

Resolution made by
Pima Association
of Governments'
Regional Council
on June 14, 2012.



Resolution Supporting Low-Impact Development and Green Infrastructure

Whereas, Low Impact Development (LID) and Green Infrastructure (GI) are land development or re-development approaches that seek to manage stormwater as close to its source as possible and to engineer stormwater infrastructure that mimics the natural hydrologic function incorporating measures such as using permeable materials, creating alternative designs for sites, buildings and roads, vegetation and multi-use rainwater catchment systems; and

Whereas, LID/GI enhances the function and resilience of our watershed by preserving and recreating natural landscape features, building habitat, enhancing riparian corridor connectivity, reducing flood hazards and erosion, and capturing rainwater to offset outdoor use of potable water; and

Whereas, LID/GI provides value-added ecosystem services such as mitigating Urban Heat Island effects by decreasing hardscape and increasing shade, as well as greening urban areas, improving safety of heat-sensitive populations, reducing energy demands, improving air quality, increasing carbon sequestration, enriching urban soils and creating aesthetic amenities in our built environment; and

Whereas, LID/GI increases the health and safety of neighborhoods when applied with living street design, next to multi-modal transportation amenities (e.g., walking, cycling) and in combination with transportation structures designed to slow residential traffic; and

Whereas, LID/GI is a core element in sustainability planning nationwide and is identified by the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as an urban stormwater quality "best management practice" (BMP) that will be increasingly required in Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Arizona Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits; and

Whereas, several regional water studies have identified rainwater and stormwater as a valued component of our overall desert water resource portfolio ; and

Whereas, the City of Tucson and the Town of Oro Valley have adopted ordinances requiring commercial construction to use rainwater harvesting to meet a portion of their irrigation needs, and, the City of Tucson, Pima County and Town of Oro Valley have prepared LID/GI implementation guidance documents; and

Whereas, LID/GI stormwater management strategies have widespread citizen support as indicated by the success of volunteer based efforts, as well as widespread private and public support as indicated by concerted efforts to create evaluative BMP seminars and workshops, compile case studies, develop research agendas with EPA, plan and host the 2012 Arid LID conference, and pioneer LID principles in arid landscapes; and

Whereas, the PAG 2040 Regional Transportation Plan supports the implementation of appropriate LID/GI concepts and the regional award of Bicycle Friendly Community is complementary toward these goals; and

Whereas, affordable and scalable LID/GI projects facilitate the participation of, and benefit to, the region's underserved populations thereby enhancing the objectives of environmental justice; and

Whereas, emerging industries are stimulating job and economic growth by selling materials such as rock, engineered soil, cisterns and plants; hiring contractors, consultants, design engineers and landscapers; and attracting visitors to attend conferences and workshops and visit LID/GI installations; and

Whereas, EPA studies indicate that implementing appropriate multi-functional LID/GI practices provide economic savings to local jurisdictions and developers and enhance property values; and

Whereas, EPA case studies identify the successful use of private sector incentives such as lowering permit fees, expediting permits, offering tax rebates, and modifying building codes and development densities as means of encouraging LID/GI; and

Whereas, utilizing LID/GI will play an increasingly important role as our region adapts to rising temperatures and increased weather variability associated with climate change.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that, in recognition of Low Impact Development's (LID) and Green Infrastructure's (GI) multiple environmental, social, and economic benefits, the PAG Regional Council encourages incorporating these principles, methods and incentives into projects when feasible and affordable; in addition, the PAG Regional Council encourages creation of technical guidance and coordinating with regional and intra-jurisdictional land planning efforts, with consideration given to individual buyer preferences and price sensitive markets.