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STORMWATER PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

SMURRF LEADS THE WAY TO A CLEANER BAY

Joyce Amaro
Stormwater Management Division

Continuing their commitment to reducing the amount of pollution flowing into Santa Monica Bay, the Cities of Los Angeles and Santa Monica have partnered together to build a first-of-its-kind urban runoff/water recycling



plant near the Santa Monica pier. Named the *Santa Monica Urban Runoff Recycling Facility*, or SMURRF, the facility is one of the finest examples of the future of dealing with polluted urban runoff "to the maximum extent possible", which will protect coastal waters for generations. The SMURRF was officially opened to the general public on May 3, 2001 at a dedication ceremony for residents, government officials, environmentalists and regulators.

The facility will clean up to 500,000 gallons of urban runoff per day during the dry weather season (April through October) from Santa Monica's two largest flows, the Pico-Kenter and Pier storm drains, which drain 4,200 and 900 acres respectively. This runoff will now be

treated by an advanced treatment system in the SMURRF rather than flowing into the Santa Monica Bay where it can harm swimmers, surfers and marine life. The treatment processes include coarse and fine screening to remove trash, plant material and debris; degritting systems to remove sand and grit; dissolved air flotation (DAF) to remove oil and grease; microfiltration to remove turbidity; and ultraviolet radiation to kill pathogens.



"The SMURRF is a perfect model for how local agencies can work cooperatively with State and Federal agencies to fund and build such a facility," said City of Los Angeles Board of Public Works President Pro

Tempore Maribel Marin, at the May 3rd dedication. Funding sources for the \$12 million SMURRF included the Cities of Santa Monica and Los Angeles, the State Water Resources Control Board, the

Metropolitan Water District, Federal ISTEA Grant Funds and the Los Angeles County Proposition "A" Grant.

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Located on Appian Way, between Seaside Terrace and Colorado Avenue in Santa Monica, the SMURRF was built as a walk-through facility providing educational information and serving as an access way for the public to reach the beach and adjacent businesses.

Visitors have a complete view of all of the equipment and processes that are used to purify the urban runoff. Information plazas are also located in the facility. Art and architectural elements of the facility were designed to convey and explain the workings of the facility, and to inform citizens what they can do to decrease polluted urban runoff from entering the Santa Monica Bay.

The image at right shows the total drainage area (in green) for the Pico-Kenter storm drain within the City of Los Angeles extending into the Santa Monica Mountains. The LA County portions (in red) show the cities of Beverly Hills and Santa Monica.



Total Drainage Area: 4,200 Acres

Amount of Runoff Recycled Daily: 500,000 Gallons

Types of Pollutants Removed: Oil, Grease, Suspended Solids, Trash, Pathogens, Heavy Metals

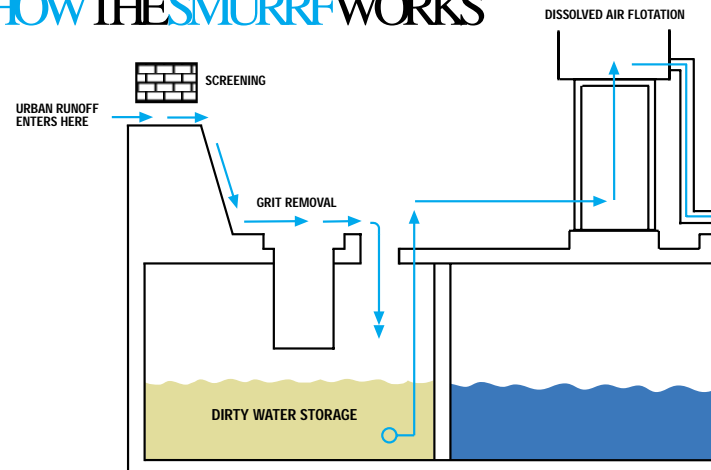
As the water moves through the facility, the water daylights in five places, enabling visitors to see the results of the purification process. In addition to providing a valuable alternative source of water for Southern California residents, the project is a showcase of how a public facility can be used to educate the public and enhance community pride.

Recycling Urban Runoff

The highly-treated SMURRF water will be used to irrigate Santa Monica's city parks, Woodlawn Cemetery, school grounds, landscaping along the Santa Monica Freeway, and in facilities where dual plumbing has been installed (for toilet flushing). Once purified, the water is safe for all landscape irrigation and dual-

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HOW THE SMURRF WORKS



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plumbing systems as prescribed by the California Department of Health Services and meets all of California's Title 22 requirements. A study of the number, type and location of potential reuse sites indicated that 33 sites within a two-mile range of the SMURRF had an average daily demand of 1.2 million gallons per day, so finding a market for the 500,000 gallons per day generated by the SMURRF will not be a problem. The SMURRF also reduces the amount of water that has to be imported from Northern California and the Colorado River and helps to protect coastal waters and water resources for future generations.

