

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION TO THE GUIDEBOOK

Project Summary

In 2004 the California State Legislature approved and the Governor enacted Assembly Bill 1546 that authorized the City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County to impose a vehicle registration fee on motor vehicles registered in the county for the management of traffic congestion and stormwater pollution. A portion of the funds raised by this fee are earmarked for projects that help mitigate the environmental impact of automobiles on the environment, particularly stormwater runoff from roadways and parking lots.

The San Mateo Countywide Water Pollution Prevention Program (SMCWPPP) initiated two measures to address the detrimental impacts of stormwater runoff from transportation infrastructure on County waters. The first measure involved creating a grant program using vehicle registration fees to fund the construction of demonstration projects in the County. The demonstration projects showcase the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) to reduce, capture and treat runoff from roadways and parking lots. In 2008, C/CAG awarded demonstration project grant funds to five San Mateo County municipalities and approved a second call for projects in FY 2008/09 to fund additional demonstration projects. It is intended that these demonstration projects provide inspiration for future sustainable stormwater projects in the San Mateo County region.

The second phase was the production of this guidebook in order to provide the immediate need in assisting San Mateo County municipalities with designing green street and parking lot demonstration projects. This guidebook is intended to inspire small but widespread changes that will improve San Mateo County's watershed health. Conceptual design examples from some of the FY 2008 grant-funded demonstration projects are also



SOURCE: [HTTP://WEBNESTUCCA.K12.OR.US/TEC/TECH.HTM](http://webnестucca.k12.or.us/tec/tech.htm)

Figure I-1: Site-level design begins with the first drops of rain.

included in the guidebook.

The Sustainable Green Streets and Parking Lots Guidebook is to be used in conjunction with the SMCWPPP's *C.3 Stormwater Technical Guidance: A Handbook for Developers, Builders and Project Applicants* (C.3 Technical Guidance). As the name suggests, that document is focused on providing step-by-step technical guidance on how to design, permit, and maintain post-construction stormwater controls in order to meet the current stormwater management requirements mandated in Provision C.3 of the countywide municipal stormwater permit. The primary purpose of this guidebook is to help the user identify and realize green street and parking lot site design opportunities, provide solutions to common implementation barriers, and provide guidance on how to best design, construct, and maintain successful projects. Any technical information provided herein is superseded by equivalent information in the C.3 Technical Guidance.