

# Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC)

February 1, 2023

# **Agenda - WRAC**

- 1. Determination of a Quorum and Introductions
- 2. Approval of October 5, 2022 Minutes
- 3. Approval of November 2, 2022 Minutes
- 4. Consider Endorsing Application by Tayler Simpson for Member, Development At-Large
- 5. Open Discussion Regarding Recent Storm and Flooding
- 6. Receive Presentation from County Staff Regarding Updates to the County's LID Manual
- 7. Ongoing Updates
- 8. Future Agenda Items
- 9. Public Comment



# **Item 1: Determination of Quorum and Introductions**



# Item 2: Approval of October 5, 2022 Meeting Minutes



# Item 3: Approval of November 2, 2022 Meeting Minutes



# Item 4: Consider endorsing application by Tayler Simpson for Member, Development At-Large



# Item 6: Receive Presentation from County Staff Regarding Updates to the County's LID Manual



#### **Presentation Outline**

- Stormwater Low Impact Development in the Central Coast Region.
- Notable features of the new Post-Construction Stormwater Guidebook.
- Project timeline.

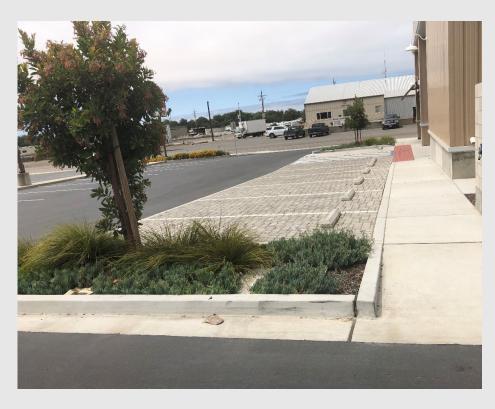


# **Low Impact Development Summarized:**

- Low Impact Development in the context of stormwater:
- Design the developed site to mimic the runoff pattern of the undeveloped watershed.
  - Slow it, spread it, sink it.
- End the practice of sending a fire hose of stormwater runoff to the nearest roadway or waterway.



# **Low Impact Development**





# Regional Post- Construction Stormwater Requirements

- 'The PCRs' were adopted in 2013 by the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board.
- Exceed State standards for treatment, retention, and management of post-construction stormwater runoff from new and redevelopment projects in urbanized areas.
- The County's LID handbook provides supplemental guidance document for implementing the PCRs and completing plan check and approval.



# Regional Post- Construction Stormwater Requirements

- New construction and redevelopment projects that create or replace 2,500sf of impervious surface area.
- When and where are 'the PCRs' applied?
  - Within all incorporated cities.
  - Within the County's 'Census Designated Places'



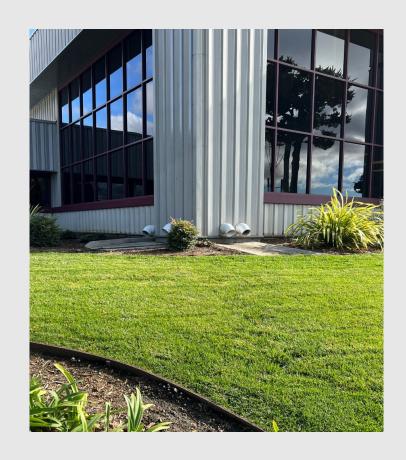
# **LID Handbook Update**

- Most recent substantial updates to the LID Handbook were completed in 2014.
- New technology has come on the market, drought has persisted, and perspectives have changed.

- Address new technologies.
- Provide specific guidance to help expedite plan review.
- Shift the focus from LID philosophy to real-world strategies.

# So, it's a handbook *update*?

- No, it's a full rewrite.
- Guided by County staff who interact with development community on a regular basis, supported by professional consultants.
- Reference the best technical resources published by municipalities around the state.



