

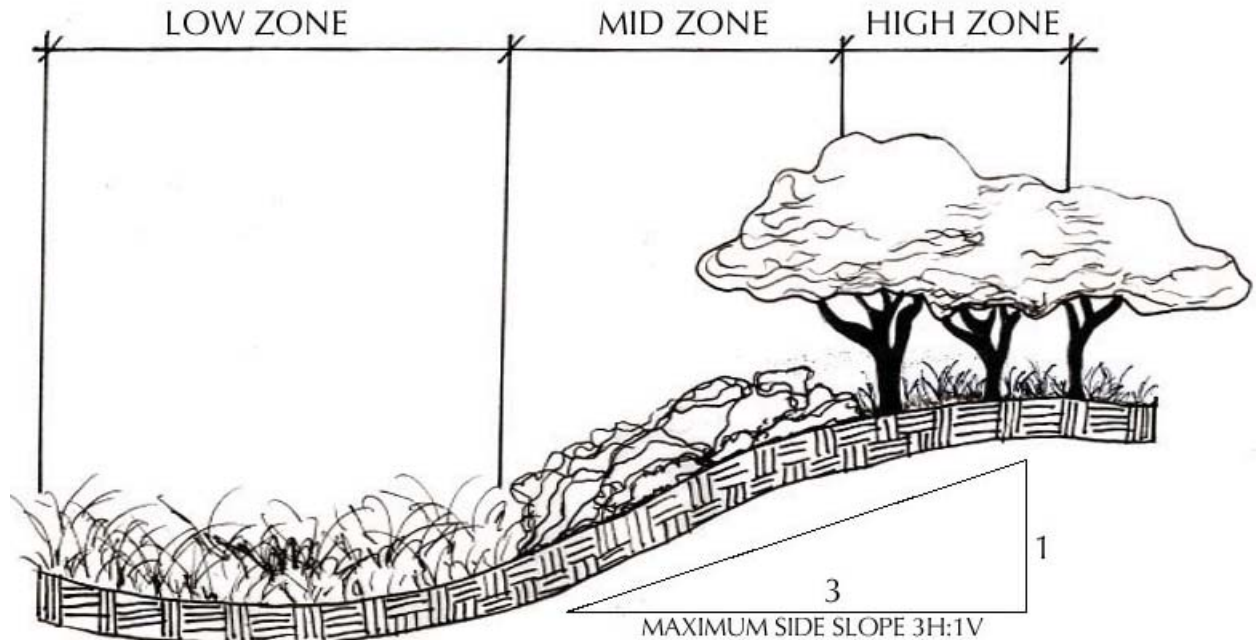
# Appendix G

## *LID Planting Zones and Plant List*

## Low Impact Development Planting Zones

**Planting zones** refer to the planted areas in drainage features of Low Impact Development (LID) practices and flood control detention basins. LID practices include vegetated swales and bioretention basins. Plants are an integral element of their function. The plants in these zones facilitate natural infiltration of surface runoff, increase evapotranspiration, reduce the heat-island effect of urban areas, and reduce the rate, volume, and pollutant loading of urban runoff that ultimately ends up in local streams, rivers, estuaries, and the Monterey Bay. For the drainage features to function optimally, numerous plant characteristics have been considered in indicating the appropriate plant species for the three plant zones such as: water requirements, tolerance for inundation, root and leaf structure and a species' ability to filter pollutants. The plant zone guidelines and planting list can also be utilized for the revegetation, restoration, and bank stabilization of local streams, rivers, and estuaries.

In all instances, native plant species are recommended since they are adapted to the Central Coast climate and generally require less water and fertilization. Non-native invasive plant species are discouraged as water can quickly spread their occurrence and alter downstream habitats. Likewise turf grasses are discouraged for LID drainage features since they require large amounts of supplemental water, fertilizers and regular maintenance.



Low Impact Development Planting Zones

**LOW ZONE** – The low zone is an area where runoff temporarily ponds in response to a rain event or dry weather flows such as upgradient washing or irrigation activities. The low zone should be designed to drain and not hold standing water for more than 72 hours. However, it may be inundated for extended periods of time during the rainy season. Water tolerant plants with dense root structure and/or vegetative cover provide maximum pollutant filtration, discourage erosion and slow water runoff velocities (in drainage features that cross-drain, such as bioswales). Native grasses and groundcovers are recommended for these areas.

**MID ZONE** – The mid zone is an area that slows the storm water runoff as it flows into the drainage feature. Water passes through and saturates this area, but will not stand there for extended periods of time during typical storm events. The plants for this zone must tolerate periods without water *and* periodic inundation. The plants in the mid zone should provide a root structure to prevent erosion of the side slope.

