

Objectives Web-a-thon
Protect Surface and Ground Water Quality
June 13, 2013



MEETING SUMMARY

CALIFORNIA WATER PLAN UPDATE 2013
WATER QUALITY OBJECTIVE
10:00 – 11:00 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 Water Quality:

“Protect and restore surface water and groundwater quality to safeguard public and environmental health and secure California’s water supplies for beneficial uses.”

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. Paul Massera, DWR, Update 2013 Program Manager, welcomed everyone and noted that an online wrap up session will be conducted on July 9th, to conclude any items needing additional discussion. He explained that the workbook was prepared by DWR staff and subject matter experts, and is for discussion purposes only. The first few pages of this draft document provide definitions of terms and the Water Plan mission, vision and goals – which sets the context for the objectives and related actions. A brief review of the Water Quality objective and related actions (found on pages 13-16 of the workbook) would be followed by discussion on the text.

Overview

Jose Alarcon, DWR Project Team, provided brief background on how the objectives and related actions were developed. He and Francisco Guzman have reviewed the 37 Featured State Plans, related state agency plans with bearing on the Water Plan, and correlated the respective recommendations with the Water Plan objectives. These were forwarded to the subject matter experts for consideration in updating the related actions for each objective. Collectively, the objectives identify what is needed to accomplish the goals of the Water Plan. The related actions represent what is needed to accomplish each particular objective.

The workbook contains a column for performance measures, which will help track each action and inform the next Water Plan Progress Report. Draft measures have been proposed for some of the objectives, and feedback is welcomed on potential performance measures – as well as the objectives and related actions.



Document Walk Through

Lisa Beutler, Facilitator, explained that the related actions are a mix of recommendations from the Water Boards, Department of Public Health (DPH), and items from Update 2009. The Water Boards are revising some of the actions related to their programs. Vicky Whitney, State Water Board, provided an overview of the Water Boards actions. These actions need to be updated in terms of performance metrics and to reflect some changes in priorities that resulted from court and legislative actions.

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:

1. Implement strategies to fully protect the past, present, and probable future beneficial uses for all 2006-listed [Clean Water Act, Section 303 (d)] water bodies by 2030.

Item #a: prepare, adopt and begin implementation of TMDLs by 2019. Item #b: manage urban runoff volume (to achieve specified targets) and promote sustainable water supplies. Item #c: take appropriate enforcement actions and innovative approaches to protect and restore the beneficial uses of all surface waters.

Discussion:

- Ms. Whitney explained that the Water Boards' prepared a 2010 list, which was approved by EPA in 2011. She noted that development of the 2012 list is underway, likely to be completed in 2014. The Water Boards have been discussing the possibility of dividing the state into three areas, to better manage the sheer volume of data. Each region would be reviewed on a two-year cycle. In the future, the listing plan will required that data be submitted in a format compatible with an automated data system. As a result, dates will change for the first action.
 - Is there a status report of the implementation plans available somewhere?
2. Improve and protect groundwater quality in high priority basins by 2030.

Item #a: implement an integrated groundwater protection approach (identifies specific components). Item #b: provide reliable water supplies for communities relying on contaminated groundwater sources. Item #c: maintain high quality groundwater sources through the Water Boards' anti-degradation directives. Item #d: prepare consistent salt and/or nutrient plans for every groundwater sub-basin in California by 2016.

