

WSCCOG Sustainability Strategic Initiative (FY 2015-16)

The proposed FY 2015-16 Annual Work Plan introduces a new Strategic Initiative in Sustainability. The proposed initiative will focus on supporting the Westside cities in advancing sustainability efforts in the subregion to enhance the quality of daily life, sustain the environment and enrich the future for Westside residents, businesses, and visitors. The FY 2015-16 work plan for the Sustainability Strategic Initiative will focus on the following:

Stormwater

Polluted stormwater runoff is commonly transported through Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4), from which it is often discharged untreated into local waterbodies. To prevent harmful pollutants from being washed or dumped into an MS4, operators obtain a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit and develop a Stormwater Management Program.

In 2012, the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Board adopted waste discharge requirements and a NPDES Permit (Order No. R4-2012-0175) for MS4 discharges within the Coastal Watersheds of Los Angeles County. The County owns and maintains MS4s throughout the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County, which convey both storm water and non-storm water discharges into receiving waters in all of the major watershed management areas within the region, including the Santa Monica Bay Watershed Management Area, which includes the Ballona Creek watershed. The Ballona Creek covers Permittees within the Cities of Beverly Hills, Culver City, Los Angeles, Santa Monica, and West Hollywood; County of Los Angeles; and Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD).

Compliance with the MS4 will require coordination among municipal jurisdictions within Los Angeles County. The new MS4 Permit provides Permittees with incentives for integrated water planning. By combining water supply and water quality planning, Permittees can attract funding partners to build projects with multiple benefits.

The LACFCD led an unsuccessful multi-year effort to develop a sustainable revenue source for municipalities to manage stormwater programs and implement water quality projects. In the wake of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors' decision not to move forward with the "Clean Water, Clean Beaches" parcel fee measure in March 2013, the City Managers Committee of the California Contract Cities, the League of California Cities, LA Division and a variety of non-

governmental organizations have been exploring funding options and governance models to fund and manage stormwater efforts.

The WSCCOG staff proposes to monitor these efforts, inform its members of important developments and funding opportunities, and when appropriate, assist in aligning a coordinated Westside Cities response to the evolving policy and funding landscape.

Cap-and-Trade

The proposed FY 2015-16 state budget would allocate \$1 billion from Cap-and-Trade revenues to invest in programs related to low carbon transportation, affordable housing and sustainable communities, transit, energy efficiency, urban forests, and high-speed rail. The Cap-and-Trade programs would provide significant opportunity to fund projects and programs that reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the Westside subregion.

Community Choice Aggregation

Adopted into law in 2002 in California, Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) allows cities and counties to aggregate their buying power to secure electrical energy supply contracts on a region-wide basis. Several cities in Los Angeles County have adopted resolutions supporting CCA and are seeking to develop implementation plans. Beverly Hills and Santa Monica have joined other South Bay cities in participating in a CCA Feasibility Study spearheaded by the South Bay Clean Power.

The Executive Director team will assist the Board on the following Sustainability activities:

- Provide guidance, support and advocacy to WSCCOG member cities as they develop stormwater compliance strategies and financing mechanisms
- Monitor and advise on Cap-and-Trade policy and funding opportunities, including identifying grant opportunities and funding related to Sustainable Communities and Clean Transportation, which includes the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) Program, Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program, and Low-Carbon Transit Operations Program
- Coordinate regular check-ins with WSCCOG appointees to the SCAG Regional Council District #41, SCAG Energy & Environment Committee, SCAG Community, Economic & Human Development Committee, and Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission
- Coordinate with SCAG in providing support and community outreach for the Electric Vehicle Charging Station Siting Study
- Monitor CCA efforts in the Los Angeles County and Westside subregion and provide guidance to WSCCOG member cities