

COMING SOON: El Cerrito Green Streets Rain Gardens!



Gates and Associates

This spring, in partnership with the San Francisco Estuary Partnership, using federal stimulus money, the city is installing two new RAIN GARDENS along San Pablo Avenue: at Eureka and Madison. The rain gardens are designed to slow rainwater running off of San Pablo Avenue and adjacent neighborhoods, allowing it to sink into the ground. The water—which contains pollution from the streets and vehicles—will be filtered and cleaned by the plants and soil of the rain gardens. The filtered water will then be sent into the underground storm drain system and on to San Francisco Bay. By cleaning the water before it gets there, the rain gardens improve water quality in the Bay, helping the fish and wildlife that live in it. The trees and plants in the rain garden will also help filter air pollution and provide habitat for birds, bees, and butterflies plus improve the look of the street for pedestrians and shoppers.

The rain gardens are part of the El Cerrito Redevelopment Agency's larger multi-year project to enhance San Pablo Avenue. The goal of the project is to identify El Cerrito as a distinct place along the Avenue, enhance the economic vitality of the area and create a better walking environment.

The Redevelopment Agency has already installed new signage, street banners, created Gateway Park (at Baxter Creek), as well as completed landscaping and irrigation renovations in existing medians.

In early 2010, the Agency will complete the following improvements:

- New medians south of Central Avenue
- Eight new crosswalks
- Pedestrian safety improvements - such as countdown pedestrian crossing signals and in-pavement flashing crosswalks in some locations
- Upgraded landscaping
- New street furnishings including benches and bike racks
- Additional street trees
- Upgraded transit stops with new benches and trash/recycling bins
- Demonstration rain gardens

For more information contact Melanie Mintz at 215-4339 and see <http://www.sfestuary.org/projects/detail.php?projectID=41>.



The rain gardens will be planted with attractive native species. Photos by Ron Sullivan.

Funding for this project has been provided in full or in part through an agreement with the State Water Resources Control Board. The contents of this document do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the State Water Resources Control Board, nor does mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation for use. (Gov. Code Section 7550, 40 CFR Section 31.20.)



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