



MEETING SUMMARY

CALIFORNIA WATER PLAN UPDATE 2013
GOVERNMENT ALIGNMENT OBJECTIVE
9:00 – 10:00 A.M.
815 S STREET, SACRAMENTO, CA

Meeting Objectives

Discuss and suggest revisions for the Related Actions associated with the Update 2013 Objective relating to Government Alignment:

“Strengthen the alignment of goals, policies and programs for improving local land use planning and integrated water management (IWM).”

Welcome, Introductions and Agenda Review

The Update 2013 Objectives Web-a-thon was held on June 13-14, 2013 to discuss the draft 17 Objectives and the associated Related Action for the Water Plan. Introductions were made around the room and online. A brief review of the Alignment objective and related actions (found on pages 53-55 of the workbook) would be followed by discussion on the text.

Document Walk Through

Kamyar Guivetchi, DWR, Manager, Statewide Integrated Water Management, reviewed the Water Technology Objective. This is one of the new objectives for Update 2013, and represents one of the three overarching themes for this Update.

Related Actions

The proposed Related Actions, and the ensuing discussion, are presented below. Please note that the actions below have been abridged from the original text and the sub-actions are not included:

General Discussion

- Who is the voice and the author for this objective? Response: Much of it comes from the California Biodiversity Council (CBC) and has been adapted by Water Plan staff, drawing from the Plenary and State Agency Steering Committee conversations. (A brief overview of the CBC process was provided, whose agencies share overlapping authorities. The question revolved around whether those authorities could be used in a more strategic way – by aligning those authorities – to achieve desired outcomes more efficiently. This might result in more cost-effective governance.)
- In SB 732, which created the Strategic Growth Council (SGC), the Legislature articulated the need for State government to do what is called out in this objective. This approach is

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being advocated throughout State government, and is called out in the SGC Strategic Plan, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife Strategic Vision, and California Water Commission Strategic Plan.

- This objective has some overlap with Objective 15 (Land Use), also most – if not all – of the other objectives would benefit from this Objective on Alignment. Objective 15 focuses on the aspect of land use to encourage better coordination. Objective 16 emphasizes the institutional framework for alignment.
 - A stronger introduction to this Objective would describe how the Water Plan and IWM would benefit from better coordination and alignment. Starting with the CBC Resolution may not capture people's attention in the same way. Provide examples of this approach, such as the SGC. Chapter 4 could provide this narrative and the Objective could point to that.
 - The paragraph under the objective could better reflect what is in Chapter 4. Endorsing the CBC Resolution could become a performance measure.
1. State, federal, Tribal and local government agencies should endorse and/or adopt the CBC's Resolution (April 2013) on "Strengthening Agency Alignment for Natural Resource Conservation." Agencies should adopt the Resolution's vision, goals and principles, utilize its recommended practices and tools, and participate in Biodiversity Council venues and meetings intended to advance agency alignment.

Discussion:

- This Action memorializes the work of the California Biodiversity Council in developing and adopting a resolution to promote agency coordination and alignment.
2. State government should more effectively use and coordinate the work of multi-organization collaboratives to align and implement State water policies and promote Integrated Resource Management – like the Strategic Growth Council, Delta Stewardship Council, Ocean Protection Council, Water Plan State Agency Steering Committee, Conservancies, California Council on Science and Technology, and the California Landscape Conservation Cooperative. This should include an inventory of processes and tools (such as a water planning calendar, related state and federal plans, data collection programs and databases, water-related collaboration venues and public processes, State listserves and electronic newsletters, etc. – some of which could be used as performance measures.)



Discussion:

- This would benefit from stripping out the language after the “hyphen” – it distracts from the concept contained in the first section. There was discussion that examples are needed to help describe the idea of multi-organization collaboratives.
 - Say, “such as” rather than “like.” The term “this” (in the bullet) needs to be defined.
 - Consider using some of this detail for performance measures.
 - Many of the regions have multi-organization efforts.
- 3. State government should recognize regional and local diversity by assisting, enabling and empowering regional water collaborative like IRWM groups to determine how state water policies are implemented.

Discussion:

- No comments.
- 4. State government should use a broad and consistent mix of administrative tools to advance integrated water management at a regional level, including technical and data support, financial incentives and support, guidelines, regulation, and legislation.

