



Green Infrastructure & Stormwater Management CASE STUDY

El Cerrito - San Pablo Avenue Rain Garden

Location: El Cerrito, CA

Client: City of El Cerrito

Design Firm(s): Gates + Associates / Bellecci and Associates

Landscape architect/Project contact: Gail Donaldson, Jennie Suen

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ASLA Chapter: Northern California

Project Specifications

Project Description: A Caltrans approved detention/rain garden area along major urban transportation corridor accepting street and sidewalk run off. The sidewalk rain gardens were designed to be flexible enough to work with on street parking, curb cuts, tree locations and minimum sidewalk criteria.

Project Type:

Transportation corridor/streetscape
Part of a redevelopment project

Design features: Rain garden, curb cuts. This project is really a detention system coupled with rain garden characteristics.

This project was designed to meet the following specific requirements or mandates: To meet funding criteria, developer/client preference, funding criteria - SF Estuary Partnership

Impervious area managed: 1 acre to 5 acres

Amount of existing green space/open space conserved or preserved for managing stormwater on site: less than 5,000 sq/ft



The regulatory environment and regulator was supportive of the project.

Did the client request that other factors be considered, such as energy savings, usable green space, or property value enhancements? Yes, educational value - demonstration project

Cost & Jobs Analysis

Estimated Cost of Stormwater Project: \$100,000-\$500,000 (Public funding: Federal, state, local)

Was a green vs. grey cost analysis performed? No

Cost impact of conserving green/open space to the overall costs of the site design/development project: Because this is an urban setting, a drainage connection to the storm drain infrastructure was necessary and added slight percentage to the cost of landscaping.

Cost impact of conserving green/open space for stormwater management over traditional site design/site development approaches (grey infrastructure)? Slightly increased. See above.

Number of jobs created: Not available

Job hours devoted to project:

Planning and Design: 500 hours

Construction: 800 – 1,000 hours

Annual Maintenance: 24 hours

Performance Measures

Stormwater reduction performance analysis:

Is calculated to provide .22 cfs of treatment.

Community & economic benefits that have resulted from the project: Educational value – This project is the first example of this type of facility approved in urban setting on State Highway by Caltrans.

Additional Information

Links to images: www.dgates.com www.el-cerrito.org/esd/landscapeandwater.html
www.sfestuary.org/projects/detail.php?projectID=41

This is a demonstration project that can be replicated in urban areas. Interpretive signage explains the benefits to the general public.