

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



**FROM:** Executive Office

**SUBMITTAL DATE:**  
March 29, 2005

**SUBJECT:** Workshop on Detention Basins

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** Receive and File the attached report, "Local Detention Basins Workshop," and direct staff to return with policy recommendations (within six months) concerning design standards for water quality treatment facilities, maintenance options, and continue to research Regional Treatment Solutions and the feasibility of forming a Stormwater Utility.

**BACKGROUND:** On April 6, 2004 the Board during the review of GPA 737, CZ 6830, and TR 31543 requested that staff investigate measures to mitigate nuisances created by increased runoff/water quality basins considering issues such as vector control, design, maintenance, and recreational use of these basins.

Staff from the following departments (TLMA, Planning, Transportation, Building and Safety, Flood Control and the Executive Office) formed a Detention Basin Workgroup to address the issues outlined in the Board's questions, and also to address new water quality requirements that became effective January 1, 2005 per the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board (SARWQCB).

- continued

*Alex Gann*  
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Alex Gann, Management Analyst

Departmental Concurrence

**FINANCIAL DATA**

Current F.Y. Total Cost:	\$ 0	In Current Year Budget:	N/A
Current F.Y. Net County Cost:	\$ 0	Budget Adjustment:	N/A
Annual Net County Cost:	\$ 0	For Fiscal Year:	

**SOURCE OF FUNDS:**

Positions To Be Deleted Per A-30	<input type="checkbox"/>
Requires 4/5 Vote	<input type="checkbox"/>

**C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:**

**APPROVE**

**County Executive Office Signature**

*Bronda King*

- Dept't Recomm.:  Consent  Policy
- Per Exec. Ofc.:  Consent  Policy

Today's workshop presentation will include a discussion of detention basin issues and the need for future policy direction concerning: design standards for water quality treatment facilities, potential modification to Policy A-48, consideration of publicly maintained treatment facilities as a preferable option, and regional water quality treatment solutions.

The new development requirements from the SARWQCB, require new developments to provide on-site treatment control of their stormwater runoff. These new requirements place additional regulatory burden on the NPDES Permit holder (County) for the operation and maintenance/functionality of the treatment facilities, regardless of whether the County maintains the facility. The current Board Policy requires that maintenance of permanent facilities such as detention basins must be performed by Home Owners' Associations (HOAs). Experience has shown that property owner's associations or HOAs do not always maintain these basins effectively, resulting in nuisance issues. Moreover, failure of these basins to perform their water quality function due to lack of maintenance may result in the County being found to be in violation of its permit with the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Due to the factors noted and input from the Building Industry Association (BIA), the Workgroup proactively considered providing public maintenance of the water quality treatment facilities through some form of public maintenance. The Lighting and Landscaping Maintenance Districts (LLMDs) do appear to be a feasible option for some of these treatment facilities (e.g. grassy swales). The Workgroup will need to further evaluate the necessary design standards, public maintenance options and return to the Board with policy recommendations.

In early 2001, Board Policy A-48 was amended to require all new subdivision developments to create Home Owners' Associations (HOAs) as the primary permanent maintenance entity for public facilities within the development with CSAs to be used in a secondary, or support, capacity within those developments. As a result of the additional regulatory burden that the County must assume, a modification to Policy A-48 may be necessary in order to establish a new maintenance mechanism for the treatment control facilities.

The Detention Basin Workgroup met over a period of several months to address many issues associated with the new water quality regulations. Below is a summary of the issues reviewed.

- ✓ Identified nuisance causing issues and evaluated impacts
- ✓ Discussed dual use of facilities
- ✓ Identified issues to be covered in a set of design standards
- ✓ Selected grassy swales as a preferred BMP to be accepted within LLMD
- ✓ Discussed regional treatment alternatives
- ✓ Discussed potential funding sources

The Workgroup also met with the BIA to share staff's findings and took their comments/suggestions into consideration. The BIA has expressed an interest in providing comments at the Workshop.