Discussion:

- No comments.
- 5. State and federal government should use a more inclusive, outcome-based framework for setting policies and regulations. Item #a: State and federal directives should focus on intended and regionally-appropriate outcomes, and establish performance measures to evaluate progress. Item #b: State and federal government should encourage regional collaboratives like IRWM groups to adaptively management implementation to achieve desired outcomes. Item #c: State and federal regulatory agencies should conduct a pilot project to evaluate if and how a Habitat Conservation Planning approach could help align regulatory and permitting processes for IWM planning and project implementation.

Discussion:

- This looks at more collaborative regulation and policy-setting, with a focus on regionally-appropriate outcomes.
- Item #b: IRWM groups are part of this and the State should look to these groups for implementation of policy. (Consider using this language to re-write this item. The intent that the State would be learning from IRWM groups is not clear.)

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- The current language makes it sound as though IRWM groups now have to report to the State and demonstrate that the plans have accomplished all that they were supposed to do – this ups the ante for IRWMs. If that's not the intention, that needs to be clear. In response, it was noted that State government would identify “what” needs to be achieved and look to regional groups for the “how.” If people choose to use this approach, there needs to be some accountability that the “how” achieves the “what.” This is intended to give local boards the flexibility to achieve state goals, given local conditions and resources. The State would set up the metric and encourage an adaptive management approach to reaching that metric.
- Say, “State and federal government should encourage regional collaboratives, such as IRWM groups, to ...”
- This item mentions an outcome-based approach; however, it doesn't talk about reporting that identifies this as outcome-based.
- Many times the State doesn't understand what needs to be accomplished in the regions, and it will be difficult for the State to set the outcomes. In response, it was agreed that part of the challenge is that statewide policy and regulation often takes a “one size fits all approach.” Regionally-appropriate outcomes are needed to address State interests. The State needs to leverage regional collaboratives to implement State policy and regulation. If someone elects to adopt this approach, they would describe how they would meet a state outcome. Over time, the approach would be assessed to see how well it is meeting the outcome to allow an adaptive management approach.
- The problem that this is trying to solve is not clear. A clearer statement would describe the goal of advancing IRWM, and that there are other State and federal government activities going on, and these activities may or may not be using the same tools.
- Land use provides a model for achieving the accountability aspects. Look at the affordable housing element. The State sets requirements for low-income housing, the locals propose a housing element that is sent to the State for approval. Clarifying the problem statement will get there, because we are trying to accomplish biodiversity goals in this particular section. In fact, the Water Plan is trying to accomplish water-related goals for the State. We need to clarify the purpose for this alignment. Will the goal increase efficiencies or will it create friction between State and local government?
- Pre-circulating Chapter 4 will help clarify the staging and the problem statement.

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- Item #c, suggesting an HCP approach, needs to be better described. This is a rather subtle tool, and only those who are familiar with the Endangered Species Act would understand that this is a non-regulatory tool to accomplish the same things as a Biological Assessment. The characteristics that make this a compelling tool is that it is: voluntary, collaborative and outcome-oriented. Unfortunately, HCPs have encountered difficulties throughout the country. Some have great intentions and opportunities, while bringing substantial basis.
6. State government agencies should hire, assign or train staff with collaboration and conflict resolution knowledge, skills and ability, whose primary job is to work with other State, federal, Tribal and local agencies to improve interagency communication, cooperation, collaboration, and alignment. State government should adopt a standard (common) duty statement for managers and higher classifications to promote state agency collaboration and alignment; should require these classifications to complete facilitation training.

Discussion:

- Isn't this addressing an internal hiring process? The response is that this encompasses both state and federal agencies. This elevates a particular need for conflict resolution and this skill set is just beginning to catch on.
- After the word agencies, add: "and cultural groups."



Attendance

In Room

Dave Bolland, Association of California Water Agencies
Bob Siegfried, Carmel Area Wastewater District

Jose Alarcon, DWR, Water Quality Lead
Kamyar Guivetchi, DWR, Manager, Statewide Integrated Water Management
Lewis Moeller, DWR, Water Plan Project Manager
Elizabeth Patterson, DWR, Land Use Lead

Lisa Beutler, MWH, Water Plan Executive Facilitator
Judie Talbot, CCP, Facilitator

Webinar

Grace Chan, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Jami Childress, California Emergency Management Agency
Anisa Divine, Imperial Irrigation District
Gina Ford, California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Bruce Gwynne, Department of Conservation
Jack Hawks, California Water Association
Karl Longley, California Water Institute, UC Fresno
Chris Potter, California Resources Agency (Ocean Grants and Wetlands)
Pat Showalter, Santa Clara Valley Water District
Mark Stadler, San Diego County Water Authority
Tony St. Amant, Water Policy Advocate