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Splash

To Protect the Beneficial Uses of Receiving Waters While Complying with All Pollution Abatement Regulations

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Architects, Landscape Architects, Planners and Engineers a Key Element

Planning and Building for the Improvement of Coastal Waters

By Wing Tam
Civil Engineer, Stormwater Program

Earlier this year, the Los Angeles County and its cities were directed by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Board) to implement new stormwater requirements for new development and redevelopment projects. The new requirement, known as the **Standard Urban Stormwater Mitigation Plan (SUSMP)** will require certain projects to include structural Best Management Practices (BMPs) to control stormwater pollution. BMPs listed in the Board's document include vegetated swales and strips, detention and/or infiltration basins, constructed wetlands, continuous flow deflection/separator systems, permeable pavements, catch basin filters/screens, and wet ponds. The BMPs are intended to reduce pollutants in runoff and stormwater after construction is completed and the property is occupied.



(10 homes or more), 100,000+ square-foot commercial developments, automotive repair facilities, retail gasoline outlets, restaurants, parking lots larger than 5,000 feet or 25 spaces, and hillside dwellings of any number. These projects will be required to capture or treat the first three-quarters of an inch of rain.

City Leading the Efforts

"The Stormwater Management Division is proud to be leading the City's effort to comply with the SUSMP requirements," stated Stormwater Program Manager, Gary Lee Moore. "In coordination with the Departments of Building and Safety, City Planning, and other departments, a new ordinance is being drafted." Specifically, the proposed ordinance will empower the Department of Building and Safety to require project applicants to incorporate stormwater BMPs as a condition for obtaining a grading or building permit. Furthermore, all City departments will be required to implement the same requirements for stormwater pollution control in their own development projects.

A proposed ordinance was approved by the Board of Public Works on June 7th of this year and is currently working its way through the Mayor and Council offices for adoption. The new requirements must be implemented by October 8, 2000.

Maribel Marin, Commissioner of the City of Los Angeles, Board of Public Works, says that much of the future of the City's efforts to cut stormwater pollution lies in the hands of planners, architects, and engineers saying, "Developers of residential and retail complexes, planners and engineers all have to raise the bar on how well they design future projects with stormwater pollution prevention as one of the key elements of the planning process." The plan and standards apply to development of residential subdivisions



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City of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works
Bureau of Sanitation





City Public Agency Meetings

The municipal stormwater National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit (Permit) issued by the Regional Water Quality Control Board to Los Angeles County and 85 cities requires the City of Los Angeles to develop and implement a Public Agency Activities Program.

In compliance with this requirement, a monthly Public Agency meeting has been taking place with coordinators from 13 City departments/bureaus to ensure that they are well informed of the Permit requirements that affect their activities. Department coordinators are to be commended for keeping their staff informed of stormwater best management practices to reduce stormwater pollution and for taking the necessary measures to keep the City in full compliance with the requirements of the Permit.

Many thanks to all City department coordinators for their commitment and dedication.

SWMEA Conference Held at CSULB

The Southwest Marine Educators Association (SWMEA), held its annual conference the week of July 17th through the 21st at the California State University Long Beach campus, attracting hundreds of marine educators from across the country. SWMEA is a branch of the larger National Marine Educators Association and is "dedicated to the world of water and the production of high quality education materials."



The conference titled, *The Wave of the Future*, featured dozens of interactive workshops, booths and exhibits. The City of Los Angeles' Stormwater Program was on hand at the conference, showcasing its *Storm Drains Lead*



Stormwater Program graphic designer Oscar Amaro (far left) was among those who participated in the dive through Catalina Island's kelp forests.

Straight to the Ocean mobile display, distributing a myriad of materials geared toward ocean environmental awareness, and fielding questions from the attendees. A SCUBA diving trip to Santa Catalina Island's world renowned kelp forests concluded the week's activities.

Among those attending the conference were teachers from across the United States as well as representatives from organizations such as the US Geological Survey, the Monterey Bay Marine Sanctuary, the Marine Advanced Technical Education Center (MATE), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Heal the Bay, the National Wildlife Federation, and the California Department of Fish & Game.

The conference was sponsored by the Long Beach Aquarium of the Pacific.

Before...



Our Own City Champions...



(Note: Not the official Bureau of Street Services logo)



Photo credit: Mike Mullin

Following the Los Angeles Lakers triumphant crowning as World Champions, a victory parade was held in downtown Los Angeles where an estimated crowd of 250,000 enthusiastic fans gathered on Figueroa Street to help our local heroes celebrate—but leaving behind trash strewn streets in their wake.

Bureau of Street Services-Street Maintenance crews immediately fell into position and recovered most, if not all of the debris—and prevented the 60 cubic yards worth of paper, streamers and litter from entering curbside storm drains.

Congratulations to the Lakers and Street Maintenance Division for coming through for the City of Los Angeles!

...and After