**HIGH ZONE** – The high zone is an area that creates the top of the bank of the drainage facility. Water will not stand in this zone. Deep roots give natural base structure to the edge of the drainage facility. These plants must be tolerant of extended periods without water and occasional saturation.

## Low Impact Development (LID) Plant List

*Developed for the City of Salinas, California*

Botanical Name	Common Name	Low Zone**	Mid Zone**	High Zone**	Swale or Filter Strip	Planting Strips (< 5')	Large Planting Areas (> 5')	Large Detention Basins	Greenroof	Tolerates Prolonged Saturation	Tolerates Periodic Flooding	Tolerates Prolonged Dry Periods	Requires Good Drainage	Tolerates Mowing	Wind Tolerant	Notes
<b>TREES</b>																
<i>Acer circinatum</i>	vine maple		X	X	X	X	X				X	X				Needs some shade
<i>Acer macrophyllum</i>	big-leaf maple		X	X			X	X		X	X				X	
<i>Aesculus californica</i>	California buckeye			X			X	X		X	X	X			X	
<i>Alnus rhombifolia</i>	white alder		X	X			X	X		X	X					Keep protected from prevailing winds
<i>Alnus rubra</i>	red alder		X	X			X	X		X	X					
<i>Cercis occidentalis</i>	Western redbud		X	X		X	X				X	X	X			
<i>Fraxinus latifolia</i>	Oregon Ash		X	X			X	X			X					
<i>Juglans californica</i> var. <i>hindsii</i>	Northern California black walnut			X		X	X			X	X	X				
<i>Populus fremontii</i>	Fremont cottonwood			X			X	X		X					X	Water loving, aggressive roots, "fast growing"
<i>Prunus lyonii</i>	Catalina cherry			X		X	X			X	X	X			X	
<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	Douglas-fir			X			X				X	X			X	
<i>Salix coulteri</i>	Coulter willow	X	X	X			X	X		X	X				X	
<i>Salix laevigata</i>	red willow	X	X	X			X	X		X	X				X	
<i>Salix lasiolepis</i>	arroyo willow	X	X	X			X	X		X	X				X	
<i>Sambucus mexicana</i>	blue elderberry		X	X		X	X			X	X	X			X	
<i>Umbellularia californica</i>	California bay			X			X			X	X				X	
<b>SHRUBS</b>																
<i>Baccharis douglasii</i>	marsh baccharis	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X				
<i>Baccharis pilularis</i>	coyote brush					X	X				X				X	
<i>Baccharis salicifolia</i>	mule fat		X	X			X	X			X	X				
<i>Cornus stolonifera</i>	red twig dogwood	X	X	X		X	X			X	X				X	
<i>Fremontodendron californicum</i>	flannelbush			X			X						X			High zone, needs to dry between waterings
<i>Garrya elliptica</i>	coast silk tassel			X		X	X					X				
<i>Gaultheria shallon</i>	salal					X	X				X					Prefers shade
<i>Mimulus aurantiacus</i>	sticky monkeyflower		X		X	X			X			X				
<i>Mimulus cardinalis</i>	scarlet monkeyflower	X	X		X	X		X	X	X	X				X	
<i>Rhamnus californica</i>	California coffeeberry		X	X			X	X				X	X		X	Low water requirements
<i>Ribes sanguineum</i>	red flowering currant		X			X	X	X		X					X	
<i>Ribes speciosum</i>	fuchsia-flowered gooseberry		X			X		X		X	X				X	
<i>Ribes viburnifolium</i>	evergreen currant		X	X			X			X	X	X			X	
<i>Rosa californica</i>	California rose		X	X		X	X			X	X	X				Can be invasive
<i>Rubus parviflorus</i>	thimbleberry					X	X	X			X	X			X	

\* Plant species are considered native to California. California native selections are suggested to limit impact on native habitats downstream.

\*\*Refer section drawing for planting zones.

