

**CWP South Coast Regional Workshop Summary
Mira Loma, CA – April 30, 2009**

OVERVIEW

The 2009 Regional Workshops for the California Water Plan featured the Public Review Draft of the Highlights document, as well as an overview of current conditions for the respective hydrologic region or area of special interest. Each workshop also included a presentation on the scenario planning approach used to consider future uncertainty for water management. In the agenda, several hours were dedicated to small group review and comment of the draft Highlights and Regional Report for that region or area. Based on suggestions made during the 2007 and 2008 workshops, time was also provided for updates on related planning processes.

A workshop for the South Coast hydrologic region was held on April 30, 2009 in Mira Loma, 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 and worksheets were used to record ideas generated during the discussions and transcripts of the recorded results are incorporated into the summary.

Paul Dabbs, Project Manager for Update 2009, made the first presentation and outlined the planning process and status of major 2009 Update activities, culminating in the release of the Public Review Draft. Paul described the sections of the Highlights booklet, which serves as an Executive Summary for Update 2009. The Highlights begins with a description of existing water conditions in California that require urgent attention and response. The following pages outline the range and variation in water resources throughout the State.

The Highlights also discusses Climate Change and the existing framework for Integrated Water Management, which links to the Resource Management Strategies outlined in Volume Two and Regional Management Strategies provided in Volume 3. Other features of the Highlights include a discussion on scenarios and a fold-out section describing the Strategic Plan for Update 2009, including key objectives. The concluding recommendations represent “policies, strategies, and approaches that will help reduce and remove impediments, and leverage resources and opportunities” to implement Water Plans goals, objectives, and related actions.

In the second presentation, Vern Knoop and Dave Scruggs, with the Southern District for the Department of Water Resources, reviewed the key characteristics of the South Coast hydrologic region. The overview included items contained in the Regional Report, with special focus on local and regional issues, and management and planning activities. Paul Dabbs presented a third focus on the scenario approach being developed for future water planning. Work is currently underway to quantify potential water demands, with a subsequent phase to evaluate water resource management strategies.

Workshop attendees reviewed, discussed, and provided suggestions for each section, as recorded on the following pages. The agenda ended with several updates on related statewide water and planning initiatives: Paul Dabbs gave an overview of current efforts on drought activities and the IRWM program.

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Discussion A – Public Review Draft: Highlights and Table of Contents

- Redesign foldout so that it's not missed (make foldover a little shorter – so that there is more space near the spine; put color along edge so it stands out, or small arrows that imply opening).
- Objectives:
 - should include proactive actions on water crisis.
 - include land management: low impact development (surface water and runoff)
 - Objective #5: more detail – tie to specific actions; make objectives less generic
 - Objective #13 – include groundwater-dependent counties in this bullet point, because they do not have agencies (need more support from State and local entities); more oversight with agencies and communities, resource conservation districts, and small, nonprofits (e.g. Water Education Foundation)
 - Planning policies (Recommendation #6) should be in objectives
 - new item: Improve water supply reliability and water quality.
 - actions are buried within objectives; this section needs to be made much clearer as truly action planning.
- Bring up water/energy nexus.
- “Legislature” characterization needs to be revised.
- “Water Scenario 2050” should maybe be retitled to “Water Scenario Looking Forward.”
- Consider recommendations in a graphic format. Recommendations should stand out.
- Some idea on cost implementation will help on range of solutions (lo, medium, hi cost)
- Provide a menu of options in graphical format.
- Mission and Vision:
 - Put the mission and vision in the Director’s Statement (are currently buried); and move recommendations into foldout section.
 - Mission and vision out of order with graphics box.
 - The notion of “vision” and “mission” are garbled – what you have provided is mostly a vision (that is, “What we would most like if we were all skipping along together, singing “cumbaya.”) What you need is a sound, solid mission statement. Back to the drawing board on that! (as it’s far too long and convoluted).
- Regarding recommendations – per se, these are meaningless. Absolutely nothing new or exhibiting foresight.
- Recommendations:
 - Make the recommendations easier for legislature to see: categorize recommendations (e.g. legislative, water agencies, state/federal agencies, individuals).
 - Split recommendations into specific Action Plans with timeframes (5-year, 10-year, etc.) with estimates on cost for the range of solutions.
 - Provide highlight so that the text stands out. Give possibilities of changes in legislation.
 - The design of the page for conclusions and recommendations is boring; this should pop out (other pages have more eye appeal).
- Would be good to point to historical levels of supply and demand.
- Supply and demand balance should differentiate dedicated v. developed supply; this is more about water use and the sources used as supply.
- The purpose of the Water Plan is not clear, needs to be better defined. (e.g. mandates v. recommendations).
- Mandate certain practices of water use
- Groundwater storage needs to focus on long-term storage.

