LARWQCB-LA County MS4 Permit-Comments on Dominguez Channel EWMP due Sunday 8.30.2015

EWMP IMPLEMENTATION COSTS AND FINANCIAL STRATEGY

7. EWMP Implementation Costs and Financial Strategy

Currently, most of the projects described in this EWMP are not explicitly funded from a dedicated revenue source. Obtaining funds for all of the activities identified in the EWMP is anticipated to take many years. This section describes the probable costs of the projects, the amount of funding currently available to meet the needs described in the EWMP, and potential funding sources that may be available to fund elements of the program.

And

7.1.1 Probable EWMP Program Costs

The purpose of this section is to present the probable order-of-magnitude cost opinions to implement the EWMP. The cost opinion for program costs were developed using feasibility study level engineering cost estimation procedures. The EWMP identified projects to be completed along a timeline. These projects are broken into four categories:

- (1) Minimum Control Measures (MCMs), excluding implementation of LID ordinances for new and re-development,
- (2) LID ordinance implementation for new and redevelopment,
- (3) regional projects, and
- (4) distributed projects, which are primarily green streets

COMMENTS

There is no Financial Strategy. The costs have not been reviewed by an economist versed in municipal costs.

Funding addressed is:

- EPA Section 319
- Clean Beaches Initiatives
- TIGER Discretionary
- Supplemental Environmental Project Funds:
- Clean Water State Revolving Fund
- California Infrastructure Development Bank–Infrastructure State Revolving Fund Program

We question the availability and grant/loan maximums. Implementation takes cash outflow, yet debt financing is not addressed.

As a sample, the City of Los Angeles CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT (FY June 30, 2015) requires disclosure under NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENT:

Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)

The USEPA and the LARWQCB are required to develop TMDLs for impaired water bodies. Various watersheds in the Los Angeles area have water body segments that are listed as impaired due to a variety of pollutants. Although some TMDLs have already been released, additional TMDLs will be under development and compliance with both existing and new TMDLs will continue into the next decade. At this time, it is difficult to predict the full impact of TMDLs on the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) effluent limits at the City's four water reclamation and wastewater treatment plants. In addition, the proposed Greater Los Angeles County Municipal Separate Stormwater Sewer Systems (MS4) permit, adopted by the LARWQCB in November 2012, contains provisions that require compliance with all the adopted TMDLs. It is expected that significant capital improvements funded by Sewer may be required to comply with the TMDLs and their resulting impact on the City's NPDES permits.

This statement discloses Sewer funds as the source for "significant capital improvements." This permit goes beyond the sewer system into streets and land and the taxpayer has not been notified of the tremendous expected costs.

MULTI-BENEFIT REGIONAL PROJECTS

4.2.4 Process of Identifying and Selecting Multi-Benefit Regional Projects (EWMP Regional Projects) states:

The approach described below was used to identify, screen, and evaluate potential regional projects. This approach included a watershed based assessment of all publicly-owned and some private parcels within the DC WMG to evaluate if they would be suitable to support a regional stormwater enhancement project. The approach to identifying potential regional projects is illustrated in Figure 4-3. The process is discussed generally in the sections below and in detail in Attachment O.

The potential project footprints are based on stormwater storage areas of sufficient size to infiltrate in 72 hours or to store the 85th percentile storm in 10 feet of depth unless otherwise noted. In most cases, areas needed to infiltrate in 72 hours were larger than the area needed to store the storm volume in 10 feet of depth.

4.2.6 Multi-Use Benefits from Injection Well Aquifer Recharge states:

The DC WMG is underlain primarily by the West Coast Groundwater Basin. A small portion of the eastern section of the DC WMG is underlain by the Central Basin Groundwater Basin. Both of these basins are adjudicated. Most water captured by projects in the DC WMG is likely to be injected, if feasible and practicable, into the West Coast Groundwater basin.

COMMENTS

It is not clear how Storage Costs are addressed or where stored. Adjudication issues and groundwater extraction are addressed but not capture in non-adjudicated areas. Capacity issues are unclear.

GREEN STREETS

4.2.5 Distributed Projects (Green Streets) states:

Green streets are consistent with some DC WMG agency plans for various projects. They also provide additional opportunities for volume reduction with the potential for capturing water for municipal use. Once hydrologic and loading scenarios were simulated with the MCM, new and re-development (LID ordinance), and regional BMP implementation, the volume associated with capturing the remainder of the 90th percentile load for the limiting pollutant was estimated. Then, the lane miles of green streets to achieve this storage volume was estimated. The green streets represent distributed BMPs and are modeled to the extent that the required volume reduction is satisfied. Green streets were used as distributed BMPs as they are located in the public right-of-way, are distributed throughout the DC WMG area, and could be implemented as streets are rehabilitated. The volume reduction provided by a green street can be replaced with alternative distributed BMPs as desired.

COMMENTS

No Circulation Element facts are presented and we have no idea who has the Mineral Rights, Groundwater Rights (outside the adjudicated basins) or Pipeline Leases. Methane issues and related de-watering is not addressed. Jurisdictional issues and operations and maintenance responsibility is not addressed.

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