

Water Plan Regional Workshop Summary – Santa Barbara, CA

OVERVIEW

The 2009 update of the California Water Plan, Bulletin 160 (Water Plan) is based on a collaborative approach that engages a wide range of stakeholders and the public in a variety of ways. The Water Plan team is receiving recommendations from a standing Steering Committee, comprised of representatives from 18 State agencies, and an Advisory Committee, with 39 representatives from organizations representing statewide interests. The involvement of regional and local interests is brought in through a series of public workshops conducted in each hydrologic region.

Each workshop consists of three major presentations to describe: the Water Plan, Regional Reports, and regional approach. Immediately following each presentation, workshop participants engage in brainstorming discussions in a small group format. A workshop for the South Coast hydrologic region was held on July 23, 2007 in Santa Barbara, CA. Copies of the workshop presentations, handouts, and materials are available on the Water Plan website at www.waterplan.water.ca.gov/materials.

A brief recap of the presentations is provided in the following paragraphs and the remainder of this document provides a summary of the small group discussions. Flip charts were used to record ideas generated during the discussions and transcripts of the flip charts are located at the end of this document.

Paul Dabbs, Project Manager for Update 2009, presented an overview of the Water Plan Update process. This presentation described the approach and structure for the 2005 Update, as well as the process for the 2009 Update – including meeting schedule and opportunities for involvement, key activities and work products, and related content. The major sections of the Update include: data on water supply, use, and quality; water planning scenarios; water management strategies; Regional Reports; and reference materials and technical reports. Following this presentation, workshop participants were asked to identify additional items that should be considered for inclusion in the Water Plan.

In the second presentation, Mark Stuart, Chief of the Southern District for the Department of Water Resources (DWR), reviewed the Regional Report for the Central Coast hydrologic region. Each regional report describes regional data and hydrologic conditions, regional challenges and accomplishments, and regional water planning efforts. The discussion related to this presentation asked for suggestions to improve the content of the Regional Report for the Central Coast area. Participants were also asked to identify and provide contact information for good sources in obtaining and verifying regional data sets.

The final presentation, by Judie Talbot, workshop facilitator, recapped the regional approach proposed for updating the Water Plan. The approach uses regional workshops, an annual regional forum, and an annual plenary session to bring in local perspectives, issues, and concerns into the Update process. The ensuing discussion asked for recommendations to: improve the proposed approach; encourage the continuation of regional dialogue on water management; and identify others who need to be part of the regional conversation on water.

The workshops also included brief presentations on related statewide water initiatives, including the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) grants program, Flood Safe program, and Statewide Water Analysis Network (SWAN). The SWAN is an open forum of technical expertise that serves as a technical advisory group to Update 2009.

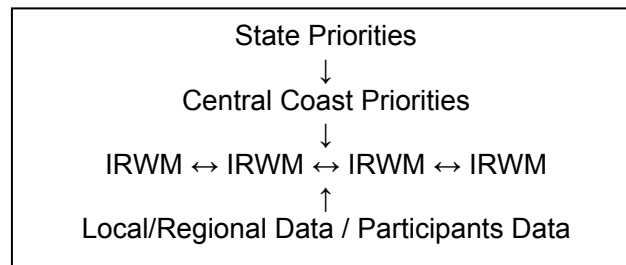
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DISCUSSION ON WATER PLAN CONTENT

After hearing the presentation on the approach, content, and structure of Update 2009, workshop participants were asked to brainstorm other topics that should be considered for inclusion in the Water Plan. Workshop attendees were specifically asked to think about regional issues and concerns that might benefit from additional attention. Four key themes that emerged during the group reports included:

- a. integration of planning efforts (Water Plan, regional land planning, water facility planning, Delta Vision, water quality, supply reliability, IRWMPs, UWMPs, ocean plans, Basin Plans, watershed planning, flood control) and establishing priorities for implementation:

Model for Priorities



- b. regulatory framework: identify and resolve regulatory conflicts; streamline permitting processes
- c. implementation: evaluate recommendations, resource management strategies and past projects to determine what works, what doesn't; need tools and funding to support implementation

Other topics that were identified by multiple group reports included:

- d. assessing regional implications of growth, housing, and agricultural activities
- e. economic influences on water use and conservation (e.g. rate increases)
- f. storage operation (supply, flood control, climate change)
- g. water quality: wastewater treatment not meeting standards for recharge

DISCUSSION ON REGIONAL REPORT CONTENT

The discussion groups suggested a wide range of additional topics that might be included in the Regional Reports:

- a. regional data:
 - enhance accuracy: establish criteria for soliciting information to include in report
 - levee stability issues
 - related regulatory and permitting issues
 - identify connections between efforts of different planning jurisdictions
 - impacts of disaster planning and recovery (earthquake, fire, flood, terrorism, climate change, drought)

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regional data, cont'd.

