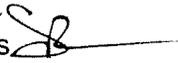




STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: September 6, 2016

To: Honorable Mayor & City Council

From: Trish Rhay, Assistant Director, Public Works 
Josette Descalzo, Environmental Compliance and Sustainability Programs
Manager 
Derek Nguyen, Project Manager 

Subject: Green Streets and Water Efficient Landscape Project on Burton Way Median

INTRODUCTION

The City of Beverly Hills is a co-permittee of the 2012 Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Permit (2012 MS4 Permit). The 2012 MS4 Permit is a regional permit that enforces the requirements of the Federal Clean Water Act to preserve the health of surface waters of the United States. The cities of Beverly Hills, Culver City, Los Angeles, Santa Monica, West Hollywood and unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County discharge to Ballona Creek and are subject to the requirements of the MS4 Permit. Since this is a regional issue, the agencies formed the Ballona Creek Watershed Management Group (BC-WMG) and developed and submitted the Ballona Creek Enhanced Watershed Management Program (EWMP) Plan to comply with the requirements of the MS4 Permit. The EWMP Plan is each agency's action-based approach ("recipe") to meet water quality standards for Ballona Creek. One of the "recipes" for compliance is the construction of green streets to capture urban runoff and prevent pollutants from entering Ballona Creek.

The Green Streets and Water Efficient Landscape Project on Burton Way Median is the City's first green streets project. If feasible, the project will help the City comply with the MS4 Permit and will also serve as a water efficient landscape model for residents.

Staff is seeking public input on re-designing the landscape on Burton Way Median. Staff has planned three rounds of public input process to thoroughly include the community's vision for the median.

BACKGROUND

On December 28, 2012, the new Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Permit (2012 MS4 Permit) was adopted by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) to ensure compliance with the regulations under the Federal Clean Water Act. The permit prescribed additional regulations on incorporated cities in Los Angeles County and the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (Permittees) which includes incorporating many Total

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Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) and compliance deadlines established throughout Los Angeles County. The Ballona Creek TMDLs has a final compliance deadline set for 2021.

In order to comply with the permit, the City of Beverly Hills, with the approval of the City Council, joined the BC-WMG which includes the cities of Culver City, Los Angeles, Inglewood, West Hollywood, Santa Monica and unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County. As part of permit compliance, the BC-WMG group developed and submitted a EWMP plan on June 30, 2015, to the RWQCB that addresses each agency's action-based approach ("recipe") to meet water quality standards prescribed in the permit.

One of the "recipes" for compliance is the construction of green streets to prevent pollutants from reaching Ballona Creek. Green streets are structural functions in urban transportation right-of-ways that capture, infiltrate or treat urban runoff. Green Streets are typically bio-retention/biofiltration Best Management Practices (BMPs) in the form bioswale next to the curb and gutter.

Based on the EWMP plan, the City of Beverly Hills will need to capture 39 acre-ft. (~12.7M gallons) of urban runoff for every storm event to achieve water quality standards.

When staff was searching for green streets opportunities, the Burton Way Median became a promising site due to the following:

1. Transportation Right-of-Way
2. Large tributary drainage area
3. Large project site
4. Re-landscaping the deteriorating Burton Way Median lawn condition
5. Potential minimal traffic impact because most of the work will be done inside the median
6. Community sustainability project

On February 8, 2016, the Public Works Department posted a Request for Proposals (RFP) soliciting consulting services to develop green streets functions and water efficient landscape model on Burton Way Median. The main goal of this project is to capture urban runoff (green streets function), exhibit water efficient landscape and incorporate public art on Burton Way Median. During the RFP development, the Community Services Department was involved in providing key requirements regarding water efficient landscape and integration of public art pieces. Staff from Public Works and Community Services were panelists in the RFP selection process and chose CWE as the consulting firm for the project. The City Council approved the agreement with CWE on June 21, 2016.

Prior to awarding the agreement, staff started a public involvement process by presenting the concepts to the Public Works and Fine Arts Commissions. Staff presented the multi-benefit functions of the project such as the potential for stormwater capture for water resource (irrigation) and re-purposing the median as a water-efficient landscape and public art piece garden. Based on the purview of each commission, the Public Works (green streets and water resource) and Fine Arts Commissions (public art piece location) will have active roles in advising the City Council on this project.