Discussion:

Objectives Web-a-thon

Protect Surface and Ground Water Quality

June 13, 2013



- Ms. Whitney observed that interest in groundwater is continuing to grow. The Water Boards recently submitted two reports to the legislature, which contain a number of recommendations: one report addressed communities relying on contaminated groundwater, another on nitrate issues (focusing on the Tulare and Salinas basins). The Water Boards are working with California Department of Food and Agriculture and DPH to prioritize the various recommendations.
 - Regarding item #c, the Water Boards are looking at updating the anti-degradation policy to respond to issues raised by ACWA within the Central Valley region. The issues relate to the Water Boards' dairy general order and how to assess and monitor anti-degradation.
 - Regarding item #d, a few months ago the Water Boards held a workshop to hear updates on salt and nutrient management planning efforts. This action relates to the Water Boards' reclaimed water policy. Good progress is being made on those activities. There are best management practices being identified, which can be implemented without being mandated.
 - Should desalination be included in salt management plans? Recycled and desalinated water are supplemental sources and maybe should be more of a local supply issue not statewide. DWR should not make a value judgment.
 - Creating another water quality plan is a bad idea – just be sure it is in the current water quality section.
 - Areas of the state with desalination plants take water from the state water canal.
 - On desalination – be specific if it is ocean water or not. Water board can take up the issue of recycled if critical enough. Atmospheric deposition is considered.
3. Increase sustainable local water supplies by 1.725 MAF per year, to meet current and future beneficial uses (1 MAF per year by conservation, .725 MAF per year by recycling – using 2002 as baseline), and ensure adequate flows for fish and wildlife habitat.

Item #a: Use best management practices and improve compliance with relevant state and regional efforts. Item #b: promote use of recycled water, stormwater and graywater sources as locally available supplies. Item #c: Ensure adequate stream flows for protection of fish and wildlife habitat while meeting diversions for other uses (see Objective 5).

Discussion:

- Vicky Whitney noted that the Water Board sporadically has an informational item relating to recycled water. The ability to track the amount of recycled water being used needs to be improved. This is needed to evaluate performance measures.
- Regarding item #b, the Water Boards are working with several entities on this.

Objectives Web-a-thon

Protect Surface and Ground Water Quality

June 13, 2013



- Regarding item #c, in 2009, the legislature directed the Water Boards to identify streams that would benefit from streamflow requirements. This will take a considerable amount of time to complete. The Water Boards Water Rights Division is now working on flow requirements in the Delta.
 - Add another bullet to collaborate/facilitate between agencies on promulgating the next generation of recycled water standards as quickly as possible.
 - The legislature is looking at the CDPH regulations for the use of recycled water, especially for direct and indirect potable use.
 - Should recycled water be mentioned here or in Objective 2 (water use efficiency)?
 - Provide a link to the Delta objective, since this is state priority.
4. Comprehensively address water quality protection and restoration, and the connections between water supply, water quality and climate change, throughout California's water planning processes.

Item #a: prepare a comprehensive water quality plan by integrating statewide policies and plans, regional water quality control plans (basin plans), and considering the potential effects of climate change. Item #b: Basin Plans are consistently organized to provide a clear structure that readily conveys key elements and integrate other water quality control plans. Item #c: adopt Basin Plan amendments by collaborating in third-party initiated processes (example provided).

Discussion:

- Regarding item #a, all water quality control plans are prepared in accordance with state and federal requirements. The Water Boards produce some statewide and regional water quality plans: the Ocean Plan, the Bay-Delta Plan, and the Enclosed Bays and Inland Surface Water Plans. These plans have not been updated in quite some time.
 - These can also be noted in the list of state companion plans.
 - For item #a, there was some discussion in Update 2009 about a comprehensive water quality plan. It may be that the best way to address water quality content is to have it integrated into the Water Plan.
5. State government should lead an effort with local agencies and governments to remediate the causes and effects of pollution and contamination on surface water and groundwater quality. By 2015, complete an inventory, evaluation and assessment of the effect of contaminants.

Item #a: establish partnerships to remediate lands with abandoned mines or mining toxins.

Objectives Web-a-thon

Protect Surface and Ground Water Quality

June 13, 2013



Discussion:

- Why are mines singled out and not other sources of pollution?
6. State government should adopt preventive programs that integrate source water protection, pollution prevention, matching water quality to use, salt and salinity management, urban runoff management, groundwater/aquifer remediation, and water treatment and distribution.