- coordinating local data collection with statewide analysis
 - watershed management and watershed conditions (fires, population, contamination)
 - climate change: potential condition and problems (including supply, flood issues)
 - work with northern Santa Cruz county to include information for that area
 - infrastructure and how it relates to hydrology
- b. water supply/demand/quality data:
- import reliability
 - siltation of reservoirs and reduced supply
 - need water quality data (rural septic use and groundwater quality)
 - water quality standards for reuse and ocean discharge
 - provide links to Water Boards and Air Resource Board
 - amount of groundwater pumping
 - get wastewater data from local agencies (e.g. county health)
- c. challenges/accomplishments:
- groundwater banking and injection wells
 - funding sources for small agencies/cities
 - brine/salinity management
 - matching water quality to use
 - include regional conversations as accomplishments
- d. resource management strategies:
- conjunctive use
 - water use efficiency standards for implementation
 - provide an evaluation of what's working or not
- e. regional planning:
- need to expand IRWMPs to a more regional approach; integrating smaller efforts
 - IRWMPs must integrate with Water Plan
 - list IRWM projects, sort by type, provide description or links
 - provide samples as a template for UWMPs (promote consistency)
 - need to standardize planning units

DISCUSSION ON REGIONAL APPROACH, OUTREACH, AND NETWORKING

At the workshop, participants viewed the regional approach as being the right approach and effective in stimulating communication between regional agencies and organizations. Additional strategies and contacts were suggested for successful regional outreach and involvement:

- a. evaluate representation:
- leverage outreach: use Water Boards' strategic planning lists, use IRWMP lists
 - promote involvement: explain why and how the Water Plan is important to them

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representation, cont'd.

- involve other stakeholders: local and other environmental/advocacy groups (Environmental Defense Center, Heal the Ocean, Surf Riders, Audubon, Planning and Conservation League); counties (environmental health, agricultural commissioners, water agencies), watershed groups/coalitions (Ventura, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz counties), RCDs, land trusts, Citizen's Planning Association, military bases (Vandenberg), agricultural interests (Farm Bureau, Central Coast Ag Water Coalition), federal agencies (Corps of Engineers, USBR), air resources boards, IRWMP member groups, professional associations (CoLab, American Public Works, American Water Works, Assn. of Civil Engineers), Santa Ynez River Water Conservation Improvement District, Santa Barbara Groundwater Management Assn., Cachuma Operations and Maintenance Board
- travel and distance is a challenge: consider interactive webcast

b. regional follow-up:

- add Water Plan as an agenda topic for quarterly water agency meetings
- public service announcement
- outreach to county supervisors
- consider Salinas, instead of Monterey, for next workshop
- wider publication of meetings
- groups should work to develop umbrella networks that can represent "members" and provide information to DWR regional team
- need to get provide information on workshop objectives and homework, so that participants can be prepared to provide information and discuss policies

CLOSING REMARKS

At the close of the workshop, Kamyar Guivetchi and Mark Stuart expressed thanks to all who attended and participated in the session. A special thank you was extended to the Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District for hosting the workshop.

A final reminder was given to participants on contacts for the Water Plan: Chang Lee is serving as the point of contact for regional coordination in the Southern District. He can be contacted via email at clee@water.ca.gov or by phone at (818) 500-1645, extension 250. Paul Dabbs, project manager, provides general oversight for Update 2009 and can be contacted via email at pdabbs@water.ca.gov or by phone at (916) 653-5666.

