



For Immediate Release

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MAYOR DELLUMS ANNOUNCES STIMULUS PROJECTS TO KEEP LAKE MERRITT, WATERWAYS CLEAN

Oakland Received \$3.45 Million for New Trash Removal Technologies

OAKLAND – On the 40th anniversary of Earth Day, Mayor Ron Dellums, city partners and city staff announced \$3.45 million in stimulus funds that are allowing the city to better remove trash from Lake Merritt, further protect Oakland’s waterways, and are creating a number of jobs. The press conference was held in front of the bird islands at Lake Merritt – the nation’s first wildlife refuge.

“This allocation of \$3.45 million is more evidence that President Obama and the Federal Government understand that by putting as much money as possible into local communities, we can generate jobs while addressing critical issues,” said Mayor Dellums. “These funds have allowed us to better remove trash from Lake Merritt, further protect Oakland’s waterways, and create a number of much-needed jobs. I want to thank city staff and our community partners for making this allocation possible. During an unprecedented time of shrinking local and state budgets, the federal stimulus dollars are supporting critical community services and programs.”

Provided by the State Water Resources Control Board’s Clean Water Revolving Fund, the \$3.45 million will provide three stormwater separators at priority locations that will prevent trash from entering Lake Merritt; up to 400 stormwater inlet screens throughout Oakland; a new H-Vac truck to vacuum trash from the lake; new booms at Lake Merritt; and a stop-litter outreach campaign.

As part of the project, \$275,000 will provide wages for up to 15 people including city engineers, surveyors, construction laborers, operators, technicians, truck drivers, and foreman. These projects are training professionals to be part of the new green economy by allowing individuals and companies to become more adept at working with innovative technologies, which can be transferred to other cities and projects.

Trash entering our waterways through stormwater runoff negatively impacts aquatic and avian species and creates unsightly conditions. The majority of marine debris comes from land-based sources delivered by runoff. Thus, separators capture styrofoam, plastics, bottles, cigarette butts, and other materials that float on the surface of stormwater. Separators trap sediments, organics and waterborne pollutants that are flushed from streets within the watershed.

To date, Oakland and its partners have received over \$205 million in federal and state economic stimulus grants, and grants for \$217.5 million more are pending approval from federal agencies. Grants have been awarded for public safety, economic development, workforce training, and public infrastructure projects.

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Lake Merritt Rotary Nature Center Stimulus Funded Trash Removal Project

Earth Day Press Conference Fact Sheet

Event Information

The conference will be held at 1pm in front of the bird islands at Lake Merritt, the Nations first wildlife refuge to celebrate installation of an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funded stimulus grant from the State of California Water Board. After presentations from Oakland Mayor Ronald Dellums, SF Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board Executive Office Bruce Wolfe and Save the Bay Executive Director David Lewis, City crews will open the new stormwater separator and vacuum out trash using the new H-Vac truck.

Lake Merritt Rotary Nature Center Stimulus Funded Trash Removal Project

- This project is funded as part of a larger \$3.45 million 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act allocation, provided to Oakland through the State Water Resources Control Board's Clean Water Revolving Fund
- The Rotary Nature Center Stormwater Trash Separator treats 80 acres of downtown commercial and residential areas for trash before entering Lake Merritt
- The Rotary Nature Center Stormwater Trash Separator costs \$275,000 and provided at least 15 jobs
- Construction began four months after stimulus money was approved
- Total construction days was 45 days

Federal Stimulus Funding

- To date, Oakland has received over \$205 million in federal and state economic stimulus grants, and grants for \$217.5 million more are pending approval from federal agencies (*from City website; needs confirmation*)
- Oakland received \$3.45 million in stimulus funding through the State Water Resources Control Board's State Revolving Fund. These funds paid for the following:
 - Three stormwater separators at priority locations
 - Up to 400 stormwater inlet screens throughout Oakland
 - A new H-Vac truck
 - New booms at Lake Merritt
 - A stop-litter outreach campaign

Jobs created from this project

- These projects are training professionals to be part of the new green economy
- Individuals and companies become more adept at working with innovative technologies; These skills and capacities can be transferred to other cities and projects
- These projects are creating and preserving jobs in Oakland; for example, installation of the stormwater separator is estimated to have led to the employment of up to 15 individuals including the following:
 - 3 City engineering staff;
 - 8 construction laborers, operators, technicians, truck drivers, and foreman; and
 - 4 concrete laborers, finishers, and steel workers.