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- Population:
 - impacts are not being addressed; only show what can be supported
 - agencies and other entities need to be cognizant of population growth; may need to impose moratorium on growth (sustainability, page 10B)
- Page 12, scenario 1: should it read “in 2005, nearly 60 million...” ?
- Page 12 – too large, too much text; suggest bullet points (not clear on the purpose)
- Emergency responses: is there sufficient flexibility in addressing emergencies that arise (fire, flood, etc.)
- “Likes:”
 - public outreach aspect and using simple language (easy to understand for public)
 - CD is a good addition, as well as map (page 16)
 - more emphasis on water quality
 - minimal use of acronyms
- Need a glossary: how is IRWM different from Integrated Water Management, or a “Watershed Approach to Water Management”?
- Show where issues like climate change or water quality get addressed separately from the Water Plan and more frequently than every 5 years.
- Page 9, climate change impacts: include riparian habitats
- How do other agencies fit into IRWMs, if they don’t have entities like SAWPA?
- Would like to see another draft of highlights, after incorporating workshop comments
- More information on the Colorado River:
 - what is the plan with other Basin States
 - emphasize MWD’s response to cutbacks
- Regulatory processes are choking out viable water supply alternatives; add a section on exploration of alternative water supplies
- Provide an Executive Summary up with Director’s Statement (e.g. move conclusion up front)
- Where does relationship with Mexico show up?
- Response graphic (page 170)
 - expanded and improved storage and conveyance capacity
 - develop additional reliable water supplies
 - more emphasis on water recycling and reuse (regional planning, more discussion on incentives, dual plumbing)
- IRWM planning: how to handle isolated regions
- New features:
 - Compare this update with previous ones; provide summary of prior Water Plans.
 - Historical context shows changes and updates.
 - Director’s message should describe achievements.
 - What is new since last update? (Climate change, flood, water quality)
- State should meet its 4.23 MAF SWP contract. What is the status? (how much was met? if total not met, why not?) Are entities still paying for original SWP?
- Page 4 (margin): status of litigation regarding water supply
- Use “may” or “might” instead of “will” for climate change.
- Flood control: How does flood control relate to water supply?
 - Assess need for more surface storage reservoirs/retention basins for flood flows
 - recharge more flood waters; biofilters
- Need more reclamation of waste water
- Discuss graywater; rainwater capture
- Create buy-in programs for small water agencies for desal projects – need state clearinghouse (credit trading program)
- Convert outdoor use from lawns.

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- There should be some mention or discussion about incentives and/or credits for participation and achieving goals.
- Groundwater management plans should be mandated for counties and districts

Discussion B – Regional Report (Issues)

- Population growth and development
- Colorado River water quality: quaggas and invasives
- salinity: ag/dairy salt offset (Sept. 2012)
- protect wildlife in Newport Bay
- Stormwater runoff/management/reuse:
 - has benefits for water quality and ecosystems (Chino Basin)
 - opportunity to discuss stormwater capture in spreading basins; talk about adding more (Santa Ana, San Gabriel)
 - coordinate with other agencies on stormwater flow (State and Federal requirements)
 - page 5-38: Prada Dam and release into Orange
 - ponding and retention basins: lawsuits over who owns water
 - stormwater and sediment transport
 - runoff in Chino Basin and has nutrient loading; Chino Desalter addressing this
 - primary runoff management: flooding and breaching on dairies; affecting TMDLs
 - runoff contributions to Prado (existing and new; good and bad)
 - stormwater runoff causing sediment transport is a problem in rural communities due to poor dirt-road design and maintenance. Tributaries and creeks are buried, resulting in less surface water for creeks and burying riparian habitats. There is a need for incentives to correct dirt road use, design, and maintenance – focusing on zero-runoff techniques.
- demand reduction (conservation)
 - public awareness
 - cost measures
 - low water landscaping
- permitting: streamline projects
- recycled water and funding
 - boron content affects ag reuse
- land use and land planning/General Plans – low impact development plans
- include Colorado River in discussion of water supply reliability
- groundwater management:
 - discuss overdraft and impact to rural communities (individual wells and small water companies are being impacted)
 - impact on habitat – drying out springs and surface waters; desertification with lowered water tables
 - need for water budgeting to include land use (LID and recharge regions) and habitat protection
 - public outreach to educate about aquifer hydrology and need for community plan
- Page 5-4: Mentions how watersheds start in the Los Padres National Forest. For consistency, page 5-5 should mention the Angeles National Forest; page 5-6 mention the San Bernardino National Forest; page 5-7 mention the Cleveland National Forest.
- Box 5-2 could add USFS.
- Page 5-7, Santa Margarita River Watershed: “The upper watershed” contains extensive wildlife habitat on BLM, National Forests, county, non-profit, and State lands (preserved), but it is the fastest...