**CWP Regional Workshop – Flip Chart Transcripts
Central Coast Region - Santa Barbara, July 23, 2007**

Table A

Regional considerations to include in Update 2009:

Top issues:

- * regional implications of statewide water facility planning
- * including water quality
- * integration with other planning (e.g. Delta Vision, regional land planning)

Other issues:

- review previous recommendations: what hasn't been implemented and why not?
what were the results of ones that were implemented?
- review 25 water resource management strategies
- what's working, what's not; what is relevant, applicable to our region?
- housing
- agriculture
- economic evaluation - how it affects water use and opportunities for conservation
- rate increases

Suggestions regarding regional reports:

- steelhead recharge
- import reliability (climate change, population growth, delta sustainability)
- conjunctive use
- strategies to address demand shortfalls
- supply-siltation of reservoirs (any solution)
- challenge: groundwater banking / injection wells
- levee stability issues – counties address flooding
- Mission Creek recharge (fed/local issues – Fed approval and review)
- Proposition 50 planning: IRWMP is focused on Santa Barbara County, need to think about how to integrate into the larger region; how do we draw on smaller efforts?
- representation of Water Boards, other agencies' input of issues, permit requirements
- identify connections between efforts of different planning jurisdictions
- disaster planning and recovery (regional implications): earthquake, fire, flood, terrorism, climate change, drought

Regional outreach and networking:

- next steps:
 - standardize planning areas
 - coordinate schedules between CA Water Plan and IRWMPs and Urban Water management Plans (e.g. prepare CA Water Plan for 2011 - allows inclusion of 2010 census and 2010 UWMPs)
 - evaluation / summarize strategies to determine what is working, both on statewide and regional basis
- continuing regional conversations:
 - county water agency quarterly meetings (have as one of their agenda topics)
 - public service announcements
 - educate county boards of supervisors

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Table A, cont'd.

- wider publication of meetings
- identify and target your audience!
- involve other stakeholders:
 1. grass roots organizations
 2. agricultural interests
 3. citizens planning associations
 4. Environmental Defense
 5. California League of Women Voters
 6. Farm Bureau
 7. agricultural commissioners
 8. RCDs
 9. USBR
 10. Vandenberg Air Force Base

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Table B

Regional considerations to include in Update 2009:

How to integrate pieces?

- could CWP be that document?
- what can the state do to facilitate local planning
 - funding
 - assistance – regulation
 - implementation options
- reliability
- water quality
- integration

CWP Content

- how roll up regional plans to state plan
- forecasting growth area, getting water to growth
 - flood control
 - local planning
- storage issues
 - supply, flood control, climate change
 - surface change
- water quality: reclaim as supply, water reuse
- WWT – source water poor leads to WWT problems
- TMDL – chlorides
- aging infrastructure
- avoid overdraft (mitigation)
- risk of assumption

Suggestions regarding regional reports:

- water supply for growing population
- salts management
- SWP (un)reliability
- import reliability (seismic)
- cost vs. certainty
- recharge (WWT not meeting standards)
- no water quality data (rural, septic use)
- salt/delta impacts on agricultural water supply
- data
- relationship between local gathering and statewide analysis
- scenarios: implementation plan; options
- groundwater contamination link to septic tanks and private wells
- extend sewers
- could there be more reuse
- water quality standards for reuse ocean discharge
- impacts of state regulations
- look at state fund (grants) priorities
- small city / agency access to funds
- planning vs. implementation

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Table B, cont'd.

Regional outreach and networking:

- contacts:
 - Citizen's Planning Association
 - Naomi Schwartz – Santa Barbara
 - Santa Ynez River Water Conservation Improvement District
 - Surf Riders Association
 - Environmental Defense Center (Santa Barbara)
 - Heal the Ocean – water quality and wastewater
 - CoLab – Labor & Business
 - Audubon Society – birds and more
 - Santa Barbara Groundwater Management Association
 - Planning and Conservation League – regional
 - American Public Works Association
 - Association of Civil Engineers
 - American Water Works Association
 - IRWMP member groups
 - Cachuma Operations and Maintenance Board
 - Ventura Watershed Protection Agency
 - Federal Agencies – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 - Military Base participation
 - Central Coast Ag Water Coalition

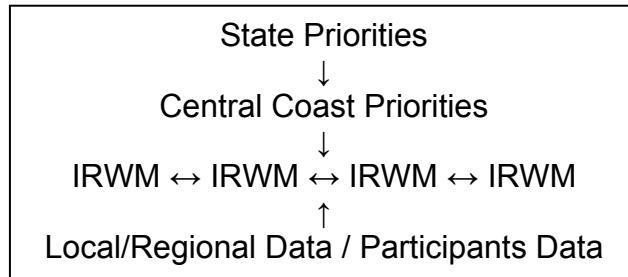
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Table C

Regional considerations to include in Update 2009:

- climate change: present different scenarios, including worst case for SWP
- better communications between DWR and local agencies and organizations
- IRWM activities should be reported for all regions (text, links to website, etc.)
- identification of priorities:

Model for Priorities



Suggestions regarding regional reports:

- DWR should provide guidance on what the experts are saying and what to expect -- climate change
 - potential conditions
 - potential problems
 - water supply issues
 - flood issues
- water use efficiency
 - standards for WUE program implementation
 - showerheads / faucet
- watershed management
 - fires
 - population
 - contamination
 - establish criteria for soliciting information to include in report.

