



# City of Hermosa Beach

Civic Center, 1315 Valley Drive, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254-3885

## Information Item

**DATE:** May 5, 2025  
**TO:** Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
**FROM:** Environmental Programs Manager, Doug Krauss  
**SUBJECT:** Hermosa Avenue Green Streets Project Update

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### **Executive Summary**

At its November 12, 2024 meeting, City Council approved an MOU between the Beach Cities Watershed Management Group (BCWMG) agencies to complete construction of the Beach Cities Green Streets Project. This project is a collaboration between the cities of Torrance, Manhattan Beach, Redondo Beach and Hermosa Beach and is funded largely from grant funding previously secured by the agencies. The project is required as part of the BCWMG's Watershed Management Program (WMP), approved by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board).

Hermosa Beach's portion of this project would improve the area near Hermosa Avenue between Herondo Street and 6<sup>th</sup> Street to include green street elements that would help reduce pollution from storm water runoff and specifically bacteria water quality exceedances from Hermosa Beach and the Herondo Drain in compliance with State storm water regulations.

The City of Torrance advertised the project to secure a contractor and had a bid opening on February 19, 2025. The overall project cost will be \$8,125,513, including a 5 percent contingency, inspection and materials testing services, and ongoing monitoring. Hermosa Beach's portion is \$1,689,087 with \$1,324,414 funded by grant funds.

### **Background**

The cities of Hermosa Beach, Torrance, Redondo Beach, Manhattan Beach, and the Los Angeles County Flood Control District formed the BCWMG to develop a WMP to comply with the Regional Board 2012 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permits, the Santa Monica Bay Beaches Bacteria Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), and Santa Monica Bay Toxics TMDL. The Beach Cities WMP was submitted to the Regional Board on February 9, 2016 and was approved by the Regional Board in April 2016. The BCWMG was directed by the Regional Board to begin implementation of the WMP immediately, including construction of identified capital projects. The WMP was updated in 2021 to reflect the new NPDES permit.

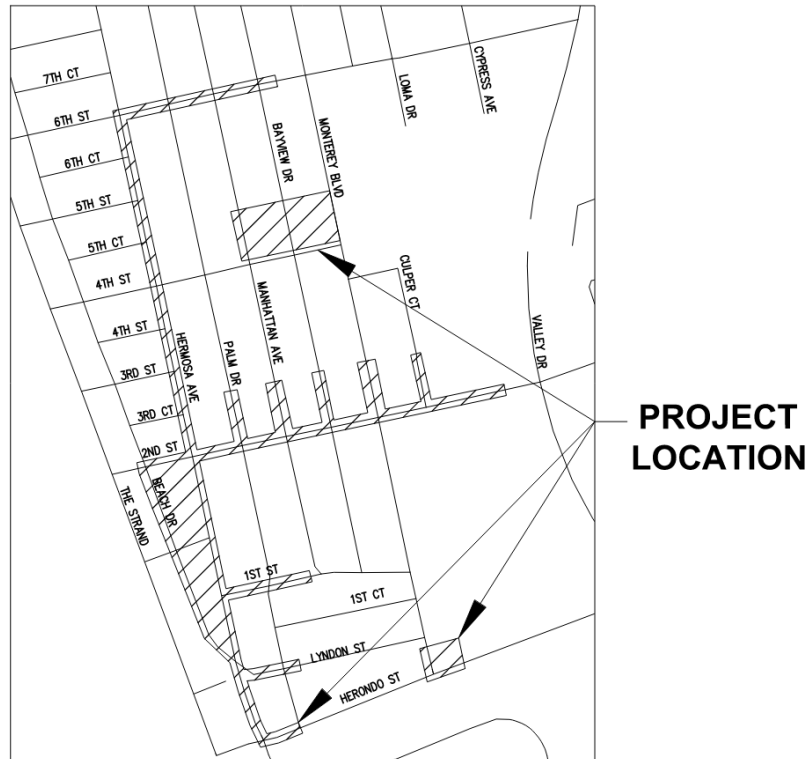
Complementary to regional storm water structural projects, green infrastructure projects and programs are critical to achieve water quality compliance, as detailed in the WMP. Green Streets are typically smaller local control measures in available rights-of-way and

augment regional structural projects to achieve water quality objectives. The Hermosa Avenue Green Street Project was identified in the 2016 WMP and the 2021 update as a necessary distributed structural project to receive and treat dry-weather and some stormwater runoff from the approximately 47-acre drainage area in the southwest corner of Hermosa Beach.