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- Page 5-7, San Luis Rey River watershed: “Much remains natural” traveling through federal, tribal, county, city lands to the Pacific Ocean and the city of Oceanside (*doesn’t go through San Diego).
- Page 5-8: The San Bernardino NV and Angeles NF get snow. “Very little snow” should be better quantified. There are a number of ski areas in the mountains.
- Page 5-11: Perhaps mention Cal State San Bernardino – they have a Water Resources Institute.
- Page 5-12: Use of “nightmare” for 2003 fires doesn’t seem appropriate. Perhaps “fire storm.” Could add information from other counties.
- Page 5-14: New wilderness legislation adds Wild and Scenic River designations in San Jacinto Mountains.
- Page 5-18: Seven Oaks Dam retains water for only a limited time during storms. Its use differs from Prado. The grouping could be deceptive or imply a use that is currently not permitted.
- Page 5-23: Make sure the LID definition matches or acknowledges the definition in the new Orange County permit (currently in the works).
- Page 5-23: Salinity – consider adding an acknowledgement that water off USFS land has lower salinity and is used for blending.
- Figure 5-8: Note – FEMA floodplains generally are not developed on Federal lands.

Discussion B: Regional Reports (Management, Planning)

- need for a clearinghouse, where small agencies can buy a small share in larger projects (e.g. the Carlsbad desalter); there are contracts with 9 agencies, some exchanges
- public-private partnerships; privatization of water
- describe MSHCP; wilderness status – protection/restoration of watersheds
- residential development of agriculture and citrus groves
- high nitrification of groundwater – use wells for recycled water injection
- emerging: regional and local surface storage and reoperation of existing reservoirs for salinity management.
- open space acquisition through government and NGOs is a good strategy that is happening
- ag WUE/land stewardship – dairies are excluded from grant funds, have impacts to groundwater basins. Who pays?
- Page 5-42: USFS (San Bernardino NF) is working with downstream agencies to address invasive vegetation and ecosystem restoration. Integrated regional water development for wetlands.
- Page 5-42, add watershed management to “emerging” list
- Page 5-42: Forest Service meadow restoration and invasive species removal are ongoing. The meadow aspect could be covered by #3; perhaps official acknowledgement. Arundo and tamarisk removal reduce evaporative loss and promote the natural ecosystem. Invasive removal increases available water supply.
- Small tables showing regional IRWM strategies should list projects according to RMS (like large table)
- Group miscellaneous, localized applications for water supply (precipitation enhancement, fog collection, dewvaporation)
- Number of dairies and cows is old data – much lower now.
- Volume 2 (RMS)
 - urban runoff (ag runoff, non-point source pollution, stormwater) – should include water supply benefits
 - land use: discuss water supply assessment (610, 221)

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- municipal recycled water: increase of onsite recycling; membrane bioreactors at the larger desalters
- Ch. 23: quite pleased with acknowledgement of Forest issues; page 23-10 – the State SEAT acronym is being changed to BART.
- So. Coast specifics for Regional and Local Surface Storage:
 - Construction of Diamond Valley Lake
 - Construction of Olivenhain Reservoir
 - Expansion of San Vicente Reservoir
- So. Coast specifics for Reoperation of Existing Reservoirs:
 - Connection of Lake Hodges to Olivenhain Reservoir and San Diego's regional imported water pipelines (pending)
 - Four-Reservoir Intertie Study: Analysis of potential connection of 4 reservoirs in south and east San Diego County to improve efficiency. Funded by federal appropriation and IRWM grant.
- So. Coast specifics for Watershed Management:
 - Increased efforts to protect watersheds of San Diego County reservoirs, including Sweetwater, San Vicente, El Capitan, Olivenhain, and Lake Hodges.

