

**D&C Standards Update
November 30, 2006
Meeting Notes**

The topic for this meeting was the draft revision of Chapter 4—Runoff Treatment and Control, including new Low Impact Development (LID) Techniques. Terry Keyes led the meeting which was attended by 14 stakeholders and 7 District staff.

Summary

Terry explained that Chapter 4 consolidates current treatment standards into one place. The revision clarifies fencing for water quality facilities, and adds options for “wildlife friendly” fencing. The standards apply to facilities within easements and maintained by the District. Walls are not allowed in water quality facilities. Discussion of the language for dedicating easements to “the public” prompted a reminder by Carrie Pak that the language will be reviewed by the District’s legal counsel. It was suggested to avoid the terms “public utility easement” because that wording has unduly complicated collaborative transactions.

In review of the on-site detention, Terry emphasized that it is the District’s decision whether on-site detention will be required. Asked if the District could identify whether on-site detention would be required with issuance of the Service Provider Letter, Terry and Carrie replied that this is too soon in the review process because a significant number of SPLs don’t result in actual development projects. They recommend applicants meet with District staff very early in the process to discuss the options.

Carrie said the Aloha and Metzger drainage studies will be posted on the District’s website, and will provide valuable information to developers and consultants. Prior to this being available on the web, hard copy reports are available for review at the District offices. The District is also planning to complete a Stormwater Master Plan but has not established the schedule.

Treatment efficiency is consolidated and clarified in the draft revision, with the new LID techniques included. Table 4-1 titled Impervious Area Requiring Treatment on Redevelopment Sites is intended to introduce proportionality in treatment requirements for redevelopment. Staff asked for ideas to improve the table, and one stakeholder suggested a “catch all” description for unanticipated sites.

In review of the new LID techniques, Terry emphasized that some techniques address quality, others address quantity, and some do both. The group agreed that LID techniques are an evolving science, and mostly art at this time. The District is developing a program for monitoring, maintenance, and inspection of sites using LID techniques. Staff is drafting a guidance document that stakeholders will be asked to review when it is ready. It was suggested that ownership (private/public) of the LID “facilities” be clear up front to clarify maintenance responsibilities.

The goal of maintenance is to preserve the treatment function. The group discussed bioretention studies. A question about preserving tree canopy led to the conclusion that this is not within the District’s authority. Asked why cisterns are not included in the list, Carrie emphasized the list provides a menu of options but is not intended to limit what might be approved by the District. Terry added that the revisions encourage flexibility and creativity with prior approval. And, there is a new provision for proprietary treatment facilities in conjunction with LIDs.

The group generally agreed that LIDs will be most likely on smaller sites and will need to be well-managed in order to be effective. Asked for clarification, Terry said there will be no fee-in-lieu if 75% of runoff is treated with LIDs in small developments. Asked about LIDs in the public right of way, he said pervious pavement is allowed only for sidewalks and City of Durham is pilot testing infiltration swales along public streets.

Stakeholders asked for details of LID techniques and clarification of “credits” for treatment.

Next Steps

Staff will continue to develop draft revisions and post them on the website. The next stakeholder meeting is scheduled for December 19 * and the topics will be Chapter 1 (Purpose, Applicability, Prohibited Activities and Definitions) and Chapter 2 (Procedures). The Appendix on landscaping and Standard Details will also be available for review prior to that meeting.

*** After this meeting, staff determined the next meeting will be December 19 instead of December 12 in order to ensure adequate time to review documents. In addition, the meeting will include further discussion of the partial fill issues in Chapter 3.**