

## Water Plan Regional Workshop Summary – Oakland, 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 San Francisco Bay hydrologic region was held on June 25, 2007 in Oakland, 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, Karl Winkler, Chief of the Central District for the Department of Water Resources (DWR), reviewed the Regional Report for the San Francisco 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 San Francisco Bay 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 Paul Dabbs, Program Manager for Update 2009, 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. Five key themes that emerged during the group reports included:

- a. correlating watershed conditions (habitat, riparian water issues) to water supply and water quality; protection of watersheds, natural resources, and habitat; prioritizing watershed programs in water planning
- b. expanding the concept of supply to include support for recycled water, desal, and stormwater reuse, water conservation)
- c. describing and mitigating the impacts of climate change (floodplain development, salinity encroachment, supply)
- d. real integration across agencies, including Delta Vision and CalFed efforts); need positive and constructive State leadership to: improve regional and inter-regional planning and projects; streamline permitting and remove obstacles to creative solutions; and address the needs of disadvantaged communities
- e. improving communication and outreach to local governments, environmental justice communities, and the public to create a water plan that is USED; make the Water Plan relevant to local needs; develop specific correlations between land use planning and water planning; provide guidance on water element for general plans

Other topics that were identified by multiple group reports include:

- f. better description of water uses/demand (environmental water, recreation)
- g. describing emergency management functions (for flooding, drought, levee breaks, infrastructure failure); need to address responses beyond 48 hours; link to regional plans
- h. evaluating economic efficiency of planning and project recommendations; need approaches for measuring results
- i. addressing energy conservation in water planning and projects
- j. improving collection, compilation, and sharing of water/hydrologic data

### ***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:
  - describe inter-regional issues and dependencies, describe sub-regional issues
  - add in information on watersheds
  - include a broader range of agency reporting (flood control, wastewater, etc.)
  - include amount of impervious surface data and associated land use; cost/savings of Smart Growth; identify protected areas (identified in Green Vision process, etc.)
  - climate data should be more specific (tide trends, data on a city basis)
  - discuss level of coordination among local agencies, and regulatory needs/roadblocks

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- b. water supply/demand/quality data:
  - include a regional groundwater overdraft estimate
  - include information on conservation, recycling, reliability of supply
  - discuss regional impacts of climate change (precipitation, temperature, sea level rise – see BCDC data) and impacts on water supply and infrastructure
  - for 5A – list the activities that specifically influence water quality (commercial, development, transportation, air deposition)
  - item 7a: look at scenario of reduced imports from Delta
  - describe level of integration regarding mutual aid, conveyance, interties
  - what is being done by water agencies and other agencies to reduce energy needs?
  - look at both benefits and costs of flooding
- c. challenges:
  - call out need for intra-regional cohesions
  - defined water-smart growth (toolkit)
  - need to expand outreach to local agencies on using the Water Plan (key information includes challenges, strategies, and incentives)
  - the State needs to assist with increasing the acceptance and use of recycled water
- d. resource management strategies:
  - identify costs and benefits for actions; include cost of failure (risk analysis)
  - identify incentives and funding sources
  - include onsite reuse (gray water), supply (rain catching, stormwater reuse), and storage (e.g. Mattole River); quantify and add into portfolio and scenarios
  - address landscape water use
- e. regional planning:
  - DWR should suggest specific response strategies and actions for the region
  - quantified goals should provide flexibility on how to achieve targets
  - city reports and plans should feed up to regional agencies, reports, and plans
  - need consistency in methodology and reporting in urban water management plans
  - need quantifiable indicators/measures of success to track process on reaching goals

### ***DISCUSSION ON REGIONAL APPROACH, OUTREACH, AND NETWORKING***

At the workshop, participants suggested additional strategies and contacts for successful regional outreach and involvement:

- a. DWR should provide high-level technical and policy support and coordination to regions; exchange information on other IRWMPs, demonstration projects, and what works
- b. expand outreach:
  - reach out assure that needed expertise and existing knowledge base is engaged
  - targeted outreach and involved for specific topics and areas of the Water Plan

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- c. evaluate representation:
  - involve IRWMP planning efforts and create areas for dialogue
  - DWR should do whatever it takes to get major players and all stakeholders in the regions and sub-regions to work together
  - need structural representation from: the sustainability/community/watershed community; the California Coastal Commission;
  - get electeds and non-profits at the table to address long-term, sustainable goals
  - include Bay Area Flood Protection Association (Mitch Avalon)
- d. regional follow-up:
  - provide metrics for Update 2005 (goals set and goals met)
  - look to improve funding incentives
  - continue work with regional groups for outreach and public education
  - use public television infomercials
  - adopt metrics and accountability for greater performance-based planning and accountability
  - regional governance needs to be structured/empowered to:
    - make decisions based on best interests of regions
    - be representative of all regional stakeholders
    - partner with state and regional regulatory agencies regarding decisions and/or guidance on land use, integrated regional water management, best practices on water and energy conservation, etc.

