

Technical Memorandum #7



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To: Robin Krause
From: Scott Ferre / Tim Kraft
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Subject: LID Definition - Clark County
Project 14505
No.:

Otak reviewed definitions of Low impact Development (LID) from multiple organizations. These definitions were used as examples to develop a suggested definition of LID for use in Clark County. Following are the examples reviewed:

- **WSDOT:** “Low-Impact Development (LID) An evolving approach to land development and stormwater management that uses a site’s natural features and specially designed BMPs to manage stormwater; involves assessing and understanding the site, protecting native vegetation and soils, and minimizing and managing stormwater at the source. Low-impact development practices are appropriate for a variety of development types.”
- **Valley Conservation:** “Low Impact Development (LID) is a design strategy with the goal of maintaining or replicating the pre- development hydrologic regime through the use of design techniques to create a functionally equivalent hydrologic site design. Hydrologic functions of storage, infiltration and ground water recharge, as well as the volume and frequency of discharges are maintained through the use of integrated and distributed micro-scale stormwater retention and detention areas, reduction of impervious surfaces, and the lengthening of runoff flow paths and flow time. Other strategies include the preservation/protection of environmentally sensitive site features such as riparian buffers, wetlands, steep slopes, valuable (mature) trees, flood plains, woodlands, and highly permeable soils.”
- **Pierce County, WA:** “Low Impact Development (LID) is a land use development strategy that emphasizes protection and use of on-site natural features integrated with engineered, small-scale hydrologic controls at the parcel and subdivision scale to manage stormwater and

more closely mimic pre-development watershed hydrologic functions. LID techniques may be considered an alternative to traditional, structural stormwater management solutions.”

- **Puget Sound Action Team:** Low Impact Development is a stormwater management strategy that emphasizes conservation and use of existing natural site features integrated with distributed, small-scale stormwater controls to more closely mimic natural hydrologic patterns in residential, commercial, and industrial settings.
- **Department of Defense:** “Low Impact Development (LID) is stormwater management strategy concerned with maintaining or restoring the natural hydrologic functions of a site to achieve natural resource protection objectives and fulfill environmental regulatory requirements. LID employs a variety of natural and built features that reduce the rate of runoff, filter out its pollutants, and facilitates the infiltration of water into the ground. By reducing water pollution and increasing groundwater recharge, LID helps to improve the quality of receiving surface waters and stabilize the flow rates of nearby streams.”

The following is a suggested definition of LID for Clark County:

Low Impact Development (LID) is an approach to stormwater management that emphasizes the use of on-site natural and built features to reduce the impacts of increased flow rates and volumes associated with increases in impervious area. LID involves assessing and understanding the site, protecting native vegetation and soils, and minimizing and managing stormwater at the source. LID techniques may be considered an alternative to traditional, structural stormwater management solutions.