Additional Low-Flow Diversion Projects Planned

The City of Los Angeles is developing 11 additional projects by 2002 that will divert urban runoff from problematic areas during the dry season to the Hyperion treatment facility. These drainage areas include eight within the City of Los Angeles: Temescal Canyon, Palisades Park, Santa Monica Canyon, Rose Avenue Drain, Thornton Avenue Drain, Venice Pavilion Drain, Imperial Avenue Drain, and the Bay Club Drain. The County of Los Angeles has built an additional three low-flow diversions: Ashland Avenue Drain, Brooks Avenue Drain, and Playa del Rey. This combined effort will prevent 7 million gallons a day of contaminated runoff from flowing untreated into Santa Monica Bay.

For additional information about the SMURRF go to <http://pen.ci.santa-monica.ca.us/cm/index.htm>



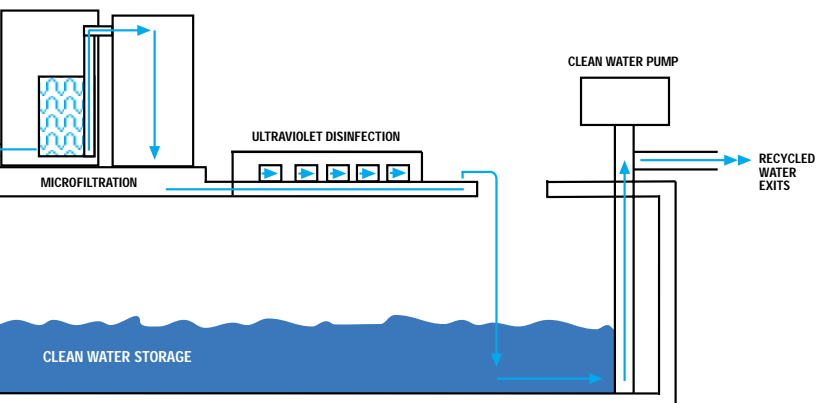
Improving L.A.'s Landscape DOWNTOWN BIDs

When walking around downtown Los Angeles these days, a common sight is that of people in brightly colored uniforms either cleaning the sidewalks or security staff patrolling the streets on bicycles. These are some of the many employees of local Business Improvement Districts or BIDs, associations of downtown merchants working together to provide businesses and visitors with a safe and pleasant environment. Sponsored by the City of Los Angeles, these BIDs have evolved into effective organizations, establishing inter-business communication and improving the landscape of downtown Los Angeles.

The Stormwater Management Division (SMD) is now partnering with several of the local BIDs to fight storm drain pollution generated in the downtown area in different ways. SMD enforcement personnel are working with BID staff to train them in reporting spills and abandoned waste to the hotline, and to promote Best Management Practices (BMPs) among downtown businesses. An example of a BMP would be the proper way to wash sidewalks without polluting storm drains. SMD is also producing outreach materials that the BIDs can pass on to their members. The goal of SMD is to create partnerships with all BIDs in the City, thus serving as a model of cooperation between a City agency and the business community to solve pollution problems.

So the next time you see BID personnel on the street, take a moment to thank them for their efforts to keep downtown LA a safer and cleaner place for everyone to work and visit.

For a listing of all the BIDs in the City of Los Angeles visit www.ci.la.ca.us/CLK/BIDS/bidlinks.cfm



4,000 KIDS CLEAN DOCKWEILER BEACH

More than 5,000 kids throughout the state hit the beaches on May 22 in three major California cities for the Eighth Annual Kid's Adopt-A-Beach Clean-Up program. Four thousand kids from 26 elementary schools cleaned the shores of Dockweiler State Beach in Los Angeles, and more than 1,000 more cleaned at Ocean Beach in San Francisco and Silver Strand State Beach in San Diego. The event was in honor of Ocean Day.



Aerial view of 4,000 kids forming the "Clean H₂O Now" message at Dockweiler State Beach

After the cleanup at Dockweiler, the kids spelled out a huge human "CLEAN H₂O NOW" message on the beach for an aerial photograph, addressing the need for clean ocean water. The event is part of the Adopt-A-Beach School Assembly Program created by the Malibu Foundation

for Environmental Education. The program includes an assembly that teaches how the storm drain system connects urban neighborhoods to the beaches and oceans, and a beach cleanup that further emphasizes the need for recycling and litter reduction. "Giving kids the opportunity to visit the beach and see the pollution is so important," said Gary Lee Moore, Stormwater Program Manager. "When they realize that they can be part of the solution, this empowerment stays with them throughout their lives."

The City of Los Angeles funds the Malibu Foundation to conduct assemblies at elementary schools throughout the City showing kids how pollution and litter not only impacts our communities but our beaches and oceans as well.

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