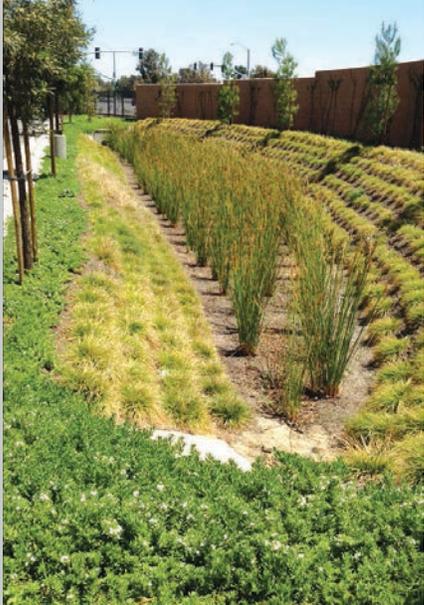




county of san diego



# vegetated BMPs

**Stormwater Structural Best Management Practices (BMPs) are installed on certain properties across the County in order to help prevent pollutants such as trash, fertilizers, pesticides, and sediment from making their way into storm drains and ultimately to our local creeks, rivers, and ocean. Your property is one of hundreds across the County with at least one BMP.**

## *BMPs Keep Our Waterways Clean*

Your BMPs are designed to remove pollutants from stormwater runoff generated by your property to the maximum extent practicable. As an owner of one of these properties, County regulations require you to **perform routine inspections and maintenance actions** to ensure that your BMPs are operating effectively.



**Our records indicate that you have at least one vegetated BMP on your property.** Vegetated BMPs include flow-thru planters, buffer strips, and vegetated swales. To help you maintain this BMP, the **County of San Diego Watershed Protection Program** is providing you with this informational flyer to answer questions you may have about BMPs and how to maintain them.

thank you for doing  
your part to

protect our  
waterways

## *How Your Vegetated BMP Works*

Vegetated BMPs filter stormwater by replicating biological features found in the ecosystem. They use vegetation (often various shrubs and grasses) and soil to remove pollutants from stormwater runoff. Typically after a heavy rainfall, runoff that has collected in the BMP will slowly infiltrate into the soil,





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## vegetated BMPs

reducing the amount of runoff and pollutants discharged to the local storm drain system. Vegetation in the BMP prevents erosion, and also contributes to pollutant removal by absorbing pollutants that have been captured within the soil. Vegetated BMPs can be found in low-lying vegetated areas, or in surface level planter boxes.

### *Find And Maintain Your BMP*



To find your BMP, look for vegetated areas where water accumulates after rainfall. There may be a storm drain inlet in the center of the area depending on the type of vegetated BMP.

Once you have found your vegetated BMP, it is important to maintain it. Keeping the vegetated BMP in working condition helps keep our local waterways clean. Below are a few maintenance tasks to perform:

- **Remove any accumulated litter or debris obstructing the flow to the vegetated areas or buffer strips.**
- **If necessary, make grading adjustments to your BMP to ensure that it drains properly.**
- **Trim any overgrown vegetation (not more than the original design height).**
- **Remove sediment deposits over 2 inches deep, and deposits that cover vegetation.**
- **Do not obstruct curb cuts or divert flow away from the BMP.**
- **If vegetation is not present, re-vegetate the BMP.**
- **Provide adequate rip rap (or other energy dissipation structure) at the point where runoff enters the BMP.**

For a list of other tasks, refer to the maintenance verification form or maintenance plans from your housing developer.

Every year the Watershed Protection Program will send you a maintenance verification form for you to complete, sign, and return to the County. This form is used to verify that necessary maintenance has been completed for your BMP.

Failure to conduct needed maintenance of your BMPs may initiate an enforcement investigation or a follow up inspection.

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**For Questions, Contact Us At:  
Watershed Protection Program  
1-858-495-5323**

BMP.Program@sdcounty.ca.gov

<http://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/dpw/watersheds/DevelopmentandConstruction/S-BMPs.html>

