



**ACTION SHEET  
ITEM FROM THE  
PUBLIC WORKS/CIP AND LAND USE COMMITTEE MEETING  
OF  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2014**

**ITEM 8**

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF A PROGRAM – THE ALAMEDA RAIN GARDENS PROGRAM – FOR CONSTRUCTION OF STORM WATER IMPROVEMENTS ALONG EAST AND WEST ALAMEDA STREET TO BE FUNDED BY THE SANTA FE RIVER VOLUNTARY RIVER CONSERVATION FUND (RIVER FUND) (BRIAN DRYPOLCHER)

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE ACTION:** Approved on Consent

**SPECIAL CONDITIONS OR AMENDMENTS:**

**STAFF FOLLOW UP:**

| <b>VOTE</b>                            | <b>FOR</b>     | <b>AGAINST</b> | <b>ABSTAIN</b> |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>CHAIRPERSON WURZBURGER</b>          | <b>Excused</b> |                |                |
| <b>COUNCILOR CALVERT, Acting Chair</b> | <b>X</b>       |                |                |
| <b>COUNCILOR IVES</b>                  | <b>X</b>       |                |                |
| <b>COUNCILOR RIVERA</b>                | <b>X</b>       |                |                |
| <b>COUNCILOR TRUJILLO</b>              | <b>Excused</b> |                |                |

**ACTION SHEET**  
**PUBLIC UTILITES COMMITTEE MEETING OF 1/15/14**

**ISSUE NO. 13**

Request for approval for storm water improvements projects to be funded by the Santa Fe River Voluntary River Conservation Fund (River Fund). (Brian Drypolcher)

Public Utilities Committee – 1/15/14  
 Public Works Committee – 1/27/14  
 Finance Committee – 2/3/14  
 City Council – 2/19/14

**PUBLIC UTILITES COMMITTEE ACTION: Approved**

**SPECIAL CONDITIONS OR AMENDMENTS:**

**STAFF FOLLOW UP:**

| VOTE:                    | FOR    | AGAINST | ABSTAIN |
|--------------------------|--------|---------|---------|
| COUNCILOR CALVERT, CHAIR | x      |         |         |
| COUNCILOR TRUJILLO       | x      |         |         |
| COUNCILOR DOMINGUEZ      | x      |         |         |
| COUNCILOR DIMAS          | Absent |         |         |
| COUNCILOR RIVERA         | x      |         |         |

# City of Santa Fe, New Mexico

# memo

**DATE:** November 26, 2013

**TO:** Public Utility Committee (PUC)

**VIA:** Nick Schiavo, Public Utilities Department and Water Division Director *NSA*

*Isaac J. Pino*

Isaac J. Pino, P.E., Public Works Department Director

Eric Martinez, P.E., Roadway & Trails Engineering Division Director *EM*

Leroy Pacheco, River, Watershed and Trails Section Supervisor *LP*

**FROM:** Brian Drypolcher, River and Watershed Coordinator *BD*

## **ITEM / ISSUE:**

Requesting approval of a program (the Alameda Rain Gardens Program) for construction of storm water improvement projects along East and West Alameda Street to be funded by the Santa Fe River Voluntary River Conservation Fund (the River Fund).

## **BACKGROUND / SUMMARY:**

On June 26, 2006 the City's governing body approved Ordinance No. 2006-28, creating section 25-7 SFCC 1987 regarding a water rights acquisition fund and creating section 25-8 SFCC 1987 regarding a voluntary contribution fund to acquire water rights for the benefit of the Santa Fe River and the Rio Grande.

On April 25, 2007 the governing body approved Resolution No. 2007-34 for the adoption of administrative procedures for the management of the River Fund. The River Fund administrative procedures state that the "City's River Commission will provide primary guidance, oversight, and review of the Program. City Committees and the Governing Body will also provide guidance, and will approve Fund expenditures as needed."

On February 27, 2013 the City adopted an amendment to the River Fund ordinance which states that, "Money deposited in the voluntary river conservation fund after March 16, 2013, shall be dedicated to projects that improve the flow of water in the Santa Fe River in ways that enhance the ecosystems of the Santa Fe River and its riparian corridor (Ordinance No. 2013-9).

