

# California Storm Drain Fees

(past, present and future)

N | B | S

*25<sup>th</sup>* **Schaaf & Wheeler**  
*Anniversary*  
1985 ~ 2010 Consulting Civil Engineers



# Who Are We?

- ▶ Dan Schaaf, PE
  - ≈ Water Resources
  - ≈ Master Planning
  - ≈ Cost Estimating
  
- ▶ Jeanette Hahn
  - ≈ Financial Analyses
  - ≈ Rate Studies



# Outline

---

- ▶ Traditional SDMPs and Fees
- ▶ New Regulations & Laws
- ▶ Funding Mechanisms
- ▶ Fee Climate
- ▶ Project Examples
- ▶ Creative Solutions




# History Lesson

- ▶ Pre-218
  - ≈ Storm Drain Master Plan
  - ≈ Development Fees
  - ≈ New Fee or General Fund
  - ≈ Council Vote
- ▶ Post-218
- ▶ Beyond 218



# History Lesson

- ▶ Pre-218
- ▶ Post-218
  - ≈ Expanded SD System Costs
    - NPDES
    - O&M
  - ≈ Voter Approval
- ▶ Beyond 218



# Whole-System Funding for Stormwater Management Programs

## Local Funding Source

## Funded Elements

Development and construction  
review/permit fees



The costs of the review/inspection program

Annual facility inspection and/or  
mitigation plan review fees



The costs of the review/inspection program

Development impact fees /  
capacity charges



Costs of infrastructure expansion to accommodate  
newcomers

Localized assessments



Costs of infrastructure, maintenance of  
facilities of localized benefit

Property-related fee  
or parcel tax



Recurring costs of infrastructure, maintenance and  
operations, and regulatory compliance

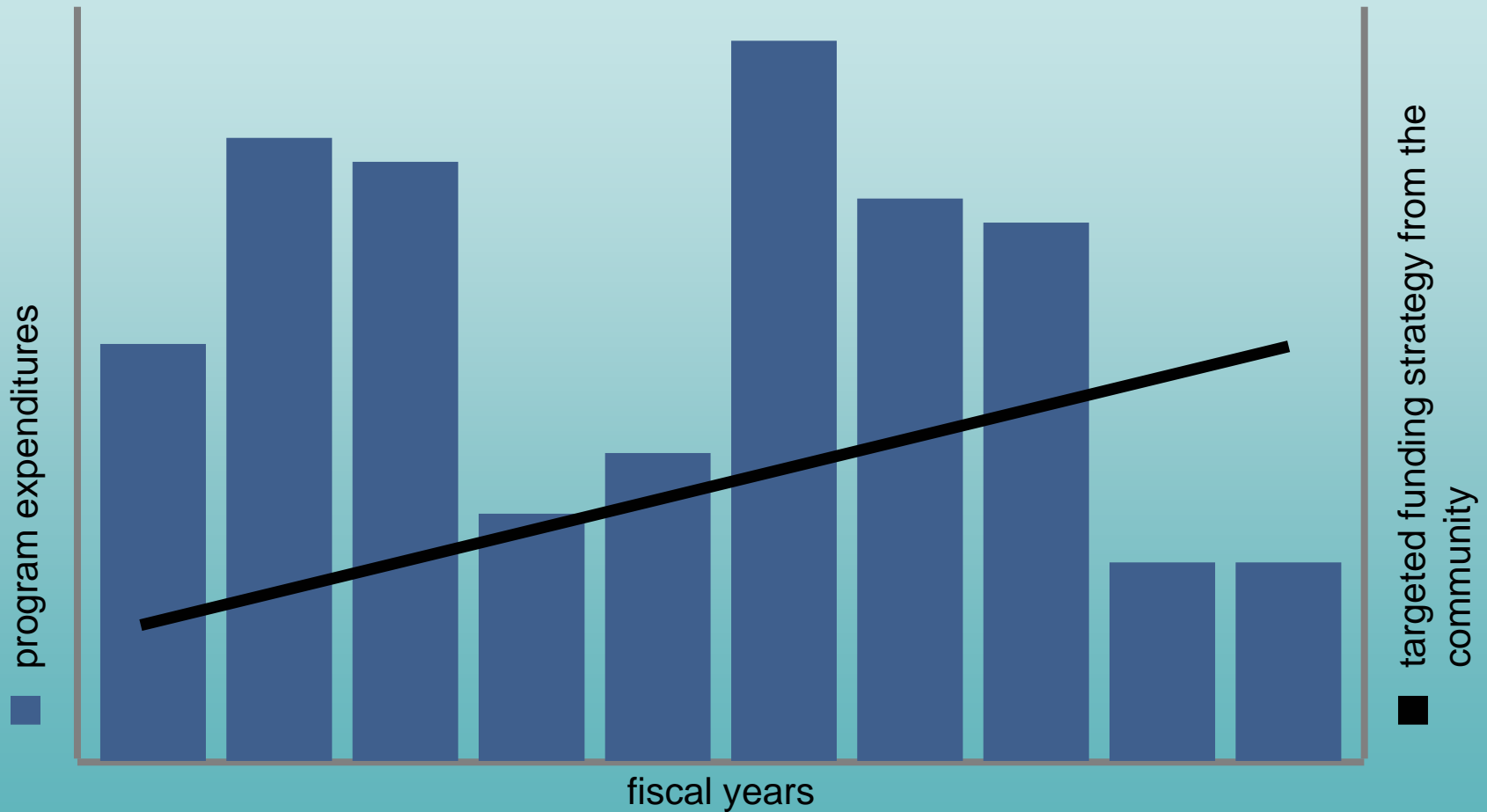
# Approval & Applicability of Local Funding Sources