DISCUSSION

The project is currently in the initial feasibility and design phase. CWE is collecting all related survey data (i.e. geotechnical data and utilities) to determine the feasibility for infiltration and/or potential to capture urban surface and subsurface runoff.

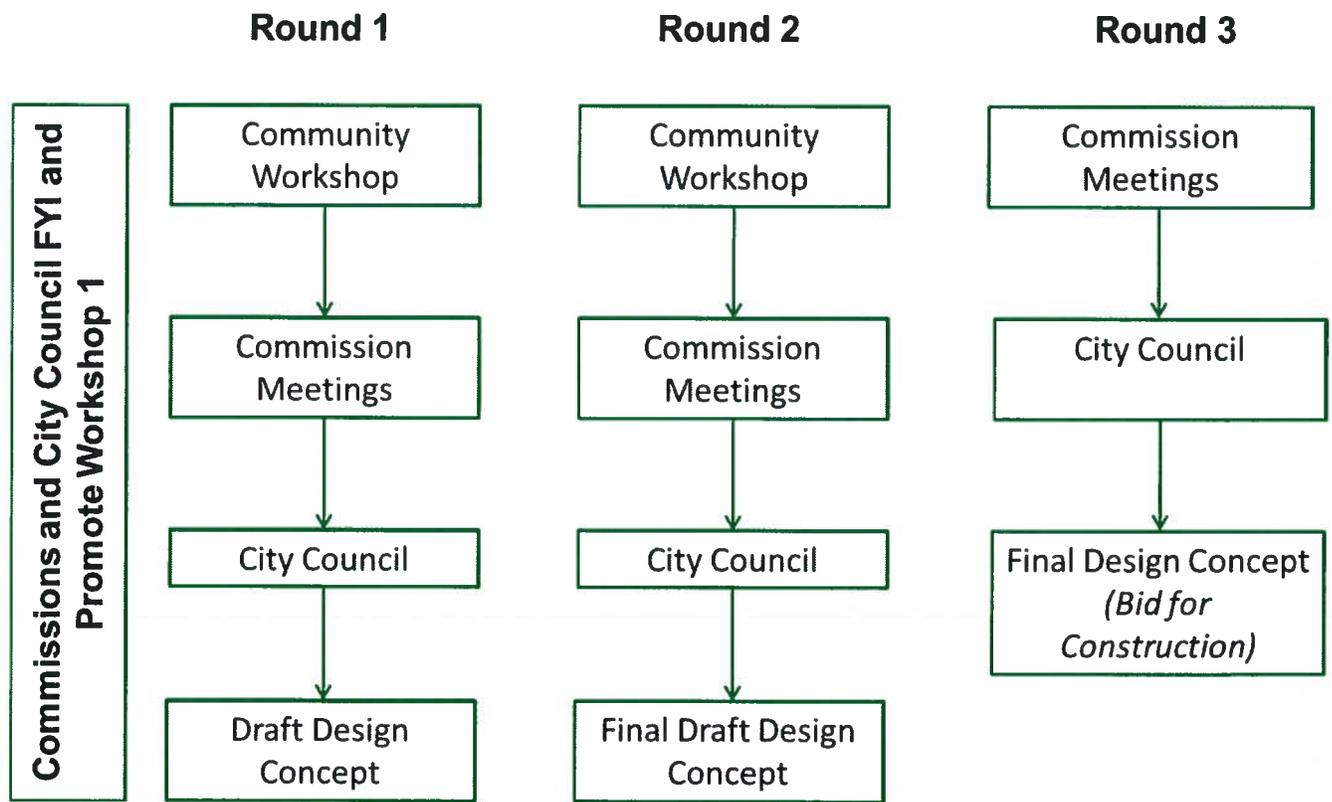
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Staff will also be seeking the community's input on the water efficient landscape design for the median. To present the project and updates thoroughly, staff has scheduled three rounds for public participation (See Figure 1).

Round 1 starts with the first public workshop scheduled for Saturday, September 17, 2016, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM in the Municipal Gallery. During the first public workshop, staff will be presenting the background and purposes of the project. Staff will then direct the participants to vote on the plant palette, amenities and overall garden pathways for the median. Staff and the CWE team will use a charrette process to provide a "blank median canvas" where community members can visualize how their selections will look on the median. Round 1 will continue with the same process with the Fine Arts and Public Works Commissions and City Council where staff will provide a summary of each event. When all comments have been incorporated, a first design concept will be presented.