### **CLOSING REMARKS**

At the close of the workshop, Kamyar Guivetchi and Karl Winkler expressed thanks to all those who attended and participated in the session. A special thank you was extended to the Bay Area Water Forum for hosting the workshop.

A final reminder was given to participants on contacts for the Water Plan: Pierre Stephens is serving as the point of contact for regional coordination in the Central District. He can be contacted via email at [jrstephe@water.ca.gov](mailto:jrstephe@water.ca.gov) or by phone at (916) 651-0700. 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  
San Francisco Bay Region - Oakland, June 25, 2007**

**Table A**

*Regional considerations to include in Update 2009:*

Top issues:

1. water marketing
2. alternative scenarios planning (as per CEQA)
3. water conservation practices/strategies
4. more information on energy conservation regarding delivering and treating water
5. support improvement of water data and sharing of water data

Other issues:

- cost effectiveness of recommendations
- prioritizing implementation
- integrate/clarify Delta Vision and CalFed efforts
- diversify regional water portfolios (desal, recycled water)
- no emergency management functions in plans (flood, drought, levees)
- plans beyond 2 days if large pipe or levee breaks (link with IRWMP and regional plans)

*Suggestions regarding regional reports:*

- \* identify costs and benefits (for project/action); include cost of failure (risk analysis)
- identify incentives, funding sources
- (inter)dependency with other regions
- identify water uses
- expand section on challenges: need for intra-regional cohesion, define water-smart growth (toolkit)
- regional action, independently implemented
- suggest specific action for region: what does “response strategy” mean?
- outreach to local agencies on use of State Water Plan (key information: challenges, strategies, incentives for adoption)

*Regional outreach and networking:*

- who are the experts? how do we ensure that experts show up?
- extend invitation to experts
- how are we taking advantage of existing knowledge base
- identify specific areas of plan and who should be involved
- more outreach on specific topics
- focus groups on specific areas
- metrics: goals set in 2005 v. goals met

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**Table B**

*Regional considerations to include in Update 2009:*

Top issues:

1. recognize links between land use decisions, population growth, and water
2. improve real integration at all levels: within region(s), among state agencies, and with federal agencies
3. mitigation and adaptation to address climate change
4. emphasize links between habitat / riparian water issues with water quality and supply
5. drinking water quality, environmental water quality

Other issues:

- ensure that state role in inter-regional issues is positive and constructive; recognize inter- and intra-regional complexity
- learn from history, lose the Pollyanna assumptions – recognize that bitter conflicts will continue, need a better way to resolve them
- improve communications with Environmental Justice community, increase their involvement
- energize more recycling
- public communication enhancement
- ensure regional strategies are authentically responsive
- protect natural resources and habitat
- water transfer(s) reduction
- roadblocks due to permitting process, get regulators involved early

*Suggestions regarding regional reports:*

- what is the purpose of regional reports – informational? guidance?
- keep water balance
- dichotomy of water supply v. discharge
- develop regionally appropriate management strategies (include potential estimates – e.g. conservation, recycling)
- absence of watersheds
- should discuss inter-regional issues
- broader range of agency reporting (flood control, wastewater, etc.)
- regional groundwater overdraft estimate
- regional impacts of climate change (precipitation, temperature, sea level rise) and impacts on water supply and infrastructure

*Regional outreach and networking:*

- (no specific suggestions listed)

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**Table C**

*Regional considerations to include in Update 2009:*

- stormwater reuse program: land use → storage/treatment, groundwater/infiltration, onsite treatment
- improve infrastructure: treatment plants, pipelines, desalination, new technology
- watershed protection: regulation, enforcement
- decentralized treatment: industrial, commercial
- public outreach: notices, education – there “is” a waterplan
- global climate change: floodplain development, salinity encroachment, supply
- maintain water supplies for recreation (swimming, boating)

*Suggestions regarding regional reports:*

- land use: add impervious surface data and associated land use
- climate: be more specific – data provided on cities; add tide trends (BCDC – sea level rise)
- 5A: what specifically is influencing water quality (industrial/commercial activity, air deposition, development, transportation)
- land use: developments; cost/savings of Smart Growth
- reports: general plans/specific plan → city to regional agencies

*Regional outreach:*

- what is our region? some are involved, some not
- IRWMP group is working
- need sub-regional plans
- who are the players?
- create area for dialogue
- DWR: do whatever it takes to get major players and all stakeholders in the regions and sub- regions to work together

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**Table D**

*Regional considerations to include in Update 2009:*

Top issues:

1. develop specific correlations between land use planning and water planning
2. recommend link between water planning and general plans
3. need state guidance on how to improve regional planning processes
4. CWP should prioritize statewide watershed programs in water planning
5. need multi-objective flood damage reduction planning
6. CWP must give regions roadmap and requirements for addressing needs of EJ and disadvantaged communities
7. needs for environmental water should be identified

Other issues:

- intra-regional agency cooperation for planning and projects
- better agency education on public involvement
- planning horizons should be +50 years
- look at other states for regional planning models (e.g. Oregon)
- CWP provides frameworks for water element in general plans
- drought planning needed
- economic efficiency in planning and projects