Approval Threshold	Funding Source	Program Needs Funded	Program Needs Funded
2/3 in an Election of Registered Voters	Parcel Tax	Ongoing Capital Investment, Maintenance and Operations, Regulatory Compliance	Taxable Parcels Only; No Special Benefit or Proportionality Needs to be Identified
Affirmative Exceeds Opposed in a Mailed Ballot Weighted Vote of Property Owners	Localized Assessment	Capital Projects, Maintenance for Specific Improvements of Special Benefit Only	Contributing Parcels (Public and Private) Receiving Special Benefit from the Funded Programs
(1) Written Protests Do Not Exceed the Majority of Property Owners; and (2) Majority or 2/3 Approval in a Mailed Ballot Vote of Property Owners (Pending)	Property-Related Fee	Ongoing Capital Investment, Maintenance and Operations, Regulatory Compliance	Contributing Parcels (Public and Private) with Proportionality Achieved in Fee Structure
Majority Vote of Local Legislative Body (e.g., Council or Board)	Impact Fees / Capacity Charges, Plan Review/Inspection Fees	Specific Costs of Service Implied by the Funding Mechanism, in Line with Statutory Requirements	Individual or Entity Requiring the Service / Action, Proportionate to Effort/Cost of Service



# Long-Term Financial Planning Ensures Smooth Impacts to the Community Regardless of Program Requirements





# Post-218 Fees

- ▶ **Successful Post-218 Fees**
  - ≈ Palo Alto (\$131)
  - ≈ San Bruno (\$140)
  - ≈ Rancho Palos Verdes (\$86)
  
- ▶ **Unsuccessful Fees**
  - ≈ Carmel (\$24)
  - ≈ Woodland (\$60)
  
- ▶ **Other States**
  - ≈ Portland, OR (\$240)
  - ≈ Olympia, WA (\$120)



# Palo Alto - \$131/yr

- ▶ 37% 2000 & 58% 2005
- ▶ 12 years & 6% CPI cap
- ▶ Grass Roots Support
- ▶ Rebates for Conservation
- ▶ Enterprise Fund
  - ≈ O&M
  - ≈ CIP
  - ≈ NPDES



# Burlingame - \$140/yr

- ▶ 65% 2005 & 62% 2008
- ▶ 30 years & 2% CPI cap
- ▶ Clean Bay Theme
- ▶ Impervious Surface Based
- ▶ Property Related Fee
  - ≈ Specific Projects (CIP)
  - ≈ NPDES



# Rancho Palos Verdes - \$86/yr

- ▶ 50.1% 2005
- ▶ 30 years (voted down to 10 years)
- ▶ 2% CPI
- ▶ Impervious Surface Based
  - ≈ Appeals
  - ≈ Assistance
- ▶ Property Related Fee
  - ≈ Erosion Issues
  - ≈ WQ
  - ≈ CIPs



# Solana Beach - \$22/yr

- ▶ 50% non Prop 218
- ▶ Trash Based
- ▶ Solid Waste Fee
  - ≈ System Cleaning
  - ≈ Storm Activities
  - ≈ NPDES
  - ≈ Enforcement



# Keys to Success

- ▶ Talk to Others
- ▶ Be Specific
- ▶ Involve Community
- ▶ Limit Terms and Fees
- ▶ Good Engineering/Estimates
- ▶ Financial Studies