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TO: Santa Clara Basin Watershed Management Initiative Land Use Subgroup

FROM: Laura Prickett, Program Staff

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SUBJECT: Example Program Addressing Water Quality-Transportation Linkage

SCVURPPP's Copper/Nickel Work Plan includes a number of specific actions intended to help reduce traffic congestion. One of these is to provide updates regarding transportation issues at meetings of the Land Use Subgroup. At the July 11 meeting of the Land Use Subgroup, I will give an update on San Mateo County's Sustainable, Green Streets and Parking Lots Program, described below. This is an interesting program that a neighboring county has initiated to directly address the connection between motor vehicle transportation and water quality, funded by motor vehicle registration fees.

San Mateo County's Sustainable, Green Streets and Parking Lots Program

The Sustainable, Green Streets and Parking Lots Program is designed to generate support for the widespread use of stormwater pollution prevention, treatment, and flow control BMPs that are well suited for use with streets and parking lots. The program will fund demonstration projects in San Mateo County and prepare guidance materials for incorporating stormwater pollution prevention, treatment, and flow control BMPs into street and parking lot projects.

Funding Source for the Program

The Sustainable, Green Streets and Parking Lots Program receives funding from a countywide vehicle registration fee under Assembly Bill (AB) 1546. The State Legislature passed AB 1546 in 2004, authorizing the City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County (C/CAG) to impose a fee of up to \$4 on motor vehicles registered in San Mateo County to create a new source of revenue to fund local activities related to traffic congestion management and vehicle-related stormwater pollution prevention. The fee went into effect on July 1, 2005 and will terminate on January 1, 2009, although Senate Bill (SB) 613 has been introduced to extend the fee for an additional 10 years.

From July 1, 2005, through June 30, 2006, the fee generated \$2.7 million dollars of revenue from roughly 700,000 vehicles registered in San Mateo County. One half of the revenue is used to fund congestion projects such as ramp metering, employer and local shuttles, and Intelligent Transportation Systems, and the other half funds stormwater-related projects. Half of the stormwater funding is disbursed to the municipalities in San Mateo County for expenses related to local stormwater activities, such as street sweeping. The San Mateo Countywide Water Pollution Prevention Program (SMCWPPP) receives the other half of the stormwater funding, to use for countywide projects. To date, SMCWPPP has chosen to use most of its AB 1546

funding for the Sustainable, Green Streets and Parking Lots Program. It has also budgeted \$30,000 of AB 1546 funds to purchase a car wash kit for each of the 21 municipalities in the county, which they can loan to non-profit organizations for car wash fundraising events.

Stormwater-related projects funded through the AB 1546 fee must directly address pollution caused from motor vehicles and transportation systems, such as pollutants from brake pad wear, vehicle fluids such as oil, antifreeze, and gasoline, tar from streets, and paint, rubber and metals from vehicles.

Demonstration Project Grants

The Sustainable, Green Streets and Parking Lots Program includes both competitive grants and non-competitive grants for projects with countywide benefits. The first non-competitive grant recipient has been identified as the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, on the coastside, to include stormwater best management practices in its new parking lot. The Fitzgerald Marine Reserve's priority mission is education, and it has been designated as an Area of Special Biological Significance. The Program is currently looking for a non-competitive grant recipient on the bayside, and is drafting requirements and selection criteria for competitive projects. Applications for competitive grants will be solicited from municipalities in San Mateo County in Fall 2007.

In addition to the AB 1546 requirements for stormwater-related projects, described above, projects must be located in San Mateo County and either (a) demonstrate the use of landscape-based stormwater pollution prevention, treatment, and/or flow control BMPs as part of new or retrofitted street and parking lot projects, or (b) retrofit or replace an existing street crossing of a creek in order to eliminate adverse effects on water quality or improve fish passage. Grant funding will be limited to the stormwater pollution prevention, treatment, and flow duration control BMPs associated with the project, or to the cost of the features to eliminate adverse effects on water quality or fish passage caused by the street crossing of a creek. Each grant will be limited to no more than \$250,000.

Guidance Document

The Sustainable, Green Streets and Parking Lots Program is scheduled to release a Request for Proposals in 2007, to select a consultant to help develop a stormwater design standards guidebook for streets and parking lots. The design standards are expected to be useful to help provide technical support for the demonstration projects. The consultant may also provide technical assistance to grant recipients who choose to spend some of their grant funds in this manner. The budget for consulting services is \$170,000.

Relationship to the Grand Boulevard Initiative

When the Sustainable, Green Streets and Parking Lots Program was first initiated, SMCWPPP anticipated that it would primarily fund stormwater-related components of the Grand Boulevard Initiative, a collaboration of Santa Clara and San Mateo counties with 27 cities and local and regional agencies to improve the performance, safety and aesthetics of El Camino Real (The Alameda, in San Jose). SMCWPPP subsequently decided to allow more flexibility for the Sustainable, Green Streets and Parking Lots Program and not link it to the Grand Boulevard Initiative. However, municipalities in San Mateo County may apply for competitive grants to use AB 1546 funds for stormwater-related components of Grand Boulevard Initiative projects in their jurisdictions. In 2006 SCVURPPP and SMCWPPP prepared a joint grant application under the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, to help fund stormwater-related facilities for the Grand Boulevard Initiative.