

Lompoc City Council Agenda Item

City Council Meeting Date: September 15, 2009



TO: Laurel M. Barcelona, City Administrator

FROM: Stacy L. Lawson, Senior Environmental Coordinator
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SUBJECT: Consideration Of Draft Interim Low Impact Development (LID) and Hydromodification Control Guidelines

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council consider the attached Draft Interim Low Impact Development (LID) / Hydromodification Control (Hydromodification) Guidelines and cover letter, and direct staff to submit the Guidelines and cover letter to the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (CCRWQCB).

BACKGROUND:

As a part of their October 17, 2008 approval of Lompoc's Storm Water Management Program, the CCRWQCB required the City to submit Interim Guidelines for LID and Hydromodification within a year. The Interim Guidelines must be equivalent to requirements set out by the CCRWQCB in their letter of February 15, 2008. The CCRWQCB requires three weeks to review the City's proposed interim guidelines, prior to their implementation on October 18, 2009.

DISCUSSION:

Faced with the dual challenge of a lack of funding and a lack of time for identifying LID / Hydromodification Guidelines, staff has reviewed the Hydromodification / LID requirements that were recently adopted for Ventura Countywide Storm Water Quality Management Program. Ventura County's LID / Hydromodification requirements have several positive features in comparison with the standards set forth by the CCRWQCB in their February 15, 2008 letter.

First, Ventura's countywide requirements were developed by local agencies in cooperation with the environmental groups Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and Heal the Bay. They have also been endorsed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). Second, the Ventura County's requirements are more flexible than those found in the February 15, 2008 letter, allowing for off-site mitigation of impacts for redevelopment and in areas where higher density and mixed use development are encouraged, such as in Lompoc's Old Town Commercial District.

Staff proposes that the City of Lompoc adopt the Ventura County's LID / Hydromodification requirements as interim guidelines, with few substantive changes.

The changes proposed include:

- Revised timelines to correspond with the requirements of the City of Lompoc's permit cycle,
- Reference to Ventura's County's Technical Guidance Manual, the City of Santa Barbara's Storm Water BMP Handbook for specific BMP design criteria
- The addition of definitions in Appendix A to assist in understanding of terms
- The addition of Appendix B which includes the City's current standard storm water quality conditions.

Staff has prepared a strike-out version of Ventura County's requirements reflecting the City's proposal (Attachment 1), as well as a condensed version of these same proposed guidelines (Attachment 2) to allow for easier understanding of the new requirements by the public.

FISCAL IMPACT

Since the imposition of the CCRWQCB requirement to implement Interim LID / Hydromodification Guidelines, the failing economy has impacted many aspects of City operations. Implementation of the Interim Guidelines is expected to have a significant fiscal impact, imposing new review, inspection, and reporting requirements on the Planning, Engineering and Building Divisions. The LID requirements promise to be expensive and difficult to administer, adding significant design and engineering costs to development.

Stacy L. Lawson, Senior Environmental Coordinator

Attachments:

1. [The City of Lompoc's Draft Interim Hydromodification / Low Impact Development Guidelines](#)
2. [The City of Lompoc's Draft Interim Hydromodification / Low Impact Development Guidelines \(A strike-out version of Ventura County's requirements\).](#)
3. [The City of Lompoc's Draft Condensed Version of the guidelines.](#)
4. [Draft Letter of Submittal, dated September 15, 2009](#)

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL TO THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR:

Arleen T. Pelster, AICP, Community Development Director

Larry A. Bean, Public Works Director

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL TO THE CITY COUNCIL:

Laurel M. Barcelona, City Administrator