Technical Advisory Group
Meeting Notes
San Pablo Avenue Stormwater Spine (SPASS)
Meeting #2, Regional Water Quality Control Board, RM1411 or Conference Call
Wednesday, January 23, 2012 (10:30am – Noon)

In Attendance: Josh Bradt (SFEP); Ken Kortkamp (SFPUC)); Brian Rowley (Caltrans); Dale Bowyer (Water Board); Dan Cloak (CCCCWP); Joanne Le (Richmond); Jen Hunt (SFEI); Lester McKee (SFEI); Erica Yelenski (USEPA); Kevin Jefferson (Urban ReLeaf); Maureen Decombe (Bay-Friendly Coalition); Greg LeFevre (ReNUWIt); Janel Grebel (ReNUWIt)

By Phone: Matt Fabry (SMCWPP); Fred Ho (Campbell), Jeff Bond (Albany)

Introductions: Self Introductions made

SPASS Project Status Update: Bradt provided power point overview of project goals, major components, funding sources and general schedule.

- Agreements executed with Urban Greening Program (for additional SPASS site in El Cerrito) and Caltrans (for construction costs).
- SOWs completed with SFEI (monitoring) and Bay-Friendly Coalition (planting plan and maintenance plan support) – both should be executed in February. RFP is planned for release in late January for 3rd party Bay-Friendly Rater. SOW still being developed for ReNUWIt monitoring.
- Design contract being amended to include soil investigations and addition of Urban Greening site. Topographic field surveys are currently underway. Potholing for utilities and collecting soil samples will shortly follow.

Schematic Design Review: Bradt provided power point overview of all revised schematic designs. There were specific comments for specific sites as well as discussion of general design issues.

General Comments:

- How does water get into bio-retention? (inlets not depicted)
- Dan recommends engineers look to El Cerrito Rain Gardens for inlet design and treatment chain functioning (water moves very well into and out of cells)
- Shared public/private facilities are a good idea for maximizing treatment area, but may be challenge to arrange/execute legally and come to maintenance arrangements.
- Designs should enhance pedestrian experience and safety.
- Boardwalks will be to be ADA compliant. Why not trench drains as connectors? (Better flow capacity)
- For shared public/private facilities, who will repair structural curbs adjacent to BMPs if they fail or are damaged?

- Ken (SFPUC) recommends coordinating with major utility providers if a BMP is proposed over a major utility (e.g. sewer trunk line) , as infiltration over utility trenches may compromise integrity and future repair may damage BMP. Who then repairs?
- Dan suggests designers consult local C3 Guidance manuals for technical support/design standards and is available by telephone if needed.

Oakland

- There is an opportunity to treat stormwater on eastern sidewalk around existing trees.
- Is there a way to integrate site with Frank Ogawa Plaza?

Albany

- Grated green gutter concept is a good one. No attendees have seen one implemented> Potential maintenance issue include frequent clogging, moss/plant growth, difficult to access (if parked on)
- Gutter grates would need to be ADA compliant.
- Determine if existing trees near site (along SPA and inside parking lots) are deciduous or evergreen to weigh excessive leaf litter potential & clogging of gutter.
- Grated green gutter concept in Caltrans ROW would need design exception from Caltrans (not standard detail). This was done for El Cerrito streetscaping project. MOU between City and Caltrans may resolve issue since cities are accepting maintenance burden.

Richmond

- Concern about potential spills since customers tend to perform spot repairs/oil changes in auto parts parking lots. Parking lot runoff may need to be isolated. TBD.

San Pablo

- Beware of excessive sediment in area due to grading of redevelopment area (probably fine now that the lot has been built on and paved over)
- Brian suggests the engineers calculate the spread of sheet flow for large storms to see how far pooling may extend laterally into the bicycle/parking lanes

Irrigation: Group discussed pros and cons of using a watering truck or installing irrigation systems. Keeping soils and microbes moist enough during dry months is critical to performance. Irrigation systems close to surface are easy to see and avoid if future re-planting becomes necessary. However, after the 2-year plant establishment period, there should not be a need for new plantings. No overwhelming consensus was determined either way. Costs may be ultimate factor in decision.

Water Quality Monitoring: Greg provided power point overview of ReNUWIt program and its conceptual approach to studying various geomedia (soils, rocks, and minerals enhance treatment/breakdown of pathogens & trace organic pollutants. Vertical canisters filled with geomedia tiers would be placed in selected retention areas to get field conditioned. After storms, these would be removed for laboratory testing.

Dan cautioned that inlet/outlet sampling is problematic for quantifying effectiveness due to the variability of storms and stormwater runoff pollutant concentrations/loads. He also advised the ReNUWIt canisters be located as close to the BMP inlets as possible because they rarely fill with water.

Kevin suggested looking into existing research conducted by UC Davis's Dr. Qinfu Xiao (qxiao@ucdavis.edu) and Dr. MacPherson, who study pollutant reduction associated with soils, and plants.

Lester (SFEI) did not make his planned presentation (time ran out). But he mentioned that the monitoring plans will be site specific and should be tailored to City priorities and objectives (such as, hydromodification or water quality). SFEI will work with Josh to identify City objectives early on.

Outreach: not discussed due to time constraint

Next Meeting: At 30% Design Level completion. Josh will provide the 30% designs to TAG members a week in advance of the next meeting.