



CITY of CALABASAS

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT

DATE: NOVEMBER 6, 2024

TO: ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEMBERS

FROM: MELANIS STEPANIAN, ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ANALYST

SUBJECT: UPDATES ON CITY ACTIVITIES/PROJECTS

MEETING DATE: NOVEMBER 12, 2024

BACKGROUND:

The Environmental Services Division strives to make Calabasas a better place to live and work by developing environmental and pollution prevention programs, and by protecting, enhancing and restoring creeks and open space. This Division oversees the administration of an encompassing Public Education/Outreach Program designed to meet the mandated requirements of the Clean Water Act and California Integrated Waste Management Act. Environmental Services oversees a variety of activities including the reduction and/or elimination of pollutants from stormwater and urban runoff, reduction of waste going to urban landfills, recycling, household hazardous waste, and storm drain inspection and maintenance.

DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS:

Citywide Green Streets Project – Phase I:

The Las Virgenes Green Street Project was completed in October 2024. This segment of Las Virgenes Road previously consisted of an unpaved shoulder where users of the area would park. Staff observed trash and other pollutants left behind by users of the area and patches of loose dirt making their way into the roadway. This project established curbs, gutters, and bioswales as a stormwater

management measure. Bioswales are natural filtration systems that remove debris and pollutants from stormwater runoff before discharging into local storm drains. Bioswales pretreat runoff water by filtering with layers of filtering soil media and native plants. Additionally, the project established sidewalks, increased parking, and connected the Upper Las Virgenes Canyon network of trails to Las Virgenes Road, providing recreational benefit.

The project faced a short delay due to design adjustments of trail access and parking lot to make it ADA-friendly, as well as the design of two retaining walls required for SCE power poles. Necessary notifications have been sent to HOA and signs have been installed to guide residents' parking.

Las Virgenes Creek Restoration Project – Phase III

Phase III of the project includes retrofitting 28 storm drain outfalls with biofiltration features that will improve water quality before the runoff reaches the creek's low-flow channel. This project would allow the City to restore the creek to an enhanced natural state by strategically removing fish barriers, improving water quality, implementing erosion control measures, and clearing overgrown vegetation. This Las Virgenes Creek Restoration Phase III will restore the habitat surrounding the creek while providing additional recreational activities.

A Request for Proposals was issued in July and Staff received 3 proposals in September. At their upcoming November 13th meeting, City Council is expected to approve a Professional Services Agreement with the selected contractor. Once the contract is executed, feasibility studies and design work will be conducted in conjunction with necessary permitting for the project. Staff will return to Commission for comments as key milestones are met.

City Staff applied for a funding opportunity with the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) in August 2024. WCB did not award the grant for this project but Staff continues seeking additional funding sources for the project.

The next outreach, the City's 3rd Creek Walking Tour, will be hosted at Las Virgenes Creek on November 20th at 3:00pm.

Anticoagulant Rodenticides

The Calabasas City Council adopted Resolution No. 2013-1379 urging businesses in Calabasas to no longer sell or use anticoagulant rodenticides, urging all property owners to cease purchasing or using anticoagulant rodenticides on their properties in Calabasas, and committing the City of Calabasas to not using anticoagulant rodenticides as part of its maintenance program for city-owned parks and facilities.

Assembly Bill (AB)1788, The California Ecosystems Protection Act, was signed into law on September 29, 2020. AB 1788 bans the use of second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides (SGARs) until their safety is reevaluated, aiming to protect wildlife like birds of prey and mountain lions from accidental poisoning.

On October 13, 2023, Assembly Bill (AB) 1322, amends the Food and Agricultural Code to regulate the use of diphacinone. This bill prohibits the use of diphacinone, a first-generation anticoagulant rodenticide (FGAR) in wildlife habitat areas and statewide. First-generation anticoagulant rodenticide (FGAR) require multiple feedings over several days to be effective, making it less potent than second-generation anticoagulants (SGARs), which can be lethal with a single dose.

New legislation signed by Governor Newsom, AB 2552, and effective January 1, 2025, expands the same effective prohibition on first-generation anticoagulant rodenticides to include chlorophacinone and warfarin. This bill amends the Food and Agricultural Code to further regulate the use of anticoagulant rodenticides in California.

The City focuses on organic alternatives, treatment of areas with gopher activity are addressed without the use of anticoagulant rodenticides. As new State policy emerges, the City will work to provide educational resources for the community and local businesses.

Battery Recycling Program

Staff produced battery collection boxes for residential use. The City has carried out a battery recycling program for several years. In 2024, Staff worked with the Commission to create a battery recycling box for Calabasas residents to collect their batteries until they are ready to dispose of the hazardous waste at one of the 7 citywide collection locations. Residents can request their own battery collection boxes by emailing info@cityofcalabasas.com.

FISCAL IMPACT/SOURCE OF FUNDING:

Funding for projects and activities comes from multiple sources including General Fund, Measure M, Measure W, Prop 1, and more. Staff is continually researching new funding opportunities for upcoming projects.

REQUESTED ACTION:

This is an informational item only and requires no action.

ATTACHMENTS

None.