

## Water Plan Regional Workshop Summary – Los Angeles, 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 25, 2007 in Los Angeles, CA. Copies of the workshop presentations, handouts, and materials are available on the Water Plan website at [www.waterplan.water.ca.gov/materials](http://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.

Kamyar Guivetchi, Program 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 South 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 South 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. consistent regulatory guidance including streamlined permitting processes; coordinated permitting policy objectives; templates and model ordinances
- b. State and regulatory leadership for use of new supplies (e.g. gray water, recycled water, stormwater, desal)
- c. equitable funding programs and allocation: oversight and accountability is needed for publicly financed water bonds; funding priorities need to be managed efficiently so that different programs are not competing for funding to the detriment of other programs; allocations need to be provided for disadvantaged communities; and privately owned systems also need to be eligible for incentives
- d. improving public education and outreach to change behaviors regarding water use and water quality, similar to the “Flex Your Power” or “Spare the Air” campaigns

Other topics that were identified by multiple group reports included:

- e. the next level of conservation measures including: incentives, greater attention to landscape task force recommendations,
- f. inter-state and international water issues, such as the Colorado River and flows to Mexico
- g. greater emphasis on a watershed approach in regional planning
- h. land use impacts on water supply, water demand, and water quality
- i. energy requirements for water management and projects
- j. climate change: looking at impacts and variables for different scenarios; templates for Urban Water Management Plan requirements – if legislation passes

### ***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:
  - list all water agencies in the region, discuss coordination with other agencies
  - describe strategic and emergency planning efforts
  - be sensitive to sub-regional differences
  - create a summary document highlighting the current activities of each IRWM group
  - include infrastructure maps for stormwater, wastewater/sanitation, flood control, reclaimed water distribution, recycled water; describe what is missing
  - discuss ecosystem restoration and existing open space in section on habitat
  - provide a GIS layer distribution site on the Water Plan web site
  - show groundwater recharge areas (important to maintain permeable surfaces)

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- b. water supply/demand/quality data:
  - on the regional map, separate the West Branch from the L.A. Aqueduct (they represent different water sources, with different water quality)
  - include information on State Water Project supplies and reliability of supply, as well as replenishment water (impacts feasibility of projects, programs, and recycling)
  - discuss regional impacts of climate change including invasive species and facility operations (surface storage issues regarding pulse flows)
  - describe local and imported resource development including: feasibility, permitting, potential sources and yields (e.g. stormwater, recycled water, conjunctive use)
  - Table 5-2: include breakdown of single/multi-family and other factors that affect demand (affects education and outreach)
  - list water quality contaminants, including methane
- c. challenges:
  - salinity management affects recycling – relates to land use, use of water softeners
  - examine loss of groundwater supplies due to contamination and seawater intrusion
  - identify disadvantaged communities and describe what is being done to enhance water supplies, look at movement and displaced populations, integrate with census
  - development of private wells is currently unregulated
- d. resource management strategies:
  - watershed management relates to water quality issues, stormwater runoff, storage
  - address shortfalls of current strategies – which have worked well, which have not?
  - identify incentives and funding sources
- e. regional planning:
  - reach out to engage private/investor owned systems in water planning
  - discuss land use including sections on sustainability and multiple-benefit BMPs
- f. references
  - add model ordinances as “practical tools” for agencies to follow

### ***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:
  - sub-regional representation to obtain specific and consistent information
  - media for outreach regarding IRWM and Update 2009
  - work directly with UWMP coordinators, as well as IRWM
  - tourism interests must be engaged – is HUGE on the coast and has implications for supply, demand, education, and conservation
  - involve directors and department heads for city planning and city managers, public works (flooding), city redevelopment