At the Public Utilities Committee meeting on March 6, 2013, Water Division staff and the City's River and Watershed Coordinator provided a status report on efforts to utilize the River Fund for the benefit of the Santa Fe River. At that meeting, the governing body directed that projects recommended for River Fund expenditures, shall be presented to the governing body for approval. The purpose of this memo is to present the recommendations of the Santa Fe River Commission for a program to construct a series of storm water improvement projects along East and West Alameda Street. The

River Commission suggests that this initiative – the first in a series of improvements anticipated for the utilization of the River Fund – be called "The Alameda Rain Gardens Program."

The Alameda Rain Gardens Program envisions the construction of a series of curb-side, storm water infiltration basins and channels along East and West Alameda Street. The program will be implemented along a three-mile section of the roadway from East Palace Avenue to the Arroyo Torreon (west of Camino Alire).

The rain gardens consist of earthen and stone-lined swales, basins and channels that are constructed along the edge of the street, behind the street curb. Cuts made in the street curb allow storm water to leave the street and enter the rain gardens. These features "intercept" street runoff that would otherwise enter a street drain inlet and a culvert to flow directly into the Santa Fe River. The infiltration features will include plantings and other landscape features to enhance aesthetics and water use (see Attachment A). The benefits of the rain gardens include:

- reduction of pollutants and litter flowing into the Santa Fe River;
- implementation of best management practices for compliance with the city's storm water discharge permit;
- infiltration of runoff to recharge local groundwater and support plant life;
- reduction of storm flow intensity to reduce erosion;
- bioremediation (breakdown, absorption or conversion) of pollutants by soil bacteria and plants.

Recently, the City of Santa Fe and Santa Fe County have collaborated on a planning process to identify activities to make the region more resilient in response to anticipated climate change. Many in the scientific community believe that our region is likely to experience rising temperatures coupled with less frequent and more intense rain fall events. Broad-based development of storm water infiltration improvements is seen as one of the steps that the City can take to maximize the benefits of storm flows while reducing their harmful effects.

**Funding:** The terms describing activities that may be paid for out of the River Fund were amended in March, 2013. City ordinance now allows that funds may be utilized to pay for "projects that will improve the flow of water in the Santa Fe River in ways that enhance the ecosystems of the Santa Fe River and its riparian corridor." The Alameda Rain Gardens provide constructed, storm water management features that will improve water quality and provide direct benefits to riparian corridor ecosystems of the Santa Fe River.

Funds contributed **prior to the recent amendment to the ordinance** are restricted for the purchase of water rights only. The City is taking steps to alter the purpose of funds collected prior to the amendment in order to expand the activities for which the funds can be utilized. City staff has identified fund contributors, amounts contributed, and donor contact information and is engaged in an outreach effort to request authorization from contributors to allow pre-amendment contributions to be utilized in a manner consistent with the updated and expanded terms for the fund.

A breakdown of current accruals in the River Fund, including matching dollars provided by the City of Santa Fe is as follows:

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| Funds accrued prior to the ordinance change in March, 2013:       | \$234,077.00 |
| Funds accrued after amendment and available for expanded purpose: | \$22,440.00  |

**Implementation:** Subject to the approval of the Governing Body, limited implementation of site-specific projects as part of the Alameda Rain Gardens Program could begin with funds on-hand. Or, implementation could commence on a broader scale as additional monies accrue within the River

Fund. Approval of the Rain Garden Program at this point in time will provide a "signature" program for the River Fund that can be communicated to the public in order to encourage contributions into the fund.

**ACTION:**

The Public Works Department and the Public Utilities Department recommend approval of the Alameda Rain Gardens Program for construction of storm water improvement projects along East and West Alameda Street to be funded by the Santa Fe River Voluntary River Conservation Fund (the River Fund).

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Attachment: Attachment A: map views, project descriptions and examples

cc: David Catanach, director, Streets and Drainage Division  
Ben Gurule, director, Parks Division  
File

## Attachment A

# Alameda Rain Gardens

A program to be funded by the Santa Fe River  
Voluntary River Conservation Fund (the River Fund)

