San Mateo County Sustainable Green Streets and Parking Lots Design Guidebook

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<< El Camino Real
Green Street Concept Sketch
San Mateo County, California
Executive Statement

In 2007, the City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County (C/CAG) enthusiastically supported the recommendation from its San Mateo Countywide Water Pollution Prevention Program Technical Advisory Committee to develop this Sustainable Green Streets and Parking Lots Design Guidebook (guidebook).

The guidebook provides designers, builders, municipal staff, and other interested groups practical and state-of-the-art information on creating low-impact development roadways and parking lots within San Mateo County. Roads and parking lots provide important opportunities for managing stormwater because they constitute as much as 70 percent of the total impervious cover in ultra-urban landscapes.

Small amounts of rain throughout a watershed incrementally add up to large volumes of water downstream. Similarly, small changes to stormwater runoff treatment in a watershed can cumulatively result in significant improvements to overall watershed health. For this reason, the site-scale stormwater management strategies described in the guidebook are at the core of creating balanced watershed systems.

The guidebook encourages the use of low-impact development for new and retrofitted road and parking lot projects. Supporting use of low-impact development for stormwater management is an objective shared by the C/CAG, local communities, and the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board/State Water Resources Control Board, which has adopted low-impact development as one of its core values.

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