

The City of Culver City (City) is developing a Stormwater Quality Master Plan (Master Plan). Urban runoff from rainfall or dry-weather water waste flows into Ballona Creek and eventually the ocean through a network of underground pipes and channels, a system referred to as the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4). During this process, pollutants can mix with urban runoff, causing damage to aquatic life and potential health risks to humans. For these reasons, federal, state and local regulations establish water quality targets to prevent waterbodies from becoming impaired by specific pollutants and to protect public health and the environment.

To meet water quality compliance targets, the City is responsible for capturing 99 acre-feet of stormwater in the Ballona Creek Watershed with Best Management Practices (BMPs/Projects). For perspective, that's like filling up one football field with 99 feet of water. The Master Plan is a customized tool that can be used to support stormwater quality compliance strategy, prioritize BMPs and spending, and maximize grant funding opportunities.



Project Identification & Prioritization

Based on the physical characteristics of Culver City and stormwater quality goals and requirements, the Master Plan analyzed potential project opportunities for capturing and managing stormwater in the Ballona Creek Watershed. This resulted in the identification of over 400 project opportunities and a total of approximately 69 acre-feet of potential project storage. There are three different ways the Master Plan prioritizes projects: 1) by annual budget; 2) by project cost-effectiveness; and 3) multi-benefit metrics.

The types of project opportunities evaluated in the Master Plan include:

- **Regional Projects** – Larger centralized facilities that can manage larger volumes of water, for example, basins and underground vaults. Due to their ability to handle large amounts of water, these can be cost-effective solutions for treating stormwater.
- **Green Street Projects** – Small scale projects such as bioretention (e.g., soil planting beds) located along roadways. These projects can be designed to receive stormwater from streets via curb cutouts. In addition to water quality benefits, these projects can provide pedestrian safety, traffic calming, trees and other benefits.
- **Low Impact Development Projects** – Small scale projects that capture and use or treat stormwater on a property level. Examples include rainwater cisterns, rain gardens and permeable pavements.



Master Plan Development and Next Steps

Finalizing the Master Plan

- Priority project opportunities have been identified and the City has developed the Draft Master Plan for release in May 2021.
- The City is hosting two virtual community workshops to seek input on the Draft Master Plan in June 2021.
- The Master Plan will be finalized for adoption by the City Council in August 2021.

Moving Projects Forward

- The City will select projects to implement and pursue funding.
- There will be future opportunities for community involvement as projects move forward to feasibility study, design and construction.

Funding

Based on planning estimates, it would cost approximately \$140 million to implement projects to meet stormwater quality compliance. The Clean Water, Clean Beach Parcel Tax (Measure CW) was passed by Culver City residents in 2016, and the Los Angeles County Safe Clean Water Program Parcel Tax (Measure W) was passed by Los Angeles County voters in 2018. The total dedicated funding to the City for stormwater quality work from these sources is approximately \$2.75 million annually.

Additional sources of funding are needed to cover the cost of projects. The City will seek grant funding opportunities, project partners, as well as public-private partnerships, which can foster working relationships between the City and its local businesses while implementing more effective, lower-cost projects that benefit local water resources and the community.

Regional Stormwater Management

The City is required to comply with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) MS4 permit program established by the federal Clean Water Act. The City's MS4 permit is regulated by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, which has adopted the Ballona Creek Enhanced Watershed Management Program as well as the Marina Del Rey Enhanced Watershed Management Program as MS4 permit compliance pathways. The City has already met compliance targets in the Marina Del Rey watershed.



For more information and to sign up to receive project updates, please visit www.culvercity.org/swqmp, or contact Chanel Kincaid at chanel.kincaid@culvercity.org.