# Low Impact Development (LID) Plant List

Developed for the City of Salinas, California

Botanical Name	Common Name	Low Zone**	Mid Zone**	High Zone**	Swale or Filter Strip	Planting Strips (< 5')	Large Planting Areas (> 5')	Large Detention Basins	Greenroofs	Tolerates Prolonged Saturation	Tolerates Periodic Flooding	Tolerates Prolonged Dry Periods	Requires Good Drainage	Tolerates Mowing	Wind Tolerant	Notes
<b>GRASSES, GROUNDCOVERS, FERNS</b>																
Achillea millefolium	yarrow		X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X		X	
Aquilegia formosa	Western columbine	X			X	X	X			X	X	X				
Bromus carinatus	California brome		X	X	X	X			X			X				
Calamagrostis nutkaensis	Pacific reed grass		X			X	X		X		X	X			X	
Calochortus albus	white globe lily		X		X	X	X	X			X	X			X	
Carex globosa	globe sedge	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X	
Carex obnupta	slough sedge	X	X					X		X	X				X	
Carex pansa	California meadow sedge	X	X		X		X	X	X		X		X		X	
Carex tumulicola/ Carex divulsa	Berkeley sedge/ gray sedge	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	
Castilleja miniata	Indian paintbrush		X	X		X	X		X			X	X		X	
Deschampsia cespitosa	tufted hairgrass		X		X		X	X	X		X	X	X		X	Needs irrigation
Dudleya caespitosa	dudleya		X													
Eleocharis macrostachya	common spikerush	X	X		X	X		X	X	X	X				X	
Eschscholzia californica	California poppy		X	X	X	X	X		X			X	X		X	
Festuca californica	California fescue		X	X	X	X					X	X			X	Do not plant in low zone
Festuca idahoensis	Idaho fescue		X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X			X	Do not plant in low zone
Festuca rubra	red fescue	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	Needs irrigation
Fragaria chiloensis	beach strawberry		X		X	X		X	X		X	X	X		X	
Heuchera micrantha	alum root		X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X			
Iris douglasiana	Douglas iris		X			X	X				X		X		X	
Juncus effusus	common rush	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X				X	
Juncus patens	California gray rush	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X				X	
Leymus triticoides	Creeping wild rye		X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X			X	Fast spreading
Melica imperfecta	melic, onion grass		X	X	X	X			X		X				X	
Muhlenbergia rigens	deergrass					X	X		X		X	X			X	
Polystichum munitum	Western sword fern				X	X	X				X					Prefers shade
Rhamnus californica	California coffeeberry															
Salvia ssp.	sage(s)															High zone, predominantly dry zones
Scirpus cernuus	fiber optic grass	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	
Sedum	stonecrop		X						X							
Sisyrinchium idahoense bellum	blue-eyed grass		X	X	X				X							
Satureja douglasii	Yerba buena	X	X		X	X										
<b>VINES</b>																
Clematis ligusticifolia	virgin's bower	X	X				X				X	X				
Lonicera involucrata	twinberry honeysuckle		X	X		X					X					
Vitis californica	California wild grape	X	X	X		X	X				X	X	X		X	Needs partial sun, do not plant at low point

\* Plant species are considered native to California. California native selections are suggested to limit impact on native habitats downstream.

\*\*Refer section drawing for planting zones.

Prepared by Joni L. Janecki & Associates, Inc.

# Low Impact Development Planting Guidelines

## DESIGN CRITERIA

There are numerous conditions to consider when choosing plant species to be used in LID drainage features. Many of the criteria are found in species that tolerate the various and (sometimes) disparate conditions in their native habitats. For example, the plant species need to tolerate periods of flooding as well as extended dry periods without supplemental irrigation. California native plant species are highly recommended as they are best adapted to the local climate.

The LID plant palette is intended to serve as a baseline for plant species selection for LID drainage features. Other plant species may be proposed for use in LID drainage features; the City will have the right to permit or deny their use. The following planting criteria and characteristics are to be considered when proposing other species for LID drainage features:

- The planting zones where the plant species are to be planted (Low, Mid, High, see Planting Zones)
- The size of the planting area and the size of the plant species at maturity
- California native or easily naturalized plant species are preferred
- Non native invasive species should not be used
- Drought tolerant / low-supplemental irrigation requirements
- Tolerant of season flooding/inundation
- Low maintenance requirements
- Adaptability

As an element of a drainage feature, LID plant selections should aim to control erosion and wick water from soils. Accordingly, groundcovers and grasses that quickly cover exposed soils are the best choices for the low zone (see Planting Zones). Trees and large shrubs are best planted in the high zone where their roots can absorb the infiltration. Low shrubs, grasses and groundcovers may be used in the mid zone depending on the slope, soil type, and drainage patterns (sheet flow vs. concentrated flow, or flooding).

If a planted LID drainage feature receives a concentrated flow, energy dispersion devices will be required at the entry point to deter damage or erosion to the planted areas. Examples of erosion protection/energy dissipation designs include cobblestones, gabions, small hardscaped areas, or other approved devices.



Gabion for Energy Dispersion (i.e. erosion control)

## PLANT LAYOUT

The following shall be considered when planting LID drainage features:

- The smallest practical area of land should be exposed at any one time during development. Mulching or other protective erosion control measures should be used temporarily to protect exposed areas.
- Vegetation should be installed as soon as possible in the development after the land is exposed.
- Plants should be planted in staggered rows to ensure that plants grow together for maximum soil coverage.



