

OPPORTUNITY #30– S. PACIFIC AVE. TRAFFIC CALMING GREEN STREET ENHANCEMENTS

This opportunity focuses on creating traffic calming and other green street enhancements on S. Pacific Ave. south of 26th Street to Shepard. This section of Pacific was identified as a “Residential with Parkways Green Street” because of a high frequency of wide landscape parkways. Besides providing for the streetscape enhancements appropriate for this type of Green Street, this “Opportunity” addresses a concern for pedestrian safety along a stretch of Pacific that is a key link from South San Pedro to Downtown San Pedro and beyond. The traffic calming would be achieved through the construction of landscape bulb-outs at key intersections with textured paving crosswalks. These landscape bulb-outs, as well as intervening sections of parkways would be designed as bioswales and/or rain gardens.

Implementation will require a B-Permit for the landscape bulb-outs, an A-Permit for bioswales and/or rain gardens within the existing parkways, and a Tree Planting Permit for any tree planting. Unless there are overhead high voltage wires most of the parkways along this segment could be planted with large stature trees.

There are a number of steps that will be needed before such enhancements can be implemented. They are:

1. Conduct geotechnical investigation of each of the areas, including the parkway along both target streets to determine the geological substrate, distance to groundwater, condition of groundwater and percolation rates of the substrate
2. Develop prototypical design & engineering documents as needed—this would be primarily prototypes for the landscape/bioswales bulb-outs
3. Identify and secure adequate funding—this could mean dividing the project into some logical sequencing to expedite implementation with partial funding
4. Secure necessary permits

Some recommended guidelines should include:

1. Using a native plant palette for the bioswales and trees as practical
2. Using “smart irrigation” design where irrigation is needed to establish plants
3. Use recycled/reclaimed water for supplemental irrigation as feasible
4. Utilize City of Los Angeles “Green Streets and Alleys Design Guidelines” as starting point of design of the prototype parkway bioswales/rain gardens

