

APPENDIX G
CITY'S POLICIES

Design Policies and Procedures for Implementing Green Infrastructure

Design Policy for Green Infrastructure

The City of Martinez is committed to shifting its conventional “collect and convey” storm drain infrastructure to more resilient, sustainable stormwater management. Such a system reduces runoff volumes, disperses runoff to vegetated areas, harvests and uses runoff where feasible, promotes infiltration and evapotranspiration, and uses natural processes to detain and treat runoff. This will include implementing, where and when feasible, Low Impact Development (LID) features and facilities such as pervious pavement, bioretention facilities (“rain gardens”), green roofs, and rainwater harvesting systems.

Green Infrastructure in New Development and Redevelopment Projects

The City uses its planning, zoning, and building authorities to require proposed new development and redevelopment projects to incorporate LID features and facilities in accordance with the New Development and Redevelopment (Provision C.3) requirements. This is implemented with the current edition of the Contra Costa Clean Water Program’s *Stormwater C.3 Guidebook*.

The City requires that the location and footprints of planned bioretention facilities are incorporated into site plans, landscaping plans, renderings, and improvement plans submitted for The City’s discretionary review. The City reviews construction plans and inspects construction of LID facilities to ensure the facilities are built in accordance with the criteria in the *Guidebook*. The City requires the owners of properties with LID facilities to agree to maintain the facilities in perpetuity and conducts periodic operation and maintenance inspections of built facilities.

During early planning of projects, feasibility studies, drainage reports, Initial Studies, and Environmental Impact Reports are required to demonstrate:

- Runoff from impervious roofs and pavement is dispersed to adjacent pervious areas where feasible and in accordance with the *Guidebook*.
- Bioretention facilities detain, retain, and treat runoff from remaining roofs and pavement.
- The bioretention facilities are in high-visibility, common, accessible areas and are integrated with site landscaping.
- Plans, drawings, and exhibits show the bioretention facilities at a level of detail consistent with the document.

When reviewing applications for Provision C.3 compliance, the City considers the project scope to include any impervious surfaces added or replaced within the adjacent public right-of-way (street frontage improvements) in connection with the project. Applicants are required to evaluate the potential to direct runoff from paved areas within the adjacent public right-of-way to LID facilities located either within the right-of-way or on the parcel to be developed or redeveloped. Where it is feasible to do so, the project must be designed and built to incorporate these facilities. The City may require, as a condition of development approval, that the owner operate and maintain the facilities in perpetuity. Where previously existing pavement within the public right-of-way is made to drain to LID facilities, the square footage of that existing

pavement may, at the City's discretion, be credited toward square footage of new and replaced impervious area for which LID treatment is not provided.

The City maintains a prioritized list of opportunities to retrofit streets and storm drains with Green Infrastructure. An initial list is in the City's Green Infrastructure Plan (September 2019).

The list is updated continuously, or at least annually, with new opportunities:

- All new construction and substantial upgrades to City facilities, including public buildings, offices, stations, parking lots, and corporation yards, incorporate LID features and facilities in accordance with the New Development and Redevelopment (Provision C.3) requirements of the Municipal Regional Stormwater Permit. When the project includes street frontage improvements, and where feasible, the project is also designed so that street runoff is directed to LID facilities within the site or in the adjacent public right of way.
- All transportation projects for which the City is a sponsor or participant, including roadway widening or reconstruction, streetscape improvements, "complete streets" projects, traffic calming, safe routes to schools, and other projects that involve roadway reconfiguration, are evaluated for the potential to incorporate LID features and facilities.
- All storm drain projects are evaluated for the potential to incorporate LID features and facilities to treat stormwater and manage flows before discharge to streams or the municipal separate storm sewer system. Where appropriate, LID facilities are incorporated into projects to daylight or restore urban streams.
- The City has an ongoing process, affirmed in each adopted budget, to proactively review aspects of its storm drainage system to identify additional opportunities to incorporate LID features and facilities, with an emphasis on exceptional or low-cost opportunities.
- The City receives and adds to the list Green Infrastructure opportunities identified by the public.

Where implementation of LID facilities has been found to be infeasible, an opportunity may be removed from the prioritized list.

Evaluation of Listed Opportunities for Green Infrastructure Retrofits

For new and substantial upgrades to City facilities, transportation projects, and storm drainage projects, whenever doing so can be made consistent with the project objectives, would be reasonably cost-effective, and would be technically feasible, the City will incorporate LID features and facilities into the preliminary design of the project. LID features will be incorporated in project final designs unless the incremental costs would prevent the project from being constructed.

The City has an ongoing process, affirmed in each adopted budget, to evaluate opportunities on the list and to seek funding, including submittal of grant applications, for implementation.

Green Infrastructure Design Guidelines and Specifications

When determining design elements to be included in streetscape improvements and complete streets projects, project managers and designers will consult the National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) *Urban Street Stormwater Guide*, the San Mateo County *Sustainable Green Streets and Parking Lots Design Guidebook*, and other resources available on the CCCWP website.

LID features and facilities will be designed and constructed in accordance with the applicable specifications and criteria in the Contra Costa Clean Water Program's *Stormwater C.3 Guidebook*. Additional details and specifications, as may be needed for design of street retrofit projects, may be adapted from the *San Francisco Public Utilities Commission Stormwater*

Requirements and Design Guidelines Appendix B (Green Infrastructure Details), the Central Coast Low Impact Development Institute Bioretention Standard Details and Specifications, or other resources compiled by the CCCWP and available through their website.

The City will participate in a countywide interagency process, convened by the CCCWP, to facilitate excellence and consistency in the design and construction of Green Infrastructure features and facilities. The City will:

- Share with other Contra Costa municipalities, through the CCCWP, conceptual, preliminary, and final plans and specifications developed for Green Infrastructure projects.
- Identify significant Green Infrastructure projects and issues encountered during design and construction of those projects and bring those projects and issues forth in online forums and in-person interagency workshops and meetings.
- Participate in evaluation and recommendation of design details and specifications for Green Infrastructure, where doing so furthers the purposes of countywide consistency and cost-efficiency, and quality of the built facilities.
- Participate, as a reviewer, in the drafting and updating of a Green Infrastructure Design Guide, the purpose of which will be to assist capital improvement projects staff in Contra Costa municipalities throughout the steps of project identification, evaluation, design, and construction.