*Suggestions regarding regional reports:*

- separate region-wide issues from sub-regional issues
- response strategy should:
  - include decentralized onsite reuse (gray water), supply (rain catching, stormwater reuse), and storage (e.g. Mattole River)
  - quantify and integrate into portfolio and scenarios
  - use models from Seattle, etc.
    - address landscape water use: quantify water saved by, for example, local ordinances restricting lawns – integrate findings into portfolio and scenarios
    - quantified goals with flexibility in how to achieve
    - roads impacts: CalTrans to be part of state and regional implementation
    - response strategy: state needs to help with increasing the acceptance and use of recycled water (e.g. purple pipes)
    - identify protected areas, from Green Vision process, etc.; identify additional land needed for water supply, floodplain improvements

*Regional outreach and networking:*

- BAFPA (Mitch Avalon)
- structural representation from the sustainability/community/watershed community (urban creeks, friends of .... groups, watershed councils) – how to represent these (Conservancy? listserv?) at the tables of all functional areas
- address absence of communications, benchmarks, data management – interactive like North Coast
- needs to be redesigned to “blow up boxes” and address long-term, sustainability, and quality of life goals – get electeds and non-profits at table
- the structure needs to recognize benefits, not just costs, of floods

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**Table E**

*Regional considerations to include in Update 2009:*

- reduce energy demand in providing water supply
- meeting demand through water conservation and storage
- coordinate government codes to allow creative solutions
- integrate Delta Vision into 2009 plan
- improve hydrologic data collection and compilation programs
- global warming

*Suggestions regarding regional reports:*

- water supply and use: conservation, recycling, reliability of water supply
- state of region: coordination between local agencies
- economic viability of agencies to implement projects without overburdening their customers
- plan should focus on water supply

*Regional outreach and networking:*

- as a region, did a pretty good job (Bay Area Water Forum, BAAWF, BAWAC, BACWA, BASSMA)
- could do a better job with funding incentives
- no “czar” – region is too diverse for “one size fits all”

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**Table F**

*Regional considerations to include in Update 2009:*

- maintain state baseline “responsibilities” – not all solutions are sound in the smaller regions (Delta)
- climate change:
  1. rising bay level: saltwater intrusion, groundwater impacts, flood management
  2. local-regional watershed guidance, water balances, etc.
- plan needs to be USED – provide guidance to locals/regions
- increased utilization of recycled water
- partnerships/coordination – needs to be a two-way street
  1. state perspective: how can we effectively garner regional input
  2. regional perspective: state needs to absorb/accept local guidance “rolled up” from region
  3. not just to DWR but to the many state agencies” – formal “buy-in”; partnerships between DWR and other California agencies
    - encouragement to DWR to keep/maintain/support planning process
    - what are the next level of conservation BMPs?
    - does the state need a water czar?
    - climate change guidance at more local/regional scales (watersheds)
    - methods to resource prioritization? (i.e.: see transportation example)
    - 2005 Water Strategies: state should help regions DO → get to these supplies
    - plan should realistically assess what is possible with desal
    - what is the impact of demand hardening the conservation options (low flow shower heads)?
    - metrics and accountability: how do we measure results?
    - plan should be “action plan” that describes implications of choices
    - plan should recognize Bay region’s complexities, challenges (organization, representation, geography)

*Suggestions regarding regional reports:*

- what are water agencies and other agencies doing to manage energy?
- what are we doing to adapt to climate change?
- how much integration regarding mutual aid, conveyance, interties?
- need consistency of methodology and reporting in urban water management plans
- regional reports should be compared between regions – put into context; not just numbers but accomplishments in terms of outcomes
- quantifiable measures of success – indicators track how we are meeting regional goals and how they interrelate (e.g. SF Estuary Comp. Conservation MP update)
- analysis of fundability and ability to leverage other funding
- priority to regional, multi-objective projects; regional benefit should receive incentives
- item 7A: study scenario of reduced imports from Delta
- help regions identify best strategies and investments
- regulatory roadblocks: places to store water; customers; highlight regulatory needs
- more funding of demonstration projects; state could connect/broker projects

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**Table F (cont'd.)**

*Regional outreach and networking:*

- note: add California Coastal Commission to Steering Committee
- assign top level DWR person to coordinate with Bay Area and technical/policy support; exchange information on other IRWMPs and what works
- how to bring CalFed and Delta processes into Bay Area region
- continue to take advantage of regional groups for greater outreach and public education (like Bay Area Water Forum)
- make public television infomercials
- adopt metrics and best practices for greater performance-based planning and accountability
- governance: needs to be empowered to:
  - make decisions based on best interests of region
  - be representative of region's stakeholders including electeds, community leaders, community-based organizations, environmental groups, business, education, etc.
  - partner with state and regional regulatory agencies
    - decide and/or advise on land use, integrated regional water management, best practices on water and energy conservation, etc.
    - set priorities on regional basis on projects and funding