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- Heal the Bay and Santa Monica Baykeepers; LA/San Gabriel Watershed Council; county watershed groups; Ventura County Farm Bureau; consultants; Ca. Coastal Commission; representatives from groundwater water master areas
  - Roundtable of Regions is facilitated by the Santa Clara Valley Water District, provides links to IRWMP groups and contacts; work with IRWM groups
  - include professional organizations; CELSOC (Consulting Engineers and Land Surveyors of California) has a water resources subcommittee
  - include an energy committee: utilities, CPUC, Ca. Energy Commission, Southern California Edison
  - get refineries involved for recycled water use
  - involve builders and homeowner associations, and the landscape industry
- b. regional follow-up:
- provide copies of workshop summaries and contact sheets to encourage networking
  - at regional forum, have presentations from agencies and jurisdictions on projects that are currently being implemented – use a case study approach, show how regulatory requirements were navigated
  - tie in with rural information and information exchanges (e.g. provide annual or semi-annual reporting to League of California Cities, Southern California Association of Governments, ACWA database, LA Chamber of Commerce water subcommittee, California Urban Water Conservation Councils)
  - send announcements out via email reflector list, local interests can get information out to local TV access
  - provide an annotated draft outline of regional report
  - create Water Plan timeline, track progress, set up a tracking blog
  - get input from legislative subcommittees on the Water Plan; audits for State bonds
  - provide assessment of Update 2005 successes/failures to guide change
  - provide early information out to regions (e.g. planning information, draft documents)
  - explore regional advisory committee (at least for future updates)
  - need to look at cumulative impacts of multiple projects
  - create a website to share regional ideas
  - explain what the Water Plan is and why people should be involved; at workshops, provide update on “statewide” water issues to get everyone up to speed

### **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 Southern California Water Dialog 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](mailto: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](mailto:pdabbs@water.ca.gov) or by phone at (916) 653-5666.

**CWP Regional Workshop – Flip Chart Transcripts  
South Coast Region - Los Angeles, July 25, 2007**

**Table A**

*Regional considerations to include in Update 2009:*

Top issues:

1. consistent regulatory guidance/environment (e.g. recycled water, gray water, and stormwater)
2. coordination of education/public outreach efforts (especially youth) – all efforts depend on changing people’s behavior (need to “get real” with public); need an equivalent statewide effort as “flex your power” for water
3. competition for funding: water supply is competing with infrastructure replacement and water quality for funding; concern about disadvantaged communities (were overlooked in IRWMPs); need to manage prioritization efficiently

Other issues:

- coordination for regulations on recycled water (e.g. groundwater and anti-degradation) and potable reuse – perception and public acceptance
- water conservation:
  1. how to get to next level – real action costs real money
  2. support for disadvantaged communities to help pay for efforts
  3. land use planning needs to address conservation; incorporate into IRWM planning
- water softening: complicates reuse
- greater engagement with private/investor owned systems in water planning
  1. difference in incentives and qualification for state funding
  2. engage with CPUC
  3. private involvement in financing solutions
- consumer incentives for conservation (e.g. rainwater tanks, lawn replacement); complicated by regulations (e.g. DHS rules meant that a new cistern can’t be used)

*Suggestions regarding regional reports:*

- include a list of all water agencies in the region; discuss coordination with other entities
- emergency planning – earthquakes
- climate change: if legislation passes regarding UWMP requirements, the State should provide a template of what to include
- map of hydrologic region: separate the West Branch from the L.A. aqueduct (different sources and different water quality)
- climate change: address surface storage issues in regards to pulse flows (optimize regional operation of facilities), and invasive species (quagga mussels)
- describe groundwater storage and contamination
- SWP supplies: reliability, quantities
- Table 5-2: include breakdown of urban, single/multi-family, age groups (influences education/outreach)
- availability of replenishment water; reliability forecasting to help determine feasibility of programs and recycling
- megatrends: population growth, aging infrastructure, agriculture and land use trends
- salinity management: affects recycling; related to land use trends