Following the same process in Round 1, Round 2 starts with the second public workshop where the community can comment on the first design concept and the commissions and City Council can provide their comments afterwards. After Round 2, a final draft design concept will be provided. For Round 3, there will be no community workshop; however, the final draft design concept will be emailed to the participants of the first two public workshops. Round 3 will be an opportunity for the commissions and City Council to make minor changes and approve the final design concept for construction bid.

Staff believes that this process provides the community sufficient opportunities to express their vision that is appealing to Beverly Hills.



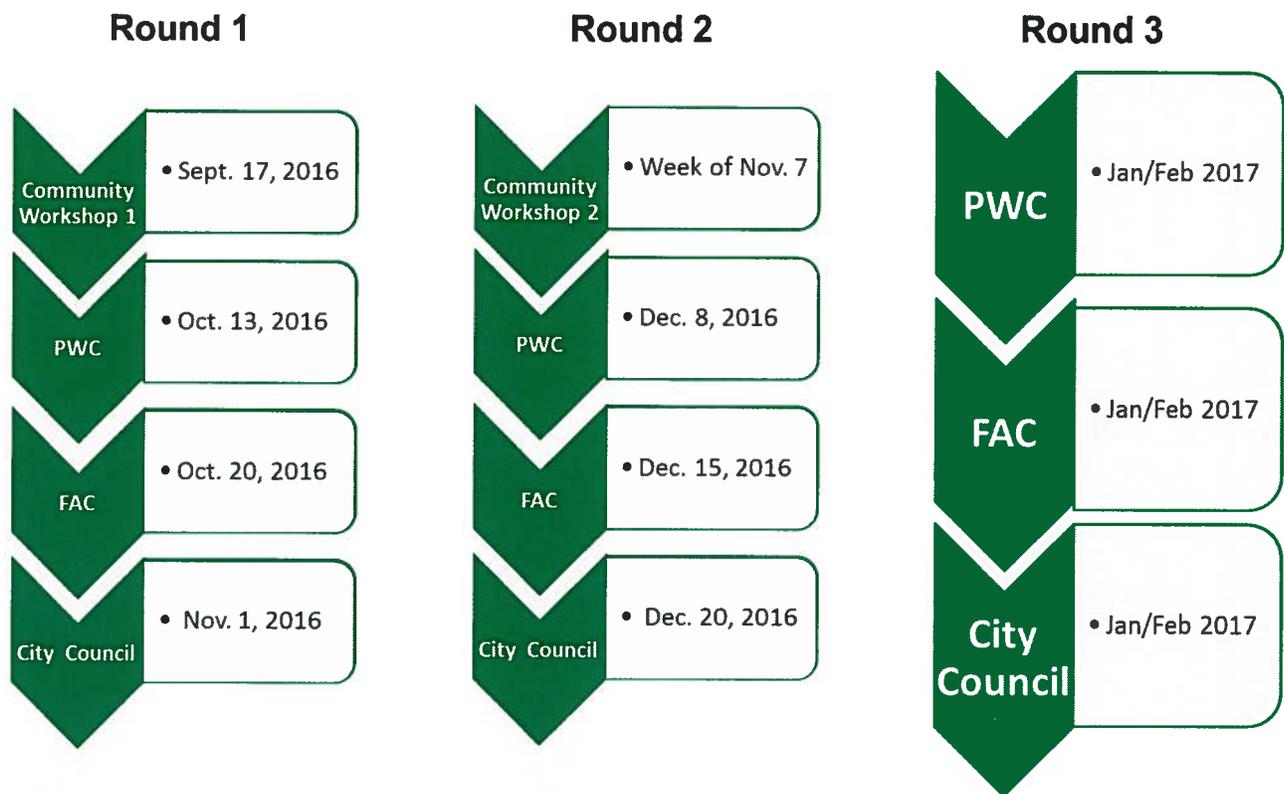


Figure 1: Public Outreach Process and Schedule

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

RECOMMENDATION

This item is for informational purposes.


George Chavez
Approved By