



RANCHO PALOS VERDES

# Staff Report

**DATE:** July 2013

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

**PREPARED BY:** JOHN L. HUNTER AND ASSOCIATES

**SUBJECT:** ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION OF A GREEN STREETS POLICY

## **Overview:**

The purpose of this Resolution is to adopt a green streets policy consistent with the requirements of the MS4 Permit.

The Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit (Order No. R-2012-0175) was adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region on November 8, 2012. Permittees electing to prepare a Watershed Management Program or an Enhanced Watershed Management Program under this Permit are required to demonstrate that there are green streets policies in place and/or commence development of a policy(ies) that specifies the use of green street strategies for transportation corridors within 60 days of the effective date of the Order and have a draft policy within 6 months of the effective date of the Order. The development of the green street policy was begun prior to February 26, 2013 (meeting the 60 day criteria).

The MS4 Permit does not strictly define a green streets policy, however it does include a reference to the USEPA Managing Wet Weather with Green Infrastructure: Green Streets guidance document as follows:

“(1) Development projects subject to Permittee conditioning and approval for the design and implementation of post-construction controls to mitigate storm water pollution, prior to completion of the project(s), are:

(g) Street and road construction of 10,000 square feet or more of impervious surface area shall follow USEPA guidance regarding Managing Wet Weather with Green Infrastructure: Green Streets (December 2008 EPA-833-F-08-009) to the maximum extent practicable. Street and road construction applies to standalone streets, roads, highways, and freeway projects, and also applies to streets within larger projects.”

In the absence of specific guidance for green streets policies by the MS4 Permit, the purpose of this Staff Report is to provide an outline of proposed green streets policies for the City of Rancho Palos Verdes consistent with the requirements of the MS4 Permit.

## **Background:**

Roads present many opportunities for green infrastructure application. One principle of green infrastructure involves reducing and treating stormwater close to its source. Urban transportation right-of-ways integrated with green techniques are often called “green streets.” Green streets provide source controls for stormwater runoff and pollutant loads. In addition, green infrastructure approaches complement street facility upgrades, street aesthetic improvements, and urban tree canopy efforts that also make use of the right-of-way and allow it to achieve multiple goals and benefits. Using the right-of-way for treatment of stormwater runoff links green with grey infrastructure by making use of the engineered conveyance of roads, and providing connections to conveyance systems when needed.

Green streets are beneficial for new road construction and retrofits. They can provide substantial economic benefits when used in transportation applications. Coordinating green infrastructure installation with broader transportation improvements can reduce the cost of stormwater management by including it within larger infrastructure improvements. A large municipal concern regarding green infrastructure use is maintenance access; using roads and right-of-ways as locations for green infrastructure not only addresses a significant pollutant source, but also alleviates access and maintenance concerns by using public space. Also, right-of-way installations allow for easy public maintenance.

Green streets can incorporate a wide variety of design elements including street trees, permeable pavements, bioretention, and swales. Although the design and appearance of green streets will vary, the functional goals are the same; provide source control of stormwater, limit its transport and pollutant conveyance to the collection system, restore pre-development hydrology to the maximum extent practicable, and provide environmentally enhanced roads. Successful application of green techniques will encourage soil and vegetation contact and infiltration and retention of stormwater

### **Summary:**

The City of Rancho Palos Verdes Public Works Department shall require projects which fall into the following categories to follow the Managing Wet Weather with Green Infrastructure Municipal Handbook on Green Streets with the inclusion of items A-D below:

- A. Any new public road or street project that is considered a "Transportation Corridor" that disturbs more than 10,000 square feet of surface.
- B. The Director of Public Works shall review each project on a case-by-case basis to determine if it meets the criteria of a transportation corridor.
- C. The Director of Public Works shall evaluate technical and economic feasibility of any proposed BMPs for any project meeting the above criteria prior to approval of any such BMPs.
- D. This shall not apply to routine maintenance activities such as grind and overlay, slurry seal, replacement of existing deteriorated pavement, etc.

### **Fiscal Impact:**

There is no direct fiscal impact to the city from adopting this Resolution. However from time to time, major street improvements within transportation corridors may incur additional costs due to the incorporation of Green Street strategies.

### **Recommendation:**

Adopt Green Streets Policy and corresponding Manual entitled:

*Managing Wet Weather with Green Infrastructure Municipal Handbook: Green Streets as seen in Exhibit "A".*

**The Draft Policy (or Policy upon approval by the City Council) and the US EPA Green Street manual (or electronic link thereto) shall be placed in the City's Stormwater Quality Management Plan. Upon approval by Resolution of the City Council, this Policy shall remain in effect until it is superseded by an approved Watershed Management Program.**

### **Attachments:**

- A. Managing Wet Weather with Green Infrastructure Municipal Handbook: Green Streets
- B. Resolution 2013-xxxx

Approved:

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[NAME]

[TITLE]

**RESOLUTION NO. 2013-~~xxxx~~**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RANCHO PALOS VERDES ADOPTING A GREEN STREET POLICY PURSUANT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD'S MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEM PERMIT (MS4 PERMIT) ORDER NO. R-2012-0175.**

**WHEREAS**, the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit (Order No. R-2012-0175), adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region on November 8, 2012, requires all municipalities electing to prepare a Watershed Management Program or an Enhanced Watershed Management Program under the Permit to demonstrate that Green Street policies are in place that specify the use of green street strategies for transportation corridors; and

**WHEREAS**, Green Streets are enhancements to street and road projects to improve the quality of storm water and urban runoff through the implementation of infiltration, bio-treatment, xeriscaping parkways and tree lined streets; and

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RANCHO PALOS VERDES DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

**Section 1.** The City Council of the City of Rancho Palos Verdes, California, hereby directs the Director of Public Works to implement Green Streets for "transportation corridors" for publicly owned street and road projects that disturb more than 10,000 square feet of surface. The USEPA's Managing Wet Weather with Green Infrastructure: Green Streets guidance manual (December 2008 EPA-833-F-08-009) shall be followed to the maximum extent practicable.

**Section 2.** The Director of Public Works shall review each project on a case-by-case basis to determine if it meets the criteria of a transportation corridor.

**Section 3.** The Director of Public Works shall evaluate technical and economic feasibility of any proposed BMPs for any project meeting the above criteria prior to approval of any such BMPs.

**Section 4.** Routine maintenance including but not limited to: slurry seals, grind and overlay and reconstruction to maintain original line are grade are excluded from the Green Street Policy.

**Section 5.** At its regular meeting held on [Insert DATE], 2013, after holding a duly noticed Public Hearing and passing upon all protests, the City Council determined that the public interest and necessity justify the adoption of the Green Street Policy.

**Section 6.** This policy was posted in [NUMBER] public places in the City of Rancho Palos Verdes California.

**Section 7.** The Public Works Department shall incorporate aspects of green streets into internal annual staff trainings.

**Section 8.** Upon approval by Resolution of the City Council, this Policy shall remain in effect until it is superseded by an approved Watershed Management Program.

**Section 9.** The City Clerk shall certify to the adoption of this Resolution.

**PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED** at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of

Rancho Palos Verdes, California, on this [DAY] day of [MONTH] 2013.

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Susan Brooks  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

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Carla Morreale  
CITY CLERK