

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

What We Heard in Round 1 Workshops – South Coast Region

- 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)
- 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