In 2018, the City of Hermosa Beach applied for a Proposition 1 grant through the Ocean Protection Council to fund a Hermosa Avenue Green Street Project. That grant application was unsuccessful and the City of Torrance, in partnership with the other cities in the BCWMP, applied for and was successful in receiving a Proposition 12 Santa Monica Bay Restoration Grant of \$2 million from the Coastal Conservancy in February 2018 and a grant from the Safe Clean Water (SCW) Regional Infrastructure Program for \$5,366,953 in March 2020. These grants will help fund the Beach Cities Green Street Project, which includes the Hermosa Avenue Green Street Project and green street projects identified for two sites in Manhattan Beach, five sites in Redondo Beach, and five sites in Torrance. A portion of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Grant was used to fund the design of the project. The balance will help fund construction of the project. At its March 10, 2020 meeting, Hermosa Beach City Council approved an MOU between the watershed agencies to complete project design. Project design was completed in Fall of 2024. At its November 12, 2024 meeting, City Council approved an MOU between the watershed agencies to complete project construction.

The portion of the project in Hermosa Beach, the Hermosa Avenue Green Street Project, is an important project for reducing bacteria water quality exceedances from Hermosa Beach and the Herondo Drain. The Herondo Drain is the largest storm drain system within the BCWMP and discharges directly to Santa Monica Bay. Located at the southern border of the City of Hermosa Beach, it drains over 3,000 acres of area throughout Hermosa Beach, Redondo Beach, Torrance, and Manhattan Beach, and is a source of elevated bacteria levels directly off-shore. The proposed project would capture runoff from 47 acres of Hermosa Beach otherwise not captured for treatment.

Additionally, Hermosa Beach and its BCWMP partners sought alternate projects to achieve storm water diversion and pollutant reductions equivalent to what would have been achieved by the abandoned Hermosa Greenbelt Infiltration Project. The search for alternative projects involved reanalyzing existing concepts and exploring new projects throughout the region with the possibility of combining multiple smaller projects to achieve compliance goals. The City, with assistance from its watershed group partners, identified distributed drywells in the vicinity of Pacific Coast Highway as the most viable project to help meet these diversion goals. Staff is working separately on the feasibility of the proposed dry well project (CIP 438) and potential funding opportunities.



### **Discussion**

The Hermosa Avenue Green Street project would remove 5,115 linear feet of gutters in the project area and replace them with permeable concrete gutters. Additionally, 39 Palm trees would be planted in the medians on Hermosa Avenue, between Herondo Street and 6<sup>th</sup> Street, replacing existing landscaping. Per the terms of the Coastal Conservancy grant, participating agencies are required to plant 200 trees within the project areas. These green street elements would serve to improve storm drainage, reduce pollutants, and simultaneously help beautify the southern end of Hermosa Avenue. The project area, including the southern end of Beach Drive, is historically prone to flooding and the proposed project would help reduce flooding in the area resulting from storm events.

The City of Torrance is the lead agency on the entire Beach Cities Green Streets Project. Per the MOU approved by Hermosa Beach City Council in November 2024, the parties agree to:

- Work collaboratively to implement construction of the project; and
- Each be responsible for any additional funds, beyond the grant funding, necessary to complete the project.

The term of the MOU is five years to allow for full project completion. Should the construction bids exceed the engineer's estimate, the MOU requires the agencies to seek additional funds in a timely manner. The MOU also allows each agency to withdraw from the agreement before contract award without penalty if they cannot secure the necessary funds. The City of Torrance would require all necessary funds be secured prior

to award of the construction contract. The bid documents are structured to allow the project to potentially move forward should any agency terminate its involvement before award.

The total cost for construction of all the agencies' projects was estimated to be \$8,388,716, with the Hermosa Avenue Green Streets portion estimated at \$1,029,659. Hermosa Beach's budgeted \$348,286 from CIP 164 and CIP 417 for its estimated local match. The project costs include three years of post-construction stormwater monitoring.

Per the bid received by the City of Torrance on February 19, 2025, the overall project cost will be \$8,125,513, including a 5 percent contingency, inspection and materials testing services, and ongoing monitoring. Hermosa Beach's portion is \$1,689,087 with \$1,324,414 funded by grant funds. Consequently, Hermosa Beach's final local match is \$364,673. Per the MOU, each partner City is responsible for funding any additional costs and contingencies to ensure project completion. Staff will utilize an additional \$16,387 from the Storm Drain Improvement project account (CIP 417) over the previously established project budget to ensure the City can complete its portion of the project to meet important State storm water mandates.

Approval of the proposed budget appropriation and completion of the Hermosa Avenue Green Street project would help the City accomplish significant water quality improvements, thereby demonstrating to the Regional Board the City's continued commitment to meeting its pollution reduction mandates. The project would also provide an opportunity for the City to work successfully with its neighboring agencies in the BCWMG and set a precedent for future cooperation necessary for the group to accomplish other joint projects (e.g., the proposed Distributed Dry Well project CIP 438) and meet its final water quality goals. Lastly, this project would serve the dual benefit of rehabilitating and enhancing an important gateway to the City and creating an impactful statement of commitment to sustainability for residents and visitors alike.