# Notable features of the new Post-Construction Stormwater Guidebook





# Comprehensive guidance for underground infiltration systems

- Technology has advanced considerably, with subsurface systems increasingly common.
- Updated guidelines for infiltration testing, setbacks, and use restrictions.
- Registration with EPA Region 9.



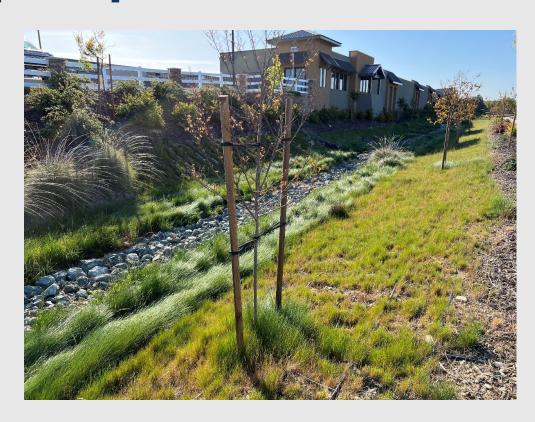
### Formulas, calculations, and strategies

- Clarifying approved formulas and calculations.
- Thresholds for designing 'self-retaining' areas and pervious surfaces.
- Strategies for managing County flood control requirements in addition to the PCRs.



### Stormwater feature plant palettes

- Early guidance documents included extensive lists of plants.
- Refined lists with emphasis on droughttolerant native species.
- Selected palettes based on locally successful plantings and commonly desires traits.



# **Expanded Guidance for Source Control Measures**

- Incorporating pollution prevention into site design.
- Guidebook provides a checklist of simple pollutant source control strategies instead of referencing external documents.



# **Expanded information on operations & maintenance agreements**

- Agreements are a key element of preserving stormwater management features once construction is complete.
- Department of Planning and Building manages this longterm monitoring program.
- May require CC&Rs, Agreements, or long-term Encroachment Permits.





## **Example projects**

- Methods for demonstrating LID in addition to structural controls.
- Examples demonstrate calculations, strategies, and templates in use.







# **Project Timeline**





#### From start to finish

- Update project kicked off in March 2022.
- Preliminary draft will be released in Spring 2023.
  - Technical Focus Group and public review and comment period: 30 days.
- Final draft anticipated Summer 2023.
  - Technical Focus Group and County staff review.
- Official launch workshop and training anticipated fall 2023.



## **Ways to participate**

- Comment on the preliminary draft. (Spring 2023)
  - Staff are convening a 'Technical Focus Group' and are happy to add additional members.
- Attend the launch workshop and training. (Fall 2023)



### Thank you!

Ann Gillespie Stormwater Program Coordinator

agillespie@co.slo.ca.us

(805) 781-5259



# Item 5: Open Discussion Regarding Recent Storm and Flooding



### **Open Discussion Regarding Recent Storms**

- Brief comments about intensity of rainfall
- Update about Lower AG Creek
- Shared Photos and Videos



# **Open Discussion Regarding Recent Storms**

#### Major rainfall-runoff event for nearly entire County

- ♦ 5- to 25-year rainfall event for most creeks and streams
  - Larger drainages (AG Creek, Morro Creek, SLO Creek, etc.) strongly affected
- ♦ Saturated soils prior to storm → more runoff, more quickly
- ♦ Strong winds and early intense rain → debris issues for rest of storm
- ♦ Sustained duration (12+ hours) of substantial rain was rarest aspect
  - Duration of high flows and flooding more extraordinary than peak flows
- ♦ Most significant regional flooding event in 25+ years (1995/1998)

|  |                 | Approximate recurrence [years] of peak rain intensity over: |      |      |      |       |
|--|-----------------|---|------|------|------|-------|
|  | Area            | 30 min  | 1 hr | 3 hr | 6 hr | 12 hr |
| Relatively normal rainfall for Cambria-Hwy 46 Area   | North – Coastal | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1    | 2     |
| Very uncommon rainfall for Templeton-Atascadero Area | North – Inland  | 5   | 10   | 20   | 40   | 50    |
|  | Central         | 2   | 5    | 5    | 10   | 25    |
|  | South           | 2   | 5    | 15   | 15   | 75    |



