The City of Culver City is pleased to invite your participation in a public meeting regarding:

WHAT: The City Council of the City of Culver City will be receiving a presentation regarding a potential ballot measure for the November 8, 2016 ballot that would propose establishment of an annual clean water parcel tax to fund compliance measures required by the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program. It is anticipated the City Council will consider taking action to place the measure on the ballot at its July 25, 2016 meeting.

WHERE: Mike Balkman Council Chambers
Culver City City Hall
9770 Culver Boulevard
Culver City, CA  90232

WHEN: Monday, July 11, 2016 – 7:00 PM

BACKGROUND:

The 1972 Clean Water Act established the NPDES Program to regulate the discharge of pollutants from point sources to waters of the United States. In 1990, Phase 1 of the NPDES Program established a framework for regulating municipal and industrial discharges of storm water and non-storm water. The program addressed sources of storm water and dry-weather urban runoff that had the greatest potential to negatively impact water quality.

On November 8, 2012, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board - Los Angeles Region adopted NPDES No. CAS004001, Order No. R4-2012-0175, “Waste Discharge Requirements for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) discharges within the Coastal Watersheds of Los Angeles County, except those discharges originating from the City of Long Beach MS4.” The permit includes strict requirements termed Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) which are numerical limits for pollutants such as bacteria, heavy metals, toxics and trash in the affected water bodies (Ballona Creek and Marina del Rey). There are severe penalties for non-compliance with these numerical limits, up to $10,000 per day per violation. In addition, non-compliance exposes the City to potential third party lawsuits, which is another potentially significant impact to the City’s fiscal health. These financial impacts could reduce City services that benefit Culver City residents, including, but not limited to, public safety, parks and general government services.

In order to address the strict requirements of the Permit, the Permit allows the City the flexibility to develop an Enhanced Watershed Management Program (EWMP) to implement the requirements of the Permit on a watershed basis through customized strategies, control measures, and Best Management Practices (BMPs). The construction and operation of the projects proposed in the EWMP will require the expenditure of significant City funds and currently there is no dedicated funding source for this purpose.
**DISCUSSION:**

After years of planning and development, the City along with other cities in the Ballona Creek and Marina del Rey watersheds submitted their draft EWMP to the Regional Board and received approval in March 2016. In the coming months, the City must implement its portion of the approved EWMP to remain compliant with the Permit. The EWMP comprehensively identifies project opportunities within the City and watershed boundaries. Such opportunities include development of a green streets program including projects that infiltrate and filter storm water and urban runoff within public right-of-way, such as parkways and parks; construction of multi-beneficial regional projects that capture and clean large volumes of storm water/urban runoff; and implementation of Low Impact Development practices that require new developments to clean and infiltrate storm water and urban runoff emanating from private property. The City does not have any specific funding set for stormwater compliance. Therefore, the City is requesting assistance from Culver City taxpayers to help reduce/eliminate harmful pollution from entering our waterways and protect local sources of drinking water from contamination. The tax measure would fund innovative infrastructure projects throughout the City and watershed that will capture and clean storm water/urban runoff before it enters waterways such as Ballona Creek or Marina del Rey. Some projects will be designed to re-use water or recharge local sources of ground water. In this way, the captured runoff becomes an asset, rather than a liability.

Full implementation of the EWMP, which is required to comply with the Permit, is estimated to cost the City up to $125 million. The proposed measure would only partially fund this requirement with the average homeowner paying roughly $99 a year, generating an estimated $2 million in annual revenues that may only be used for pollution prevention and clean-up of local waterways.

**MORE INFO:** Persons who are unable to attend the meeting but wish to provide the City Council with written comment may do so by any of the following means BEFORE 4:00 p.m. on July 11, 2016:

1. By LETTER to the City Clerk, City of Culver City, 9770 Culver Blvd., Culver City, CA 90232;
2. By FAX to the City Clerk at 310-253-5830; or
3. By E-MAIL to city.clerk@culvercity.org.

The City Council Agenda Item Report will be available for viewing on the City’s website on or after July 5, 2016 at www.culvercity.org, or at the City Clerk’s Office or the Julian Dixon Library, 4975 Overland Avenue, Culver City.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:**

Please contact Charles D. Herbertson, Director of Public Works/City Engineer, at (310) 253-5635 or charles.herbertson@culvercity.org; or Jeff Muir, Chief Financial Officer, at (310) 253-5865 or jeff.muir@culvercity.org, with any questions regarding this notice or the proposed funding initiative.

*You may sign up for the City’s E-Mail Notification System by logging onto www.culvercity.org or calling the City Clerk’s Office at 310-253-5851. A USPS notification system is also available. They are both FREE!*