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Request for Coverage

Regulators, Engineers, and Environmentalists Co-Sponsor Workshop on Low Impact Development

When: Tuesday, February 17th – 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday, February 18th – 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Where: Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, 200 E. Market St., Rm. 001, San Antonio, Texas

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), San Antonio Water Systems (SAWS), City of San Antonio, Bexar County, The Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance and the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) have worked together for the past several months to offer a two-day workshop, "Managing Wet Weather with Green Infrastructure." The workshop will serve as an introduction to area professionals on the benefits and uses of Low Impact Development (LID) techniques. Among the featured speakers is Chris Kloss of the LID Center, Inc. in Seattle, Washington, which was established to develop and provide information to individuals and organizations dedicated to protecting the environment and water resources through proper site design techniques that replicate pre-existing hydrologic site conditions.

Heather Degrella of the US Green Building Council, Central Texas Balcones Chapter, explains, "LID is a natural extension of the LEED Rating System and Sustainable Sites Initiative, helping to broaden the scope of green building to include site and land development issues. LID strategies are important to maintaining the hydrologic balance of local watersheds and are an integral part of holistic, sustainable development. We are excited to be a part of the growing interest in Low Impact Development in the region."

On Tuesday, the workshop will feature national and local experts who will explain to an audience of local builders, engineers, and regulators the benefits of using LID techniques. The techniques enhance groundwater recharge. "something vital to San Antonio because we rely so heavily on the Edwards Aquifer," says Annalisa Peace of the Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance. "The techniques also result in enhanced construction savings and increase the value of developments that incorporate them," according to Laith Alfaqih, LID Engineer for CH2M Hill, one of the workshop's sponsors. He continues, "We are committed to a green and sustainable San Antonio."

On Wednesday practitioners and experts will come together to discuss current development regulations and conclude with a facilitated brainstorming session on how best to incorporate Low Impact Development measures into regulatory code.

The partners presenting the workshop were gratified with the commitment of local builders and architects such as Charles Plunkett of Artistic Builders Inc. Mr. Plunkett states "Artistic Builders Inc. are pleased to be at the forefront of general contractors in San Antonio implementing LEED

Green Building processes into their new building projects. ABI is proud to be the general contractor for several buildings at the Pearl Brewery, including the multi-use Full Goods building and Andrew Weissman's new restaurant, Il Sogno, both of which meet the USGBC's exacting LEED standards for sustainability, water conservation, energy efficiency, responsible material sources, and indoor environmental quality. We are very excited to participate in this workshop focusing on Green Infrastructure, which integrates seamlessly with LEED. ABI is committed to expanding participation in the local and national movement toward Green Building."

"As our region becomes more densely developed," observes Annalisa Peace of the Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance, "it becomes increasingly necessary to incorporate techniques that protect water quality while mitigating flooding. So, we were delighted to join with others who are working on these issues to bring expertise on the newest building technology to San Antonio."

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