Stormwater Trash Separators

- Separators capture styrofoam, plastics, bottles, cigarette butts, and other materials that float on the surface of stormwater.
- Separators trap sediments, organics and waterborne pollutants that are flushed from streets within the watershed.
- Unit will improve water quality in an area heavily used by resident and migratory birds

Lake Merritt Facts

- Lake Merritt is home to the nation's first wildlife refuge established in 1870
- Lake Merritt is an urban lake comprised of approximately 155-acres of open waters surrounded by 110-acres of open space.
- Lake Merritt connects to the SF Bay/Oakland Estuary via the Lake Merritt Channel, a 3,500-foot long tidal connection
- Lake Merritt and the Channel originally existed as a marshy, brackish tidal slough at the confluence of the San Francisco Bay and four creeks originating in the Oakland hills.
- Today dams and culverts at 10th and 12th Street limit waterflow between the Lake and the SF Bay resulting in reduced tidal fluctuations and poor circulation in Lake Merritt; Pollutants carried by urban runoff and other sources further impact water quality.

Other Projects to Improve Lake Merritt Water Quality

- Volunteers remove approximately 45,000 lbs of trash from Lake Merritt each year
- Approximately \$9 million in funds dedicated to capital improvement projects to improve stormwater quality at Lake Merritt; Funding provided by Measure DD, State Coastal Conservancy, Federal Stimulus, City of Oakland
- Removal of these constrictions will improve water quality and increase the volume of water exchanged between the Lake and Estuary resulting in increased oxygen levels and greater mixing of frequently stratified saltwater and freshwater.
- The Project will increase the tidal range at the Lake by approximately 2.5' creating new and healthier intertidal habitats.
- Projects funded by Measure DD, the State Coastal Conservancy, and Federal sources.

Oakland's Other Stormwater Separator Trash Control Units

- Five units have been built within the Lake Merritt Watershed treating 314.5 acres
- These units are located at the following locations:
- Intersection of Bellevue and Staten Avenues (26 acres)
- Intersection of Grand and Euclid Avenue (16.5 acres)
- Intersection of 27th and Valdez Streets (71 acres)
- Intersection of 22nd and Valley Streets (121 acres)
- Intersection of Bellevue Avenue and Perkins Street (80 acres)
- Unit locations have been selected based on amount of commercial acreage (highest trash producing land-use type), feasibility, and proximity to sensitive habitats
- Two more stormwater separators are in design, one for Lake Merritt and one in East Oakland. Additional units are planned.

Why Trash is a Problem

- Trash entering our waterways through stormwater runoff negatively impacts aquatic and avian species and creates unsightly conditions
- The majority of marine debris comes from land-based sources delivered by runoff
- Debris obstructs and pollutes watershed habitat and can impact species through entanglement or toxic ingestion which can have fatal results
- Plastics take hundreds of years to breakdown and may continue to trap and kill animals year after year.

The Newly Approved Municipal Regional Permit

- Goal to reduce trash loads from stormwater system by 40% by 2014, 70% by 2017 and 100% by 2022
- By 2014, Oakland is required to comply with the following:
- Mandatory minimum level of trash capture
- Cleanup and abatement progress at 13 Hot Spots
- Implementation of other control measures and BMPs
- Submission of a long-term trash load reduction plan including an implementation schedule to show load reductions will be achieved by 2017 and 2022

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For more information on Mayor Ron Dellums and the City of Oakland, please visit and bookmark the following Web accounts:



: <http://www.youtube.com/ronalddellums>



: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Ron-Dellums/98961200747>



: <http://www.twitter.com> "Mayor Dellums"



: <http://www.nualerts.com/clubs/mayordellums/>