January
 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup>:
 South levee
 overtopping,
 levee breach
 overnight





January 10<sup>th</sup>:

 County began to repair the levee, initiated a manual breach on the south levee to drain the valley







January 11<sup>th</sup>: Repair began at various other spots of the levee

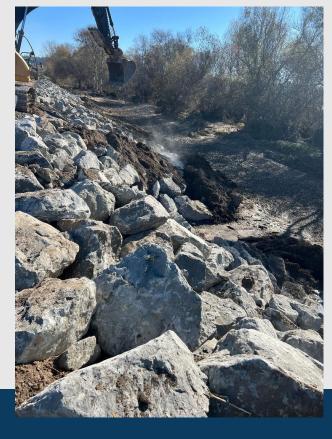




 Today: Levee breach repaired, RSP in place at north levee, working on long-term solutions to repair damaged sections of levee and remove

sediment and debris





#### **Photos**



El Camino Real @ Santa Margarita Creek (County Public Works)

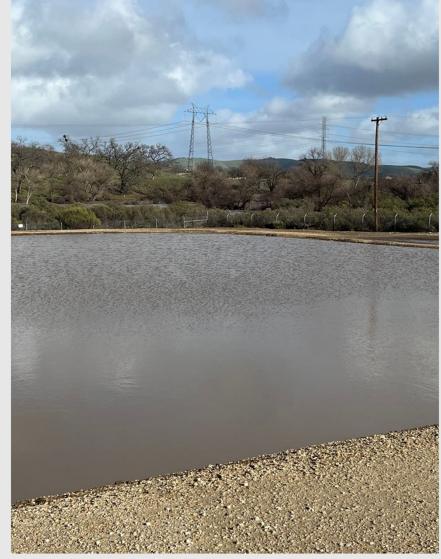




Laguna Lake (Christine M.)







Templeton CSD Pond (Debra L.)





City of SLO (Nick T.)





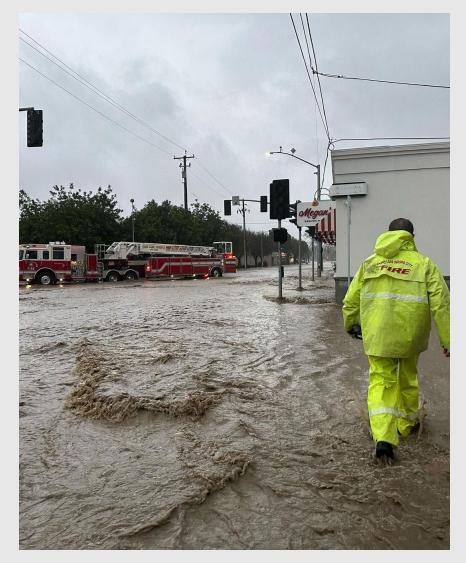
City of SLO (Nick T.)





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City of SLO (Nick T.)



# **Item 7: Ongoing Updates**



# **Item 8: Future Agenda Items**



### **Future Agenda Items**

- March 1st:
  - Presentation from John Lindsey (pending confirmation)
  - Selection of Officers
  - Annual Report
  - Consider Forming Ad hoc Subcommittee to Review Bylaws
- April 5<sup>th</sup>:
  - TBD
- May 3<sup>rd</sup>:
  - Presentation of Flood Control District Budget



# **Item 9: Public Comment for Items not on the Agenda**



## **Thank you!**

Next WRAC Meeting: March 1, 2022.

Location: SLO City/County Library Community Room

Questions? Contact Brendan Clark

- Bclark@co.slo.ca.us
- (805) 788-2316

