

TOWN OF SAN ANSELMO
STAFF REPORT

April 30, 2015

For the meeting of May 4, 2015

TO: San Anselmo Planning Commission

FROM: Gerhard Epke, Public Works Project Manager
Sean Condry, P.E., Public Works Director

SUBJECT: Proposed Changes to Urban Stormwater Runoff Ordinance

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Planning Commission receive the report and provide any comments to staff. No action required.

BACKGROUND

The Town has required certain site design measures and bioretention as a condition of building permits for over three years. The intent of these requirements is to minimize the detriment of increased impervious surfaces on downstream water quality and quantity during storms.

Concurrently, the State Water Quality Control Board has revised requirements of San Anselmo's permit for its storm drain system (Phase II permit), which calls for increased oversight and enforcement of pollution prevention, including limiting impervious surfaces.

This draft ordinance is a revision of San Anselmo's existing code; Title 5 Sanitation and Health, Chapter 8 Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention. The majority of the new language in this ordinance is in order to comply with requirements of the state to comply with the Phase II permit. Section 5-8.11, Flatwork Permit Requirements, uses the same model for compliance as the rest of the Bay Area, but scales areas down to be aligned with San Anselmo's previous policy.

An earlier draft of this ordinance was discussed at the Flood Committee of February 9, 2015 and the accompanying staff report explained the background of this ordinance in more detail. A copy of that staff report can be found here:

<http://www.townofsananselmo.org/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/4554>

DISCUSSION:

Protecting water quality in San Anselmo Creek is not simply a matter of cleaning up oil spills or educating the person who is caught pouring paint in the stormdrain system. In fact many of our biggest water quality problems are invisible; warm water temperatures, oxygen fluctuations, pesticides intended for household insects. Others, such as plumes of fine sediment or trash, can be seen but are still difficult to assess as problematic. Because of this intractability, the State has told all municipalities that we need to require and enforce Best Management Practices for water quality as a matter of course.

Section 5-8.11 of the ordinance, Flatwork Permit Requirements, is aimed specifically at limiting the effect of impervious surfaces in the watershed- parking lots, driveways, patios, roofs, etc. The traditional thinking has been to get water from these surfaces directly to the creek as quickly as possible, however this water picks up a lot of pollutants and contributes to our flooding problem. This ordinance would address this by promoting the infiltration of stormwater through a flatwork permit.

Projects creating between 150 and 500 square feet of impervious would be required to incorporate site design measures such as minimizing impervious surfaces and directing runoff to pervious areas. Projects creating more than 500 square feet would require site design measures and bioretention.

The attached Table summarizes the size thresholds, requirements, submittals, and suggested fees.

Respectfully submitted,

Sean Condry, P.E.
Public Works Director

Gerhard Epke
Project Manager

Attachments: 1. Draft Stormwater Ordinance
2. Summary Table