Discussion C – Scenarios

- There should be a sensitivity analysis in the model discussion about which factors cause the biggest difference.
- A scenario with reduced environmental water demand (compared to Blueprint) is not as likely given current trends in lawsuits and protection of endangered species. More people → more pressure on land → more critical species → more lawsuits.
- Regional results don't seem right, look at ag production assumptions
- Future growth and projected demand is important with the multiple demand projections; look at water use factors such as cost
- Need to do a really good job in documenting assumptions
- IRWMP groups have done some long-range plans (use IRWMPs to do a reality check of model projections for use
- Consistency between agencies is essential; scenarios need to be useful for local and regional agencies looking at their own scenarios and assumptions.
- Growth assumptions – housing needs assessment; AB 375 inputs
- Water supply assessments and development issues have economic and political aspects
- Good improvement over 2005 analysis
- Description of current trend scenario implies that no one, including legislature, is doing anything proactive. Not true.
- Suggested text for “blueprint” scenario description: “Californians embrace aggressive and innovative water use efficiency.” ...”The state’s legislature has successfully enacted several comprehensive programs...”

Other Comments

- Appreciate desire to bring Federal government/USFS into IRWM planning. In San Bernardino recently, the plan boundary started at base of mountains, not top of watersheds.
- Judie is a very good facilitator for such a large and diverse group.

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Attendance

Eric Anderson, Valley Soil
Delores Armstead, County of San Bernardino
Carol Beekman, Jurupa Community Services District
Billie Blair, Learning Inc.
Pat Boldt, San Jacinto River Watershed Council
Larry Broedow, Senator Bob Dutton's Office
Grace Chan, Metropolitan Water District
Joe Cusumano, Inland Valleys Association of Realtors
Omar Dandashi, Lewis Operating Corporation
Karl Drew, Crestline Village Water District
Terri Elliott, Huntington Beach Dept. of Public Works
Dennis Erdman, Crescenta Valley Water District
Steven Farrell, Crestline Village Water District
Charlotte Fox, League of Women Voters of California
Larry Fregin, South Coast Water District
Sam Gershon, AA Webb Associates
Jerry Griffith, Big Bear Community Services District
Fred Hanson, Web Associates
Kristin Huych, State Assembly Kevin Jeffries Office
Taffy Kennedy, Environmental Training Center
David Kissinger, South Bay Association of Realtors
Ton Klinkebiel, RK Engineering
Duncan Lee, Huntington Beach Public Works
Vicki Long, Elsinor-Murrieta-Anza RCD
David Lopez, Rubidoux Community Services District
Elizabeth Lovsted, Eastern Municipal Water
Allison Mackenzie, ES Babcock Environmental Labs
Anthony Manzawo, City of Riverside
Elena Medina, Riverside LAFCO
Brenda Meyer, Western Municipal Water District
Pam Nelson, Elsinor-Murrieta-Anza RCD
Oliver Pacifico, Ca. Dept. of Public Health
Cathy Pieroni, City of San Diego
Julie Powers, Bucknam
Lee Reeder, Santa Ana Watershed Association
Leighanne Reeser, West Basin Municipal Water District
Jeff Rupp, Davis Evans and Associates
Marv Shaw, Inland Empire Utilities Agency
Ryan Smith, California Association of Realtors
Mark Stadler, San Diego County Water Authority
Michele Staples, Jackson, DeMarco, Tidus, & Peckenpaugh Law Firm
Robert Taylor, San Bernardino National Forest
Henry Voghnsen, Box Spring Mutual Water Company
Kathy Walker, Realtor
Rick Whetsel, Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority
Kimson Wright, Pasadena Water and Power
Natalie Zwinkels, Pasadena Water and Power

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Paul Dabbs, DWR, Water Plan Project Manager
Barbara Cross, DWR, Tribal Liaison
Vern Knoop, DWR, Southern District
Dave Scruggs, DWR, Southern District
Abi Aderonu, DWR, Southern District
Brian Moniz, DWR, Southern District
Jennifer Wong, DWR, Southern District
Judie Talbot, Center for Collaborative Policy, CSUS