**CWP Regional Workshop – Flip Chart Transcripts  
South Coast Region - Los Angeles, July 25, 2007**

**Table A, cont'd.**

*Regional outreach and networking:*

- right approach
- provide copies of contact sheets
- directly work with UWMP coordinators, as well as IRWMPs
- regional forum: have discussions from agencies and jurisdictions, with presentations on present projects that they are implementing
  1. show how they navigated CEQA, other regulatory requirements (e.g. infrastructure, brine, desal) (DFG, Coastal Commission)
  2. have different folks offering different perspectives on same issue (provides reality check) – use a case study approach
- make sure that tourism is engaged; it is HUGE in this region, due to the coast; has consequences for supply, demand, education, conservation
- Regional Water Quality Control Boards
- directors/department heads of city planning; city managers
- Heal the Bay, Santa Monica Baykeepers; want to hear from them early
- Coastal Commission
- LA/San Gabriel Watershed Council; counties have watershed groups
- EJ Coalition for Water
- Ventura County Farm Bureau
- consultants
- need to tie in with rural information and information exchange; provide annual or semi-annual reporting (e.g. League of California Cities annual conference/SCAG; ACWA database; Chamber of Commerce – LA Chamber water subcommittee; California Urban Water Conservation Councils)
- regional advisory council: who would be part of? need to organize
- IRWMP groups/contacts – Roundtable of Regions (Santa Clara Valley Water District facilitate)
- CELSOC (Consulting Engineers and Land Surveyors of California) – has a water resources subcommittee (contact: Keith Dunn, [kdunn@celsoc.org](mailto:kdunn@celsoc.org) )
- energy committee: utilities, CPUC, California Energy Commission, Southern California Edison is interested (Matthew Garcia, field rep – David Jacob); refineries (recycled water use)
- media (for outreach)
- send announcements out via email reflector lists; local interests can get it out to local TV access

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**Table B**

*Regional considerations to include in Update 2009:*

Top issues:

- \* in the resource management strategies, where does wastewater infrastructure fit in? and stormwater quality?
- \* oversight and accountability of publicly financed water bonds – public needs to have input into that (e.g. Proposition O in L.A. – using water money for parks), need clear definitions of water management, water supply, water quality (versus parks) – cause and effect and cost benefit analyses need to be identified in CEQA documents
- \* public awareness – not sure that the public is getting the message

Other issues:

- impacts of California water decisions outside of the State (especially Colorado River)
- coastal issues
- North American Alliance
- accountability of private water suppliers
- bond funds: accountability of private non-profits

*Suggestions regarding regional reports:*

- air rights: vertical space
- identify disadvantaged communities, describe what is being done to enhance their water supplies; movement/displaced; integrate with census
- incorporate local government land use
- groundwater recharge areas – create more permeable surfaces
- oversight of private well development (currently unregulated)
- maintain ecosystem in developing areas (e.g. western Riverside County)
- discuss ecosystem restoration in section on habitat
- land use: sustainability section; multiple-benefit BMPs for land use
- include infrastructure maps for stormwater, wastewater/sanitation, flood control, reclaimed water distribution system, recycled water – discuss what is missing
- methane and other water quality contaminants
- GIS layer distribution site at waterplan web site
- Top IRWMP projects

*Regional outreach and networking:*

- right approach
- would like to see annotated draft outline of regional report
- meeting minutes/summary for each regional workshop
- include legislative committees as input to Water Plan
- media outreach for IRWMP and CWP
- AUDITS FOR BOND FUNDS
- Water Plan timeline

**CWP Regional Workshop – Flip Chart Transcripts  
South Coast Region - Los Angeles, July 25, 2007**

**Table C**

*Regional considerations to include in Update 2009:*

Top issues:

- \* planning timeline needs to be 25 years for short-term, 40 years for long-term
- \* DWR needs to take leadership role in coordinating efforts at agency level: create guidelines; streamline permitting processes (coordinate permitting policy objectives)
- \* public awareness – not sure that the public is getting the message

Other issues:

- climate change
- indoor/outdoor water use efficiency – evaluate past and current practices
- analyze water use per capita
- education and outreach: options other than Water Plan, school requirement
- water supply reliability
- need better coordination between land use and water use – water use and demand
- emergency planning
- aging infrastructure

*Suggestions regarding regional reports:*

- local and imported resource development: feasibility, permitting, potential sources (stormwater, unused basins, recycled water, rainwater)
- institutional setting: who provides the water?
- strategic planning
- more emphasis on items 1 – 5: supply and demand

*Regional outreach and networking:*

- coordination of representation from region
  1. explore regional advisory committee, at least for future plans [updates]
  2. sub-region representation for specific and consistent information
- early information from State to regions (planning information; send draft documents prior to meeting)
- assure that participants are heard and making a difference
- evaluate/measure implementation of 2005 and future plans moving forward to refine strategic actions
- measurement of 2005 plan successes/failures to direct change

