

May 15, 2019

Kerri Romanow
San Jose City Hall
200 E. Santa Clara
San Jose, CA 95113

Dear Ms. Romanow,

RE: Green Stormwater Infrastructure Plan

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Green Stormwater Infrastructure Plan. SPUR has been a strong advocate for advancing green infrastructure and integrated stormwater management in the Bay Area. Managing stormwater and wastewater in urban environments is essential to public health, safety and quality of life. Managing it with nature-based and hybrid solutions offers an opportunity to not just improve the water quality of runoff, but to confer other benefits including flood mitigation, heat island reduction, traffic calming, beautification, and climate resilience.

We are pleased to see that the City of San Jose has developed an integrated vision and implementation plan that thoughtfully considers new and emerging best practices around green and blue infrastructure. The management of stormwater has become a site design imperative, a regulatory requirement, and an opportunity for excellence in sustainable landscape and urban design. SPUR strongly supports a robust green stormwater management regime in urban development and are supportive of this draft plan.

In our 2015 report, [Cracking the Code](#), we examined storm water management and recommended that creative, comprehensive approaches to stormwater treatment allow for better site design.

Recommendation 4.1: Comprehensive stormwater treatment plans should be required in Urban Village and Signature Project plans.

Recommendation 4.2: We recommended that stormwater treatment be permitted to occur in the public streetscape and parks, provided there are adequate maintenance agreements and existing and or required new usable area is not reduced.

Green streets, rain gardens and other interventions require maintenance and upkeep and we want to ensure that such funded projects have allocated funding for ongoing maintenance. Additionally, the implementation plan shows that a majority of the project will not occur for another 15 years which limits our opportunities to get community benefits from GSI soon. We encourage Staff to identify opportunities to accelerate implementation through either the design guidelines and urban village plans.



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We also want to encourage Staff to expand the draft plan to include green street projects city-wide. The projects and implementation plan laid out is a good first start, however, given the amount of infrastructure investment that will be made through Measure T, now is the time to aggressively infuse blue/green infrastructure into those plans.

We look forward to seeing this plan advance and the impact it will generate in San Jose.

Sincerely,

Michelle Huttenhoff
San Jose Policy Director