

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
CENTRAL COAST REGION**

**STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF September 6, 2012**  
Prepared on August 2, 2012

**ITEM NUMBER: 7**

**SUBJECT: The Low Impact Development Initiative, 2012 Status Report**

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Stormwater management is not new to California where flood control for protection of public property and safety has been a major component of municipal services for decades. In recent years however, national awareness of the adverse impacts associated with stormwater runoff volumes and associated pollutants has resulted in changes to how stormwater is managed. In particular, the impacts associated with post-construction stormwater runoff from new and redevelopment, caused by increased impervious surfaces, has become an important focus for water quality protection.

Low Impact Development (LID) is a stormwater management approach to control stormwater on-site using site design (e.g., reduction of impervious surfaces) and decentralized stormwater control measures such as pervious pavements, and bioretention facilities to reduce runoff rates and volumes. By mimicking natural site hydrology and pollutant removal, LID is an improvement to stormwater management and consequently, is now required by water quality regulators across the nation for post-construction stormwater control.

### **The Central Coast LID Initiative**

The Central Coast Water Board established the Central Coast LID Initiative in 2008 to support the implementation of LID. Currently staffed at 1.5 persons, the Central Coast LID Initiative provides technical assistance to Central Coast LID stakeholders with a focus on supporting implementation of LID by municipalities. Central Coast LID Initiative Annual Work Plans (2008-2012) have identified and pursued three priority assistance categories:

1. Local Regulations (e.g., codes and ordinances to support LID)
2. Project Design (e.g., LID technical specifications, design approaches and performance)
3. Outreach and Education (e.g., LID training, on-call expertise for Central Coast stakeholders)

Building upon expertise acquired in the Pacific Northwest where LID has been practiced for over 15 years, and understanding challenges and opportunities unique to California, staff from the Central Coast LID Initiative works with West Coast LID and stormwater management experts to leverage knowledge and benefit for the Central Coast Region. Since 2008, the Central Coast LID Initiative has helped acquire over \$3 million dollars in funding for regional and statewide LID and hydromodification control efforts focused on municipal support and implementation.

The Central Coast LID Initiative Project Director, Dr. Darla Inglis will share examples of current LID Initiative efforts during the September 6, 2012 Water Board meeting, including:

- *Projects:* Paso Robles 21<sup>st</sup> Green/Complete project, Atascadero Zoo Green Parking Lot, Santa Maria Veteran's Memorial Parking Lot.
- *Technical Guidance:* bioretention design specifications, LID-friendly parking lot design.
- *Local LID Code Update Assistance:* updates to landscape codes and ordinances for seven Central Coast municipalities; upcoming efforts for additional Region 3 and statewide municipalities.
- *Partnerships and Collaboration:* UC Davis, CSU Monterey Bay, Cal Poly, CASQA, Local Government Commission, Joint Effort, State Board.

### Central Coast Water Board's LID Fund

The Central Coast Water Board created the LID Fund in 2008, allocating \$2 million dollars to an endowment and \$250,000 to an Operating Fund. After four years of operation, the LID Fund balance at the end of July 2012 was approximately \$2,054,550.

The fund, which is managed by the Bay Foundation of Morro Bay, has had approximately \$1M in income, since inception, including approximately \$670,000 in returns on investments and more than \$270,000 in Supplemental Environmental Project funds from Central Coast Water Board enforcement cases that resulted in Administrative Civil Liabilities (Table 1). Central Coast Water Board staff has allocated a total of \$1,176,230 from the LID Fund to support implementation of LID throughout the Central Coast, including approximately \$460,215 to the Central Coast LID Initiative.

**Table 1: Summary of LID Fund Income and Expenses from Inception (2008) to July 2012**

INCOME	Returns on Investment	\$707,214
	Supplemental Environmental Project Funds	\$272,000
	<i>TOTAL INCOME</i>	<i>\$979,214</i>
EXPENSES	Consulting Services (includes LID Initiative at \$460,125)	\$1,176,230
	Bay Foundation Administrative Expenses	\$103,270
	<i>TOTAL EXPENSES</i>	<i>\$1,279,500</i>