Balance Hydrologics, Inc.®
Berkeley • Auburn • Santa Cruz • San Rafael • Truckee
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Watershed Management

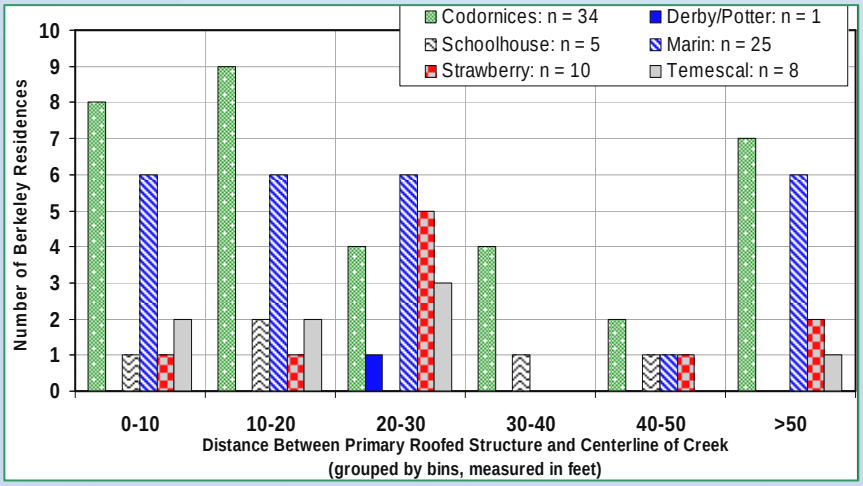
Stream Channel Setback Ordinance, City of Berkeley, Alameda County, California

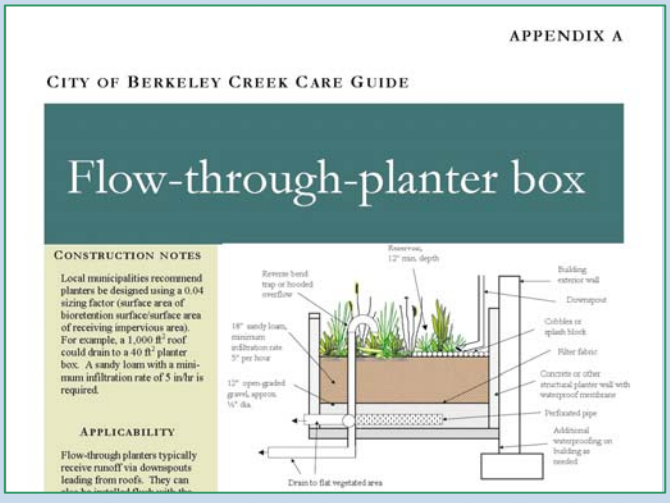
Project Goals

Balance Hydrologics worked with City of Berkeley staff and the appointed Berkeley Creeks Task Force to modify the current municipal creeks setback ordinance. Balance assisted in the development of appropriate criteria for establishing a viable setback or buffer zone between structures and local streams. One of the objectives of the revised ordinance was to maintain flood conveyance while enhancing water quality and habitat conditions in Berkeley's urban creeks.

Investigation:

- evaluated existing creek conditions relative to geomorphic provinces
- developed a statistical evaluation of existing structures and their compliance with the current setback ordinance




APPENDIX A

CITY OF BERKELEY CREEK CARE GUIDE

Flow-through-planter box

CONSTRUCTION NOTES

Local municipalities recommend planters be designed using a 0.04 sizing factor (surface area of bioretention surface/surface area of receiving impervious area). For example, a 1,000 ft² roof could drain to a 40 ft² planter box. A sandy loam with a minimum infiltration rate of 5 in/hr is required.

APPLICABILITY

Flow-through planters typically receive runoff via downspouts leading from roofs. They can

Education and Outreach:

Balance Hydrologics developed a stream care manual to provide residents guidelines and/or BMPs to reduce stormwater runoff and enhance water quality. Suggestions included:

- Flow-through planter boxes
- Invasive plant removal
- Live staking (e.g. willow staking)
- Vegetated log-crib walls
- Rainfall harvesting