

Technical Advisory Group
Meeting Notes
San Pablo Avenue Stormwater Spine (SPASS)
Meeting #3, Regional Water Quality Control Board, RM1411 or Conference Call
Tuesday, June 25, 2013 (10:30am – Noon)

In Attendance: Josh Bradt (SFEP), Dale Bowyer (RWQCB); Keith Lichten (RWQCB); Danny Akagi (City of Berkeley); Jeff Bond (City of Albany); Claire Griffing (City of Albany); Erika Yelenski (EPA); Kevin Jefferson (Urban ReLeaf); Derek Hitchcock (The Watershed Project); Janel Grebel (ReNUWit); Greg LeFevre (ReNUWit); Sanjay Mohanty (ReNUWit); Joe Charbonnet (ReNUWit); Matt Fabry (San Mateo Countywide Water Pollution Prevention Program); Fred Ho (City of Campbell); Maureen Decombe (Bay Friendly Coalition)

Introductions: Self introductions made

SPASS Project Overview & Status Update: Bradt provided powerpoint overview of project description, goals, schedule, and status of agreements, CEQA, and designs.

Contracts/agreements in executed for Caltrans, SFEI, Urban Greening grant, Bay Friendly Coalition, added scope for Design Team (soils investigation & Urban Greening site in El Cerrito). Contract is pending with Gates & Associates for Bay friendly Rater services. City Agreements are slow to progress—Oakland and Albany ahead of others by getting issue on City Council agendas.

Project is behind initial schedule due to need for soil investigations and lengthy turnaround time in getting City comments on designs. Construction probably will not start before January 2014.

- Bowyer and Akagi advised initiating construction as soon as designs, contracts, and permits are ready rather than wait until spring. If BMPs are properly in place, construction can take place even during the rainy season.
- Group agreed that obtaining Construction Manager prior to release of contractor bid package is best.
- Yelenski mentioned that the SFPUC has started providing LID training for contractors to improve construction outcomes (contact: Mike Adamow)
- Bowyer suggested contacting Leslie Estes for Construction Management RFQ example

Review 30% Designs: Bradt reviewed design highlights, tributary drainage area, treatment area, and cost estimates of each site. At 30% design stage, total estimated cost (including irrigation design/installation [\$100K] & contingency [25% of construction cost]) is \$2.25M, treating 10.9 acres of impervious surface (9.4 acres attributable to Caltrans agreement)

- Lichten suggested that the Oakland site could incorporate more greening, especially considering its relation to Frank Ogawa Plaza and excess paving.
- Bowyer requested details for herbaceous plantings (interested in depth of plantings).
- Bond asked who would supply the water for irrigation. Bradt will ask Jerry Bradshaw of the El Cerrito, if their rain garden irrigation comes from a city line or from the adjacent property

owner. Jefferson suggested that irrigation is inexpensive (seasonal) and could represent an element of community buy-in if supplied by private property owner.

- Sites that use gravity-controlled treatment train should pay extra close attention to design & maintenance of inlets and outlets (Berkeley, Albany, and Richmond)
- Group supported idea of using single contractor entity with specialty subcontractor to install soils, plantings, and irrigation. The contract would include 2-years of post-construction plant maintenance to be handled by subcontractor. This would ensure the lead contractor will be accountable if other problems outside of plantings arise. Fred Ho suggested there may be difficulties in this approach because state grant funds come with retention policies and it may be difficult to “close out” between phases.

Draft Green Streets Ordinance: Bradt introduced the Draft Green Streets modeled ordinance which is posted on Basecamp. The model ordinance compels local governmental agencies to incorporate LID measures into planned capital improvement project in the public right-of-way. Bradt requested comment on fatal flaws and solicited suggestions for improvement.

The groups discussed how (un)likely it may be for cities to voluntarily adopt such a policy due to budget constraints and the cost of conventional street improvement projects.

- Fabry suggested other avenues that may be more palatable and easier to implement Green Streets policies such as: General Plan update language, Resolution, and Design Guidelines.
- Fabry suggested coordinating with ABAG and MTC to develop policies that better integrate transportation with stormwater management – resulting in a policy similar to the precedent that established a Complete Streets policy for MTC funding eligibility

Community Meeting Advice: Bradt reviewed draft agenda for public meetings for Spine project. The group provided concerns that are likely to be brought up by community stakeholders, including:

- On-Street Parking impacts
- Construction – noise, schedule, and length of right-of-way disruption
- Opportunities for volunteer stewardship

In addition it was suggested to focus on the ancillary street improvement benefits rather than the water quality aspect.

Miscellaneous:

- Hitchcock gave update on LID projects (tree wells) he is managing along the Richmond Greenway
- Jefferson gave update on green street project at 31st St and San Pablo Ave in Oakland