

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. Three key themes that emerged during the group reports included:

- a. reducing demand through conservation: it was noted several times that developers are required to have green lawn landscaping in new developments
- b. greater discussion on groundwater: groundwater banking/storage and conjunctive use, including regulatory guidance - timely permitting is needed for groundwater storage projects; adjudication
- c. coordination with other State agencies
- d. regional collaboration and planning, including linkage to land use

Other topics that were identified by multiple group reports include:

- e. reliability of the State Water Project: annual allocations, water quality, and long-term average supplies; addressing Delta concerns and conveyance
- f. climate change: storm intensity and stormwater flows; drought preparedness
- g. funding options and sources
- h. adequate supplies to meet growing demand: infrastructure for water delivery; water supply and distribution contingencies; water recycling/reclamation; longer-term water planning horizons – perhaps 100 years

Education was noted as playing an important role in water awareness and water use – usable and user-friendly information is needed to improve understanding of water issues. Interstate water issues were also mentioned, such as Las Vegas development.

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:
 - add regulatory setting (building codes, landscape ordinances, use of recycled water)
 - describe sub-regional differences
 - provide a range of estimates, instead of just one number (e.g. population)
- b. water supply/demand/quality data:
 - include monitoring and how data fits in to data and management programs
 - include groundwater: groundwater overdraft; require statewide monitoring wells for groundwater levels; groundwater plans and supplies
 - water balances should rely on completed studies and projects
 - add a rain table showing monthly, yearly, sub-regional values
 - recognize inter-regional and inter-state interdependencies
 - include water-dependent natural resources (detailed mapping is available)

What We Heard in Round 1 Workshops – South Lahontan Region

- c. challenges:
 - discuss emergency water supplies, how water systems interact during emergencies
 - funding: distribution of State funding needs to be increased to desert areas
 - reuse of tertiary-treated wastewater needs additional funding and removal of permitting obstacles (related to resource management strategies)
- d. resource management strategies:
 - include storage capacity
 - discuss implementation costs
 - discuss technologies: recycled water piping, desalination
 - conservation needs to promote low-water landscape
- e. regional planning:
 - include information on regional relations and coordination with other agencies
 - identify activities undertaken during the past five years and the results
 - explain how planning efforts fit together (integrated, groundwater, and urban water management plans)
 - describe drought protection
 - add emergency planning, multi-hazard assessments
 - synchronize Water Plan with Urban Water Management Plans
 - include list of projects proposed by locals; include project leads and timelines
- f. reference materials:
 - include any technical guidelines already developed
 - include templates for ordinances