

Sierra Nevada Conservancy-Progress Report

Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control
River and Coastal Protection Act of 2008 (Proposition 84)

Grantee Name: Placer County Community Development Agency

Project title: Low Impact Development Guide Book

SNC Reference Number: SNC0070141 Submittal Date: March 1, 2012

Report Preparer: Edmund Sullivan

Phone #: 530.745.3030

Check one:

6-Month Progress Report
 Final Report

6-Month Progress Reports should reflect the previous six months. Final Reports should reflect the entire grant period.

A. Progress Report Summary: (Please provide a general description of work completed during this reporting period.)

- *The guidebook is complete. Final edits will be completed after March 2nd.*
- *The Homewood Development pilot project design workshop was completed in June 2009, results of which are incorporated into the guidebook.*
- *Several case studies and LID fact sheets are also included in the guidebook.*
- *The other major task completed during the first six months of our grant period was the successful completion of a LID workshop in October. 142 individuals participated in this one-day comprehensive look at low impact development.*

B. Deliverables or Outcomes completed during this Reporting Period or Milestones Achieved: (Include specific information, such as public meetings held, agency participation, partnerships developed, or acres mapped, treated or restored.)

See above.

C. Challenges or Opportunities Encountered: (Please describe what has worked and what hasn't; include any solutions you initiated to resolve problems. If your project is not on schedule, please explain why here.)

1. *The LID guidebook focused on the Sierra region for four reasons: a) the Sierra region is within the SNC sphere of influence; b) stricter stormwater permitting requirements facing Placer County within the Truckee River watershed; c) budgetary reasons – the cost of doing a guidebook for multiple climate zones; and d) the increasing likelihood of mandated LID regulatory standards from the Lahontan Regional and State Water Control Boards.*
2. *Implementation of the pilot projects within the grant award timeframe. Originally we had proposed two or three demonstration or pilot projects to be completed within two years. That proposal is proving to be problematic. Currently we're working with the Town of Truckee on incorporating LID principles into a project (proposed pet shelter) within the Town. Given the delays associated with the economic downturn, we not optimistic that either Alpine Meadows or the expansion proposed by the Resort at Squaw will be moving forward at this time. However, our team will continue to discuss incorporating LID principles with project advocates.*
3. *Finding good high altitude, cold climate LID case studies and examples has been challenging. That said the opportunity of charting new territory in the Sierra's with this guidebook is motivating our team.*

D. Unanticipated Successes Achieved: (Please describe any additional successes beyond completing scheduled tasks or meeting scheduled milestones.)

The TAC proved to be an unanticipated success. This outstanding group of individuals provided our team with valuable feedback and contributed significant content to the guidebook. Furthermore, given the limitations of the budget, I believe that Placer County and the consultant team produced a high quality, top-rate guidebook.

E. Compare Actual Costs to Budgeted Costs: (Please refer to your grant agreement to list your deliverables/budget categories and budgeted costs compared to actual costs incurred during this reporting period in the table below.)

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	Budgeted SNC Dollars	Actual Dollars
Task 1: Guidebook	\$40,500	\$93,000
Task 2: Pilot Projects/Case Studies	\$3,500	\$6,000
Task 3: Workshop	\$1,000	\$5,915
GRAND TOTAL	\$45,000	\$104,915

Explanation: (if needed)

F. Were there any other relevant materials produced under the terms of this Agreement that are not a part of the budgeted deliverables? If so, please attach copies. (Include digital photos, maps, media coverage of project, or other work products.)

No

G. Next Steps: (Work anticipated in the next 6 months, including location and timing of any scheduled events related to the project.)

Creation of this Guidebook is considered the first of several steps necessary to support more widespread use of LID in Placer County in the future. It is anticipated that future NPDES stormwater permits and other environmental regulations will require LID implementation in the county, at least on new and redevelopment projects, as is the case in other California communities. When this happens, Placer County and other local municipalities will need to adopt policies, codes, ordinances, and development standards to address LID. The Guidebook was created in a modular format with stand-alone fact sheets and flow charts to provide flexibility in how the document can be used and to facilitate updating the document in the future in response to changes in State regulations.

Please Complete this Section for FINAL Report ONLY

Resources Leveraged: (What kind and amount of resources – funding or in-kind – outside of the SNC were you able to leverage, and how?)

- *\$30,000 cash and \$10,000 in-kind from Placer County.*
- *TAC contributions – not calculated, but in-valuable.*
- *\$15,000 in-kind contribution from the consulting team.*
- *\$4,915 cash match LID workshop*

Capacity-Building Results and Collaboration and Cooperation with Stakeholders:
(What partnerships did you initiate or strengthen as a result of this project? How did they affect the project outcome? If applicable, how did this grant increase your organization's capacity? What is your plan to sustain this increase?)

