

CITY OF PACIFIC GROVE

Policy Statement Regarding Protection of Areas of Special Biological Significance

The City of Pacific Grove puts a high value on the protection of the Areas of Special Biological Significance (ASBS) along our coast. ASBS are state-designated coastal areas that require higher levels of protection from pollutants due to their special environmental benefits and resource value to the citizens of California.

The City of Pacific Grove takes its responsibility to manage the storm water that enters the ASBS very seriously. Pacific Grove has been proactive in its approach to protecting the Monterey Bay and the ASBS. We have been rigorously working toward the completion, adoption, and full implementation of the mandated Storm Water Management Program. The Program, again being modified, will be resubmitted for Regional Water Quality Control Board consideration later this calendar year. We have required the necessary Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan for both the Golf Course Clubhouse and Senior Housing projects. We continue in our effort to expand the Urban Runoff Diversion project/program.

All of these, although not inclusive of what the City has been doing, provide a foundation of work in which we are involved in our effort to keep pollutants from getting to, and entering the Monterey Bay. It is our hope that the concepts listed in this statement will provide a framework for further improvements and will be utilized by the State Water Resources Control Board in developing a regulatory framework for these areas.

1. The communities adjacent to ASBS will continue to implement best management practices (BMPs) intended to reduce the amount of pollutants carried by storm water runoff. These BMPs are designed to protect not only the ASBS but all coastal and inland waters.
2. The adjacent communities will also implement new BMPs contained in the Monterey Regional Storm Water Management Plan, which is in development.
3. The Regional Water Quality Control Board will assist the communities in establishing a working group of affected State agencies, local governments and environmental groups to ensure a coordinated effort in implementing additional storm water control measures and assessing their effectiveness towards eliminating waste into the ASBS.
4. The state will provide funding for the assessment of water quality in the ASBS and for additional storm water control measures if these become necessary.

The local communities do not have a mechanism to raise the necessary funds.

We believe this approach ensures that all affected parties can work together to better define the issues, and to work cooperatively in developing solutions that are achievable and fiscally prudent. We also believe it supports the continuing protection and improvement of the ASBS.

Respectfully submitted,

James W. Costello, Mayor
City of Pacific Grove