

# ***New Standards for Development Projects***

August 2006

Update on the Stormwater Quality Design Manual for Sacramento and South Placer Regions

[www.sactostormwater.org/  
SSQP/development.asp](http://www.sactostormwater.org/SSQP/development.asp)

## **Stakeholders in the Design Manual Process**

The success of this important project will depend on the involvement of many local professionals whose work will be affected by the new requirements:

- Planners
- Architects
- Landscape Architects
- Engineers
- Environmental Consultants
- Developers
- Property Owners
- Regulatory Agency Staff
- Local Government Staff:  
County, Cities, Special  
Districts

## **Design Manual Steering Committee**

Representatives of the following agencies and companies have been meeting regularly since May 2005 to prepare the new Design Manual:

- County of Sacramento
- City of Sacramento
- City of Elk Grove
- City of Folsom
- City of Roseville
- CKB Environmental  
Consulting, Inc.
- ECORP Consulting, Inc.

## **Other Participating Agencies**

The following additional agencies will require compliance with the new Design Manual in their jurisdictions:

- City of Citrus Heights
- City of Galt
- City of Rancho Cordova

## **Outreach News**

You may have heard about the new Stormwater Quality Design Manual through your professional association's newsletter. In March and April of this year, we conducted outreach to ten different organizations in the greater Sacramento area, including AIA, APA, ASLA, BIA, CELSOC and others. We sent an informational flyer to over 300 interested stakeholders and distributed the flyer at local agency permit counters. We also created an informational presentation on our web site. If you are interested in having one of our staff make a presentation at one of your upcoming association meetings, please contact us. And check back regularly at [www.sacramentostormwater.org](http://www.sacramentostormwater.org) for the latest information.

## **Stay Tuned for Your Chance to Review the Draft Design Manual**

The Design Manual is now being reviewed by the local permitting agencies. When those comments are addressed, the document will be published for public review. Please contact us if you would like to be notified when the public review draft is available. Thank you for your patience as we work through some complex policy and design criteria issues. Our goal is to resolve as many of these issues as possible before the manual is published.

## **Low Impact Development and the New Design Manual**

Low impact development, or LID, has become a new buzzword for many in the development and design community. But, what is LID? This is perhaps the most widely accepted definition: "Low impact development is a stormwater management strategy that emphasizes conservation and use of existing natural site features integrated with distributed, small-scale stormwater controls to more closely mimic natural hydrologic patterns in residential, commercial, and industrial settings." (Puget Sound Action Team 2005).

## **Schedule Update\***

**May 18, 2006** — Sacramento agencies adopted amended stormwater quality design standards

**July-August 2006** — Agency review of draft Design Manual

**December 2006** — Public Review Draft of Design Manual available

**Early 2007** — Final Design Manual Published

*\*Stakeholder Outreach is continuing throughout this process*

The new Stormwater Quality Design Manual promotes integration of effective stormwater quality control measures into the site design from the earliest phase of conceptual planning. This approach will result in built projects with lowered impacts to the environment, thereby embracing the "low impact development (LID)" philosophy.

## **Integrated Planning and Design Approach**

In order for site designs to reflect the best stormwater management strategies, it is essential that stormwater be considered early in the site design process—before the site layout is established. Otherwise, the choice/location of stormwater controls will be constrained by prior site design decisions, such as grading contours, building footprint and parking lot layout. In such cases, you may be limited to selecting more expensive, higher-maintenance, and less aesthetically pleasing stormwater treatment options.

**Stay Informed!!** Add your name and contact information to our mailing list to get notified when the Draft Design Manual is available for review and to learn about other opportunities to provide feedback. Contact [dwrw@saccounty.net](mailto:dwrw@saccounty.net) with stormwater design manual in the subject line.