Collaboration with the TAC was outstanding. The TAC represented a broad spectrum of the high Sierra community. As a result the capacity building was experienced at three levels:

- *Individual level* – The TAC meetings created conditions that allowed individual participants to build and enhance existing knowledge and skills. It also resulted in the establishment of conditions that allowed individuals TAC members to engage in the process of learning and adapting to change.
- *Institutional level* – Capacity building at an institutional aided Placer County to promote the necessary policies to begin implementing LID. Through the use of existing institutions the planning process supported the County in forming sound policies, organizational structures, and effective methods of management.
- *Societal level* – The project team experienced capacity building at the societal level thanks to a more interactive process that learned from the population at large.

The Guidebook development process built organizational capacity by:

- *Developing a conceptual framework*
- *Establishing an organizational attitude*
- *Developing a vision and strategy*
- *Developing an organizational structure*
- *Acquiring skills and resources*

Finally, without SNC funding, none of the tasks, expect the workshop would have been completed. This funding proved to be the catalysis that leveraged additional funding and resulted in Placer County developing a LID Guidebook, which is an important step in building the institutional and societal capacity to put into practice a more holistic stormwater management regime.

Description of Project Accomplishments:

1. How did the Project succeed in accomplishing its intent?

In 2005, Placer County identified Low Impact Development (LID) as a mitigation strategy for the County Aquatic Resource Program - a comprehensive strategy for state and federal environmental regulatory compliance on projects covered by the Placer County Conservation Plan. Placer County developed the SNC funded LID Guidebook to promote and encourage the application of appropriate and cost effective LID principles and strategies to new and redevelopment projects in the Sierra Nevada. LID strategies are recommended (and in some areas, required) by federal and state regulatory agencies as an effective way to protect natural resources as communities develop. The Guidebook provides planning and design guidance applicable to all scales and types of development and redevelopment in Placer County.

2. Describe any follow-on or indirect benefits resulting from the Project.

The creation of the TAC led to a de-facto social network and the social capital that emerged from that network, which was committed to a LID process that meets the needs of multiple stakeholder groups.

3. Describe any significant experiences, unanticipated results or noteworthy events that create a “wow” factor.

The TAC proved to be an unanticipated success. This outstanding group of individuals provided our team with valuable feedback and contributed significant content to the guidebook. Given the limitations of the budget, the quality of the guidebook was a “wow” factor.

4. Describe any Lessons Learned.

Overall positive experience, but writing the guidebook was the easy part, amending and changing Placer County ordinances will be the real challenge. In addition, snow and snow removal do change the parameters of how LID can be implemented.

5. How do you intend to share the results of your work on this project?

An overview of the Guidebook will be presented at an LID conference in October. Placer County will be uploading the document to the Community Development Resource Agency web page.

SNC-approved Performance Measures: (Please list each Performance Measure for your Project, as identified in your Grant Agreement, and the results/outcomes.)

Though it can function as general guidance for any location, the Guidebook includes specific information applicable to the High Sierra elevations above 5,000 feet with snow and freeze/thaw conditions that can sometimes make use of LID challenging. Also, during the development of the Guidebook, a pilot redevelopment project in the Tahoe Basin (Homewood) was selected and used by the Technical Advisory Team to apply, study and refine the various planning and design tools included in the Guidebook (Appendix B presents the results of the pilot study). This Guidebook is not an exhaustive resource on LID; other sources of information are listed in the References section and Appendix E.

Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program Project Reporting Guidelines

Progress Reports are required periodically throughout the term of the Grant Agreement (Refer to Exhibit B of the Grant Agreement). These reports will allow you and the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) to see the degree to which the project is on track and achieving your projected outcomes. Your Progress Reports will further provide the SNC with information that will help us to explain your work to the Board Members and various other audiences. Timing of Progress Reports is specified in the Project Schedule included in Exhibit A of the Grant Agreement, but generally every 6 months until completion of the project.

A Progress Reporting Form is provided to Grantees on the SNC Website. **Six-month Progress Reports** should reflect the previous 6-month period; **Final Reports** should address each question for the entire grant period – looking at the project as a whole.

The form specifies the items you will need to report on. For the Six-Month Interim Report these include, but are not limited to: *A Progress Report Summary of work completed, Deliverables or Outcomes Completed, Challenges or Opportunities Encountered, Unanticipated Successes Achieved, Actual Costs compared to Budgeted Costs, Any Additional Relevant Materials Produced, and Next Steps.*

The Final Report will include additional information, such as: *Resources Leveraged, Capacity-Building Results and Collaboration and Cooperation with Stakeholders, a Description of Project Accomplishments, and SNC Approved Performance Measures.*

Please make sure that you submit complete reports by the dates requested in your Grant Agreement.

Chris Dallas

From: Edmund Sullivan [ESulliva@placer.ca.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, February 29, 2012 12:26 PM
To: Chris Dallas
Subject: Final Report Performance Measures

5.
 - * 142 persons attended the 2008 LID Conference
 - * Approximately 30 individuals attended the one of three TAC meetings
 - * Homewood Development – JMA Ventures

6. JMA Ventures has incorporated LID into its development. Furthermore, the TAC, our stakeholder group, is committed to a LID process that met the needs of multiple interest groups and the environmental benefits of LID as is demonstrated by their acceptance of the guidebook.

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