



**Ballona Creek Channel Trash Reduction Efforts
Stakeholders Meeting – October 7, 2020
Summary of Questions and Answers**

The following provides a summary of the questions asked and the answers provided during the October 7, 2020, Stakeholders Meeting. Where applicable, Public Works has obtained additional information and incorporated below to provide the most appropriate response.

Pilot Project / Interceptor Questions

Are there other Interceptor projects being developed in the US?

Per The Ocean Cleanup, as announced in October 2019, The Ocean Cleanup is on a mission to tackle the 1,000 most polluting rivers in the world, which you can be seen on the interactive map at <https://theoceancleanup.com/sources>. The peer-reviewed scientific paper behind the model results shown on the map is expected to be published before the end of 2020. Currently, The Ocean Cleanup's focus is on the regions where the problem appears most imminent; therefore, The Ocean Cleanup is not prioritizing other Interceptor projects in the US. Based on the findings of the scientific paper, The Ocean Cleanup's initial efforts have been applied to Southeast Asia and some countries in Central America and the Caribbean.

How long will it take the Interceptor to remove the trash captured by the Interceptor and its barriers / trash booms at the Pilot Project site?

Because the amount of trash that will reach the Pilot Project site will vary depending on several factors, including whether the storm event is the first one of the storm season, the intensity of the storm, and the time between storms, the time required for the Interceptor to remove the trash will vary. Depending on the amount of trash that needs to be removed, the Interceptor could take 2 to 3 hours to collect the trash captured. If the amount of trash exceeds the available capacity in the Interceptor's six dumpsters, additional time may be needed for the dumpsters to be taken to the marina, emptied, and inserted back into the Interceptor for continued trash collection.

What is the smallest size of trash particles that can be captured by the Interceptor?

The Interceptor's conveyor belt's openings are roughly 10 mm by 15 mm (i.e., approximately 0.4 inches by 0.6 inches). A bottle cap is an example of the small debris that will be able to be captured by the Interceptor. Based on The Ocean Cleanup's experience in Indonesia and Malaysia, The Ocean Cleanup is aware that smaller pieces of trash and debris have a tendency to stick to larger pieces of trash and debris, so it is even possible to capture smaller pieces of trash and debris than the openings on the Interceptor's conveyor belt, but it is not guaranteed.

Will there be any change in the Interceptor's capability to capture during high-flow storm events?

We do not anticipate a change in the Interceptor's capability to capture trash in relation to the magnitude of a storm. The conveyor belt's speed will be able to be adjusted as needed. If the

dumpsters within the Interceptor get filled during a storm, the conveyor belt will be turned off and the barriers/booms will continue to hold the trash back while the dumpsters are taken to the marina, emptied, and inserted back into the Interceptor for continued trash collection.

Will boats and rowers be able to enter Ballona Creek from Santa Monica Bay once the Pilot Project is in place?

Most of the year, only one of the Interceptor's barriers / trash booms will be installed. Thus, boats and rowers will be able to travel up and down Ballona Creek past the Pilot Project site unrestricted. During the storm season, Public Works will monitor weather reports and deploy the Interceptor's second barrier / trash boom in anticipation of storms, when high-trash flow events are probable. When both barriers / trash booms are deployed, boats and rowers will not be able to travel past the Pilot Project site. Once the storm has subsided and the Interceptor has collected the trash behind the barriers / trash booms, the second barrier/boom will be removed.

What will happen to the existing trash booms upstream of the Pilot Project site when the Interceptor is in place?

During the Pilot Project period, the existing trash booms upstream of the Pilot Project site will be removed intermittently in a systematic way in order to be able to fully test the effectiveness and efficiency of the Interceptor.

Will there be any analysis of the trash collected by the Interceptor to try to determine the generator of the trash and the amount of trash collected?

As part of the Pilot Project, we plan on taking samples of the trash captured by Interceptor possibly two (2) to three (3) times per storm season and characterizing it. The characterization will help us determine how much of the trash captured is made up of plastics, organics, etc. However, it will not help in determining the source of the trash as the Interceptor will capture trash from the whole Ballona Creek Watershed. In addition to the characterization of the trash, data will be collected to determine the amount of trash captured by the Interceptor.

How fast does the Interceptor's conveyer belt move?

The nominal speed of the Interceptor's conveyor belt is 0.1 meters per second (i.e., approximately 4 inches per second).

What are the current considerations for wildlife going up the Interceptor's conveyer belt?

The Pilot Project is not expected to adversely affect any wildlife resources. When the conveyor belt is running, it will move at a slow speed; consequently, if an animal makes its way onto the conveyor belt, it will have ample time to return to the water. The holes in the conveyor belt will allow small animals to pass through back into the water should they, on the rare occasion, interact with it. The Flood Control District and The Ocean Cleanup also intend for the Pilot Project to be iterative; as the Pilot Project moves forward, the District and The Ocean Cleanup will be able to alter and improve the Pilot Project to increase efficiency and avoid any negative interactions or impacts on wildlife and the environment.

Does the Interceptor run autonomously? If there is a problem, how are operators notified?

Yes, the Interceptor is fully automated. As the Interceptor's conveyor belt extracts debris from the water onto the shuttle, the shuttle equally distributes waste into the six dumpsters located on a separate barge within the Interceptor. At any time, operators can remotely access the Interceptor's dashboards. Once the dumpsters are full, the Interceptor will automatically send a

message to local operators. While the Interceptor itself functions autonomously, maintenance crews will empty the dumpsters and perform routine maintenance activities as appropriate.

If the Pilot Project is successful will it be implemented in other creeks?

This is a question that we consider during the Pilot Project or subsequent to its completion.

Have possible impacts to the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project been considered?

Yes, in the planning of our efforts Public Works considered the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Restoration Project being led by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. During the early planning stages of the Pilot Project, Public Works considered the proximity of the Ballona Wetlands with respect to the Pilot Project. For this as well as other reasons, the Interceptor will be placed downstream of Pacific Avenue Bridge at the mouth of Ballona Creek, outside of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. Siting of the potential Ballona Creek Trash Capture Project also considered the wetlands and the restoration project. The Ballona Creek Trash Capture Project would be located upstream of the limits of the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project to avoid any negative impacts.

Other Questions

How fast does will the conveyer belt to be used in the potential Ballona Creek Trash Capture Project go?

At this time, we do not have the specific speed at which the conveyor belt in the potential Ballona Creek Trash Capture Project (i.e., the project in Ballona Creek at Alla Road) would function. Currently, we are considering using a debris collection system that has been installed at the Earvin Magic Johnson Recreation Area; the debris collection system has scrapers that move at a speed of 28 inches per minute.

Will Public Works still have crews do preventative trash removal; for example, removal of trash from encampments by people experiencing homelessness before it goes into the creek?

Public Works will continue to address trash within the Flood Control District's channels and right of way. However, due to COVID, Public Works have been directed to suspend the removal of encampments by people experiencing homelessness