodology separate from the Joint Effort.

Stacy L. Lawson, Senior Environmental Coordinator

Attachments:

1. [Joint Effort Agreement](#)
2. [Joint Effort Scope of Work](#)
3. [Joint Effort Requirements and Best Management Practices](#)
4. [List of Participating Jurisdictions](#)

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL TO THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR:

Arleen T. Pelster, AICP, Community Development Director

Larry Bean, Public Works Director

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL TO THE CITY COUNCIL:

Laurel M. Barcelona, City Administrator