09-1554

JUN 23 2009

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

MOTION

Urbanization leads to increased impervious surface areas which results in increased runoff and the transport of pollutants to downstream receiving waters and less percolation to groundwater aquifers.

We need to find a new approach to managing storm water and urban runoff while mitigating the negative impacts of development and urbanization.

Currently other cities and counties are using Low Impact Design (LID) to address these issues. It is a source control concept that utilizes distributed, small, cost-effective natural systems in lieu of conventional end-of-line treatment facilities.

LID incorporates multi-beneficial site design elements that may include bio-retention and filtration/infiltration that limit impervious areas and maximize pervious surfaces. Use of LID helps reduce off-site runoff, improves water quality, and provides groundwater recharge while maintaining watershed characteristics.

LID is widely recognized as a sensible approach to storm water management. In contrast to traditional methods of managing storm water such as concrete gutters and storm drains, LID methods seek to maintain or restore the natural hydrologic character of sites. Roads, parking lots, and rooftops alter a site's natural hydrology thereby increasing runoff and decreasing infiltration. The use of LID methods mitigates these effects.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Department of Public Work's Bureau of Sanitation and the Planning Department, in conjunction with the City Attorney, be directed to report to the Council in 30 days on how we can continue to reduce our run off pollution through the revamping of our current ordinances or the development of a new ordinance, relative to storm water and urban runoff management which include the following components:

- Requires maximum capture of storm water/urban runoff to improve water quality and recharge groundwater;
- Encourages biofiltration or infiltration of storm water and urban runoff in future developments;
- Develops a mitigation alternative for rare circumstances where infiltration is technically infeasible;
- Encourages low water use planting, such as through drought tolerant vegetation;
- Promotes rainwater harvesting;
- Reduces off-site runoff and provides groundwater recharge;
- Reduces hydrologic impacts downstream;
- Enhances the recreational and aesthetic values in a community

ORIGINAL

PRESENTED BY: _____
WENDY GREUEL
Councilwoman, 2nd District

JUN 23 2009

SECONDED BY: _____

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