# Low Impact Development Planting Guidelines

## SOIL TESTING

A soils report shall be prepared prior to planting. The report shall be prepared by a qualified soils specialist or laboratory. The report shall be submitted to the City as part of the landscape and irrigation plans for final approval. Soil samples should be collected after grading operations are complete. Since surface soils are highly variable in the alluvial plain of the Salinas Valley, a sufficient number of soils samples shall be collected to account for variations that may be present in the areas to be planted. The report should include:

- Native soil composition
- Infiltration rates
- A texture test
- Cation exchange capacity
- An agricultural suitability analysis
- Recommended amendments for planted species to thrive

The following list includes some qualified soil testing laboratories in the region:

Perry Soil Laboratory, 424 Airport Blvd., Watsonville, CA 95076, T: (831) 722-7606  
Soil and Plant Laboratory, Inc., 352 Matthew Street, Santa Clara, CA 95052, T: (408) 727-0330

## AMENDMENTS

Prior to planting the recommended amendments shall be added as described in the soils report. A copy of the soils report shall be attached to the irrigation schedule provided to the owner and/or operator of the project.

## MULCH

After planting, exposed soils shall be covered with mulch to discourage erosion. Mulch should only be maintained until plant growth has covered the majority of the exposed soil. Biodegradable erosion control mats and materials may also be used to provide same function as mulch.

Mulch should be large enough in size to be easily cleaned away from drain inlets and not fit through the openings of drain grates. Mulch shall be free of sticks and other debris. Always hold mulch away from root crown. Acceptable mulch types include:

- Nitrogen fortified bark (1" to 2" diameter)
- Redwood bark (1" to 2" diameter)
- Chipped gravel, crushed stone, or cobbles (1/2" – 2 1/2" diameter)
- 50/50 blend of top soil and aged compost

"Gorilla Hair" (shredded redwood bark) will not be permitted by the City of Salinas as it causes an impervious layer that encourages mold growth in Salinas's soils.

## MAINTENANCE

Native plant species naturally reduce the need for maintenance. These species will minimize pests and disease problems, require less fertilizer, reduce the need for excessive pruning and conserve water. Woody plants require less maintenance once established while perennials adjust to their new environment quickly but may require more care over the long run.

Care requirements should be considered when choosing plant species for LID drainage features. Trash and debris should be cleaned out of LID planting areas periodically, especially after large storm events. Drain inlets shall be cleaned out periodically.



Bioretention basin along an urban roadway.

## Low Impact Development Plant List Development

### PROCESS

The LID plant list was developed through a research process. Characteristics of LID drainage features such as bioswales, bioretention basins, rain gardens and tree filters were considered. Key local factors such as the climate, soils, and biodiversity of Salinas, California provided further parameters for development of appropriate plants. Preference was given to plants native to the Central Coast region for their compatibility with sensitive downstream habitats and to keep exotics from spreading and invading those habitats. Documents and conversations with and documents from other municipalities such as the Cities of Livermore, Oakland, and Santa Monica, California, The City of Seattle, Washington and The City of Portland, Oregon provided valuable guidance and insight towards successful implementation, operations and maintenance of LID drainage features.

### References:

Brenzel Norris, Kathleen. Sunset Western Garden Book. Menlo Park: Sunset Publishing Corporation, 2001.

The City of Livermore California. *Bioswale Design Compliance – Standard Details*. May 2005.

The City of Livermore California. *South Livermore Valley Specific Plan Residential Street Swales and Parkway areas Planting Policies and Standards*. December 2003.

The City of Livermore California and WRT. *South Livermore Valley Specific Plan Residential Street Swales and Parkway areas Planting Guidelines*. June 2003

The City of Portland, Oregon. *2005 Portland Watershed Management Plan*. Available at: [www.portlandonline.com/bes](http://www.portlandonline.com/bes)

The City of Santa Monica, California- Urban Watershed Management Program. Public Outreach and Education Brochure. *Working for a Cleaner Bay- Design Regulations, Construction Practices, and Good Housekeeping Requirements for new building projects and existing properties to reduce urban runoff water pollution*. No date.

Creative Environmental Conservation and Moss Landing Marine Laboratories. *Natividad Creek Wetland and Upland Habitat Restoration Plan*. Prepared for the City of Salinas. No Date.

East Bay Municipal Utility District. Oakland: East Bay Municipal Utility District, *Plants and Landscapes for Summer- Dry Climates of the San Francisco Bay Region*. 2004.

Keator, Glenn. Complete Guide to the Native Shrubs of California. San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 2004.

Las Pilitas Nursery. Online native plants information resource. Available at: [www.laspilitas.com](http://www.laspilitas.com).

Low Impact Development Center, Inc. General information about LID principles. Available at: [www.lid-stormwater.net](http://www.lid-stormwater.net)

Turnbull, Jenny. The City of Livermore California, Planner. Telephone Conversation. August 10, 2006.

Yronwode, Cathleen, and Eileen Smith. The California Gardener's Book of Lists. Dallas: Taylor Publishing Company, 1998.