

Agua Hedionda Watershed Planning Group Meeting #7

**Agua Hedionda Lagoon Discovery Center (Conference Room)
(1580 Cannon Road - Corner of Cannon and Faraday Rds, Carlsbad)**

1:00 – 3:00 pm, March 27th, 2007

MEETING SUMMARY

1. Introductions & Announcements
2. Summary of Watershed Modeling Results
 - Model includes scenarios for predevelopment, existing (2007), and future (2030) conditions with and without BMPs
 - The focus of the model is on hydrology, sediment loading and water quality.
 - The model includes a module for predicting irrigation flows that become streamflow.
 - A variety of rainfall simulations were run, including a 10-year average and individual small storm events.
 - The most significant improvement for future scenarios was based on reduction of volume due to increasing pervious surfaces through LID, peak flows and pollutant loading.
3. Summary of Low Impact Development (LID) Scenario Conceptual Designs (see Powerpoint presentation)
 - Presentation was made of potential conceptual LID designs for different types of development
 - LID Techniques - The most appropriate LID techniques for each development type were outlined.
 - LID Constraints - The main LID constraints for the watershed are slope, soil erosion hazard, low soil infiltration rates, and low rainfall/arid climate.
 - Comments:
 - Future Development Map - It was requested that green not be use to depict the “warehouse/industrial/transportation” category.
 - Future Development Map – some of the developments shown as “future” may already be constructed and should be considered “existing”. (Note: Tetra Tech clarified that for the purposes of modeling, “existing” is as of the year 2007 when the land use for the modeling was developed.)
 - The scale of the maps is small and it was requested that scalable maps be sent out to the WPG. Tetra Tech will also produce large-scale maps for the group to review (Buffer Restoration Opportunities, Wetland Restoration Opportunities and Future Development Map). Meleah will convene a meeting for those who want to review the map at a larger scale.
 - LID Techniques - A concern was voiced that some LID techniques required irrigation and this is not acceptable for the watershed because of the lack of water in the region.
 - LID Techniques – The County indicated that they will be adopting a landscape ordinance that will provide guidance for plant types appropriate for the region.
 - LID Techniques – The question was raised as to whether rain barrels and cisterns are appropriate for this area because of the low rainfall amounts.
 - A concern was raised about the potential impact on plants from use of reclaimed water.

4. Evaluation Process for Identifying Restoration and Acquisition Opportunities

- Screening process and evaluation criteria was presented for Land Acquisition for preservation, buffer restoration, and wetland restoration.
 - Land Acquisition findings – Total area of opportunity is 2,700 acres of unprotected natural land area. Parcels of over 10 acres make up an area of 1,400 acres. Top ranking parcels cover 123 acres of unprotected natural area with 57 acres of riparian habitat.
- Comments:
 - Evaluation Criteria for Restoration Projects – Cultural resources need to be considered, however, maps and determinations can not be provided until a project site is selected.
 - Evaluation Criteria for Restoration Projects – Trail opportunities should be considered. The group determined that trails were not always a benefit and needed to be considered on a site-by-site basis during implementation. If done properly in the proper place, interpretive signs could be used on trails to increase awareness and stewardship.
 - Evaluation Criteria for Restoration Projects – Sensitive tree species should be reviewed because willows should be considered. It was suggested that the sensitive species outlined in the MHCP/MSCP be reviewed.
 - Evaluation Criteria for Restoration Projects – The WPG would like to review the screening and scoring criteria prior to its finalization
 - Submittals – A restoration plan is required to be submitted to the RWQCB by the end of April. The WPG agreed that this submittal will be considered draft and to be reviewed after submission by the WPG. WPG comments will be included in the final Watershed Plan. The Plan must be considered a living and adaptive document subject to changes as new conditions arise.
 - Prioritization of Restoration and Acquisition – It was suggested that a scoring system of High-Medium-Low be used rather than an exact score.

5. Finalizing Objectives for Goals #4 and #5

- Presentation and discussion of draft objectives
- Goal #4 – The WPG agreed that the draft objectives were too general. They should align with the key local regulations that affect the watershed. It would also be helpful to see “Actions” in order to help define the objectives.
- Goals #5 – The WPG education committee should help refine these objectives. One suggested objective was to have local governments and NGOs adopt plans, policies and projects from the Plan.

6. Next Steps

- TAC meeting in about 3 weeks (April 15th) to review restoration opportunities
- WPG meeting at the end of April to review restoration opportunities and watershed management strategies
- Submittal of 1) Preliminary Model and 2) Restoration and Acquisition Opportunities reports to the State at the end of April
- WPG meeting at the end of May to review strategies for implementation
- Draft Plan in June – TAC and WPG meetings to review
- Final Plan July