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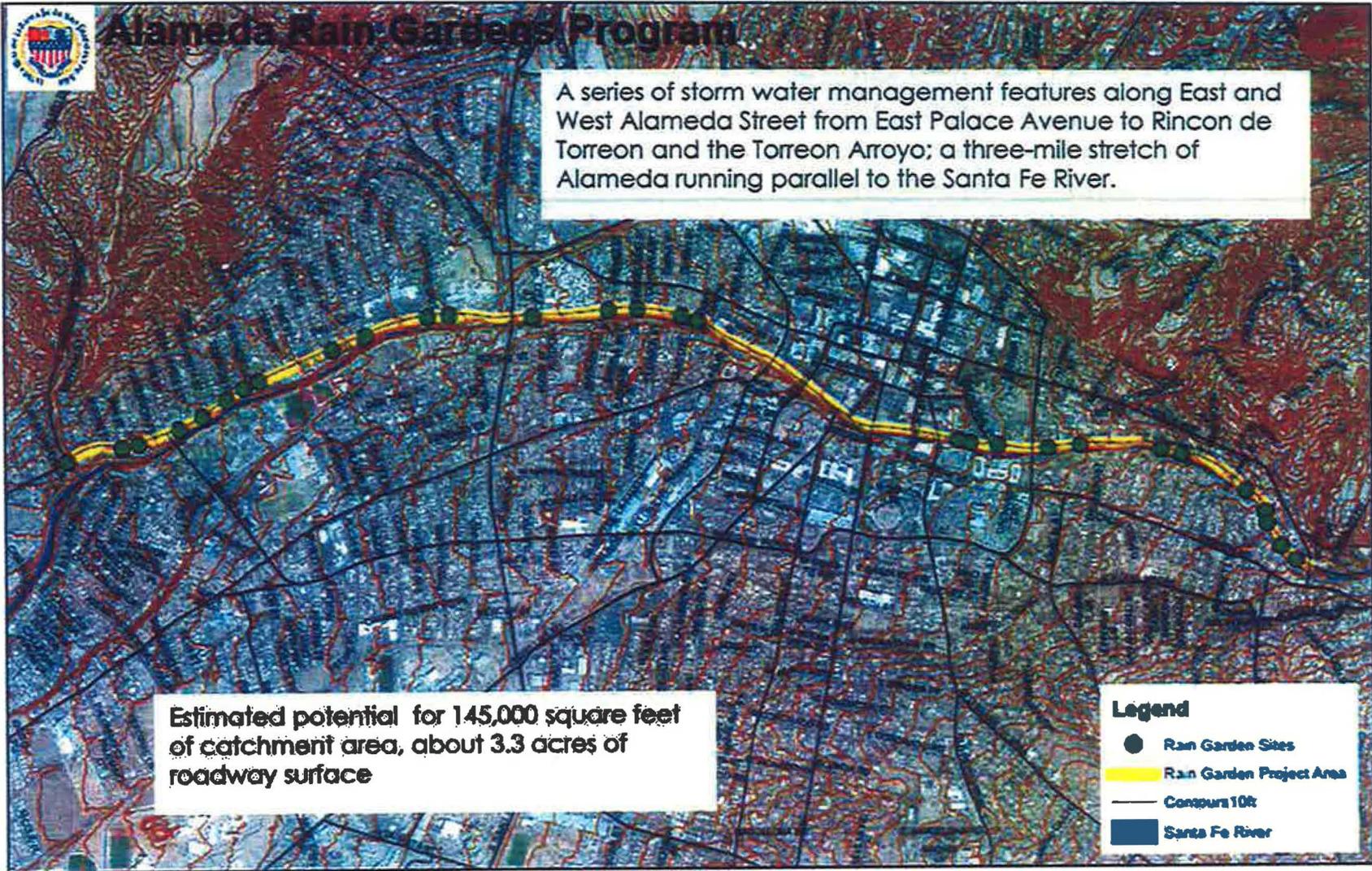
### **The River Fund**

"Money deposited in the voluntary river conservation fund shall be dedicated to projects that improve the flow of water in the Santa Fe River in ways that enhance the ecosystems of the Santa Fe River and its riparian corridor."



## Alameda Rain Gardens Program

A series of storm water management features along East and West Alameda Street from East Palace Avenue to Rincon de Torreon and the Torreon Arroyo; a three-mile stretch of Alameda running parallel to the Santa Fe River.



Estimated potential for 145,000 square feet of catchment area, about 3.3 acres of roadway surface

- Legend**
- Rain Garden Sites
  - Rain Garden Project Area
  - Compu10R
  - Santa Fe River

**Storm water infiltration features that have already been installed on Alameda Street**



**Example of one potential Rain Garden site**

Design and construct a storm water infiltration feature, with landscape improvements, east of Old Santa Fe Trail (between OSFT and Cathedral Place). Include resetting curb stones, install infiltration features, plantings, site furniture.

