



CITY OF SAN MATEO

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Agenda Report

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TO: Sustainability & Infrastructure Commission
FROM: Brad B. Underwood, Public Works Director
PREPARED BY: Sarah Scheidt, Regulatory Compliance Manager
MEETING DATE: March 11, 2020

SUBJECT:
Evaluation of Potential Trash Control Measures

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive an update on potential trash control measures and provide input on recommended approaches to achieve required trash reductions.

BACKGROUND:

The San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board issued the Municipal Regional Permit (MRP) in an effort to reduce pollution from stormwater discharges into creeks and the San Francisco Bay. The MRP requires the City to plan for and demonstrate “no adverse impacts” (i.e., 100% reduction) of trash discharged to receiving water bodies by July 1, 2022. The City demonstrated a reduction of 94% in its fiscal year (FY) 2018-19 Annual Report and thereby achieved the mandatory 80% trash load reduction deadline of July 1, 2019.

The City accomplished the reported trash reduction using source controls (e.g., plastic bag product bans), full trash capture systems, creek and shoreline cleanups, and other trash controls. Trash reduction is measured using credits for source control and shoreline cleanups, direct calculation for full capture systems, and on-land visual trash assessments (OVTAs) following approved assessment methodologies to measure other controls. However, there is uncertainty regarding whether credits associated with source controls will continue to be allowed in future MRPs and whether other actions implemented by the City will continue to achieve the trash load reductions.

The City and its consultant, EOA, Inc., recently completed a draft Stormwater Trash Control Measures Cost-Benefit Evaluation (Study) to identify the costs, benefits, and risks of a range of new and enhanced trash control measures. There are several combinations of trash control implementation scenarios that are anticipated to result in 100% trash reduction if fully implemented. The following new and enhanced control measures were evaluated:

- Publicly owned large full capture systems,
- Full capture requirement for private properties,
- Publicly owned small full capture systems,
- Enhanced municipal trash inspection program,
- Curb-inlet screens on inlets in the public right of way,
- Enhanced municipal street sweeping,
- Expanded on-land cleanups,
- Enhanced city-wide public education and outreach program, and
- Municipal ordinance – single-use plastic food service ware.

Future reductions will be accomplished with a combination of full capture and enhancements of other control measures. Currently, the Poplar/Golf Course large capture device CIP is funded and will begin design this fiscal year. The ongoing North Shoreview Flood Improvement project includes planned installation of a large capture system at the Coyote Point Pump Station. Public Works recently began to require newly developed properties and properties undergoing significant redevelopment to install full capture systems within the property.

In addition to the planned full capture systems mentioned above, there are a range of approaches between the City assuming full responsibility for trash capture to requiring all individual properties to install trash capture devices. Based on the evaluation, the recommended approach is:

- Focused installation of publicly owned small trash capture in selected, high-effectiveness areas
- Enhanced commercial property inspection program
- Enhanced public education and outreach campaign
- Modification of enforcement policy to allow for enforcement against non-compliant, trash-generating properties

Small capture systems added at appropriate locations in the public right of way would assist to achieve compliance with the trash reduction requirements. However, while these systems may be feasible to construct, they are expensive to maintain and may not be the most cost-effective way of achieving full compliance.

An enhanced trash inspection program would include conducting targeted trash inspections and enforcement at existing, and at additional businesses and other private properties that have moderate or high trash levels that are not currently inspected for stormwater compliance. The enhanced inspection program would be implemented in conjunction with additional public education and outreach regarding compliance requirements.

An enhanced public education and outreach campaign is an existing council priority and is currently being developed. Goals of the outreach campaign will be to raise general awareness and to promote on-land cleanup through existing Team Up to Clean Up and Adopt-a-Drain programs. Expanded on-land cleanups could also potentially be accomplished as part of the new field maintenance commercial district cleaning service program.

As appropriate and if needed to achieve the trash capture requirements, the enforcement policy could be modified and could include authority to issue violations or other administrative penalties for non-compliance potentially up to requiring installation and maintenance of trash full capture system(s) in their inlets.

BUDGET IMPACT:

Publicly owned full capture projects are currently funded by existing solid waste program revenues and grant funds from Caltrans. Long-term operation and maintenance of these devices do not have an existing dedicated funding source. A funding analysis is currently underway to identify potential sources of funding for storm system activities, including trash capture operations and maintenance.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:

In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(2), this project is not a 'project' subject to CEQA as it is a continuing administrative or maintenance activity such as the purchase of supplies, personnel-related action, or general policy and procedure making.

NOTICE PROVIDED

All meeting noticing requirements were met.

ATTACHMENTS

Att 1 – DRAFT Stormwater Trash Control Measures Cost-Benefit Evaluation Technical Memo

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