Regional outreach and networking:

- [add contacts here from separate sheet]

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Table D

Regional considerations to include in Update 2009:

Top issues:

- * develop a model for integrating land use and water use planning
- * incorporating definition of improving watershed health

Other issues:

- address water use accountability statewide
- water conservation saving by sector

Suggestions regarding regional reports:

- risk: earthquakes – terrorism (impacts) – caution
- water quality (note: may have to contact of city of Lompac for more info)
 - need to add link with State and Regional Water Boards; Air Resource Board
 - What are additional areas that we need to consider
- some scenarios are redundant: 30 year may be futile; 30 year may be reaching
- eliminate work duplication – e.g. build on Urban Water Management Plans (UWMPs)
- provide a sample plan as a template for UWMPs – as was going out in 2000
- are local water management plans being used for the Water Plan?
- are locals accountable for their area of actions?
- do we know how much groundwater is pumped in those areas?
- how much water is used if there are no meters?
- how are regions different (IRWM)

Regional outreach and networking:

- have hardcopies of all PowerPoint presentations at workshops.
- like idea of regional planning, flood control (merge county flood plans in plan)
- suggest Salinas instead of Monterey for workshop location
- 2008 and 2009: have meetings in San Luis Obispo, since centrally located
- outreach to other stakeholders:
 1. local environmental groups
 2. use web casts
 3. county water agencies, environmental health
 4. use RWCQB's strategic planning list
 5. State level air pollution control board participation
 6. include wastewater input from local agencies (e.g. county health)

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Table E

Regional considerations to include in Update 2009:

Top issues:

- * evaluate the resource management strategies for each region; how do we capture regional strategies? have regional workshops on regional strategies
- * identification and resolution of regulatory conflicts
- * reconcile Water Plan with ocean plan and basin plans

Other issues:

- provide time for review by regional interests (for accuracy)
- don't publish wrong information
- have tools to enable financing and implementation
- regulatory process stream lining: streamline permits that benefit environment; 303 (d) TMDL process is ineffective

Suggestions regarding regional reports:

- capture information on Northern Santa Cruz County (work with them)
- explore governance of water planning and how various government entities relate districts / others → county government → IRM → Statewide
- IRWM MUST integrate /relate with State water plan
- infrastructure and how it regulates to the hydrology
- not just ocean desalination (look at brackish desal)
- brine management issues
- match quality of water to use
- challenges and opportunities would be good way to organize regional report
- report conversation as accomplishments
- large parts of the region are isolated from other sources (only local solutions available)
- conflicting state regulations: identify these conflicts and brainstorm potential solutions
 - in-stream flows vs. water rights
 - flood safety vs. endangered species / water quality

Regional outreach and networking:

- need to get those who will participate to know what will be discussed, provide homework and be prepared to provide information policy
- challenges about those who didn't attend first session (entire regions on representing each workshop)
- umbrella network that can represent "members" and provide information (inc Central coast –work with IRWM working group) (Bill Phillips, Monterey County WRA)
- IRWMPs have missing groups: RCDs, land trusts
- get right people in discussions
- should have RCDs; they face regulatory challenges
- Watershed Coalitions of San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties
- travel – 5 hours from Santa Barbara to Santa Cruz, 6 hours from corner to corner
- consider interactive web cast: invite core people, if unable to travel, can get more people

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Table E, cont'd

- define role for smaller entities
- make clear- what does CWP mean for local water agencies.. why is it important?
provide them with justification
- look at IRWMPs – list of projects, sort by type, have a list in detail
- CWP can take IRWMPs rollup info and integrate the plans
- 2005 CWP was strategic approach, not just laundry list
- future bond funds require IRWM
 - how will State plan for water supply reliability and flood protection?