Discussion:

- California Department of Food and Agriculture will send in additional items.
7. CPDH will continue to implement its Small Water System Program Plan to assist small water systems (especially those serving disadvantaged communities) that are unable to provide water that meets primary drinking water standards.

Item #a: partner with others to foster additional opportunities for funding, project coordination, and planning assistance. Item #b: identify large water systems in close proximity to targeted small water systems and conduct outreach to encourage consolidation efforts. Item #c: work with stakeholders to identify obstacles to consolidation and potential solutions. Item #d: participate in statewide planning efforts, and partner with other agencies, to address the infrastructure needs of small water systems.

Discussion:

- This action will be discussed at 6:45, with the DAC-EJ Objective. Since it relates to legislation, this can be dealt with in September when more information is known.



Attendance

In Room

Carl Hauge, California Water Foundation
Karl Longley, California Water Institute, UC Fresno
Bob Siegfried, Carmel Area Wastewater District
Vicky Whitney, State Water Board

Jose Alarcon, DWR, Water Quality Lead
Megan Fidell, DWR, RMS Coordinator, Progress Report Lead
Kamyar Guivetchi, DWR, Manager, Statewide Integrated Water Management
Francisco Guzman, DWR, Companion Plans and Objectives Lead
Paul Massera, DWR, Water Plan Program Manager
Lewis Moeller, DWR, Water Plan Project Manager
Peter Navas, Los Angeles County Sanitation District
Elizabeth Patterson, DWR, Land Use Lead
Maury Roos, DWR, Chief Hydrologist

Lisa Beutler, MWH, Water Plan Executive Facilitator
Heidi Hill Drum, CCP, Facilitator

Webinar

Erika Barraza, Carollo Engineers
Marilyn Boehnke, California Department of Food and Agriculture
Dave Bolland, Association of California Water Agencies
Bruce Burton, California Department of Public Health
Elissa Callman, City of Sacramento
Grace Chan, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Rebecca Crebbin-Coates, Planning and Conservation League
Jerry De La Piedra, Santa Clara Valley Water District
Debbie Espe, San Diego County Water Agency
Aaron Fukuda, Tulare Irrigation District
Milasol Gaslan, Santa Ana Regional Water Board
Carol Hall, Kleinfelder
Jack Hawks, California Water Association
Ashley Indieri, Family Water Alliance
Sachiko Itagaki, Kennedy Jenks
Jeff Lynch, Cortina Rancheria
Kathy Mannion, Regional Council of Rural Counties
Eric Osterling, Kings River Conservation District
Jodi Pontureri, State Water Board
Chris Potter, California Resources Agency (Ocean Grants and Wetlands)

Objectives Web-a-thon

Protect Surface and Ground Water Quality

June 13, 2013



Laleh Rastegarzadeh, State Water Board
Sandra Schubert, California Department of Food and Agriculture
Tony St. Amant, Water Policy Advocate
Sergio Vargas, Ventura County Watershed Protection District
Mike Wade, California Farm Water Coalition
Betsy Walton, California Emergency Management Agency
Marsha Westropp, Orange County Water District
Emilia Wisniewski, East Bay Municipal Utility District
Betty Yee, Central Valley Regional Water Board
David Zoldoske, California Water Institute, UC Fresno

Carmel Brown, DWR, Executive Assistant, Integrated Water Management
Abby Carevic, DWR, Northern Region Office, Water Supply Evaluations
Rich Juricich, DWR, Data and Analysis Lead
Nancy King, DWR, Water Recycling and Desalination
John Kirk, DWR, South-Central Region Office, Groundwater Section
Dan McManus, DWR, Groundwater Caucus Co-lead
Scott McReynolds, DWR, Northern Region Office, Water Quality
Nancy Miller, DWR, Water Recycling and Desalination
Salomon Miranda, DWR, Floodplain Management
Mark Nordberg, DWR, North-Central Region Office, Groundwater Investigations
Toni Pezzetti, DWR, Water Recycling and Desalination