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**Table D**

*Regional considerations to include in Update 2009:*

Top issues:

- \* the Update needs to address the solution to the Delta
- \* address linkages/relationships: between hydrologic regions; between land use and water supply/water use
- \* energy costs for overall water resource management (desal, pumping, carbon footprint of moving water around)

Other issues:

- reliance on imported water
- developing regional water resources
- recycled water
- dealing with water conservation in areas that already conserve
- dealing with outdoor (landscape) irrigation – reinforce recommendations of landscape task force
- Colorado River and Salton Sea – water to Mexico
- desal: brackish and seawater; storage and conveyance; environmental aspects; collaboration of multiple regions; brine conveyance and disposal; energy costs and carbon footprint
- watershed aspect of regional planning

*Suggestions regarding regional reports:*

- the need to address sub-regional issues; what strategies are needed to address local issues? need to sensitive to differences
- watershed management: overall watershed management relates to water quality issues, stormwater runoff, storage, etc.
- how will we handle future issues? (land use, population, conveyance, transfers)
- pre-1993 historic water use (previous drought from 1987 – 1992)
- future scenario: net gain
- talk about possible scenarios
- address shortfalls of current strategies – which have worked well? which have not done well?

*Regional outreach and networking:*

- are we looking at the right information? are we going in the right direction?
- what are the cumulative impacts of multiple projects? (local, regional, statewide)
- what are consequences of actions on the environment? (environmental impacts, habitat restoration)
- public needs to be included in the outreach list: publicize meetings locally; coordinate with local agencies
- what is the action and what is the progress? keep public updated; set up a tracking blog; website to share regional ideas
- is it clear what the steps are? What lessons have we learned from the past and how do they apply to future efforts?
- what is the Water Plan and what is it supposed to do? (why am I here?)

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**Table E**

*Regional considerations to include in Update 2009:*

Top issues:

- \* more acknowledgement of IRWMPs in statewide planning –bring South Coast IRWM groups together for participation on a regional level; assistance is needed
- \* greater emphasis on watershed planning: it is important to all resource management strategies; often overlooked in IRWMPs (IRWMPs should be formed on a watershed basis)
- \* establish templates and model ordinances to assist local government

Other issues:

- implementation:
  1. implementation of foundations established in Update 2005
  2. provide assistance to local agencies on how to implement strategies
  3. how can we make projects happen on a region, inter-regional, and statewide level?
  4. incorporate IRWM plans into a master plan
- inter-regional cooperation: bring different plans together
- incorporate Division recommendations into the regional approach
- grant funding (funding areas)
- climate change: DWR will examine water supplies under different scenarios (examine the impacts, variables)

*Suggestions regarding regional reports:*

- each IRWMP group should provide a summary of current activities – create a “highlights” document
- potential of capturing stormwater runoff to augment supplies (Los Angeles area); expand the definition of supplies
- show linkages in the regional balances/portfolios between the regions (and for different scenarios)
- examine the loss of groundwater supplies due to seawater intrusion/contamination; identify the resources
- selected references: add model ordinances as “practical tools” for agencies to follow
- more comprehensive examination of conjunctive use projects (emphasis on groundwater operations and project yields)

*Regional outreach and networking:*

- workshops are effective in stimulating communications between agencies, organizations and other groups; state funding important
- should include brief update on “statewide” water issues at the workshops to get everyone in the room up to speed
- work with each IRWM group: stage local workshops/meetings to hear/comprehend the activities and issues; have the IRWM groups stage CWP workshops
- stage workshops in the Inland Empire area (western San Bernardino and Riverside counties)

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**Table E, cont'd**

- include representatives from groundwater watermaster areas
- contact city redevelopment agencies
- due to greater emphasis on flood management issues, contact public works and planning departments
- contact city governments
- improve CWP outreach to other professional organizations (public works/planning directors; League of Cities, CSAC, etc.)
- presentation about CWP to other professional organizations
- involve builders and homeowner associations; members of the landscape industry