



MEETING SUMMARY

CALIFORNIA WATER PLAN UPDATE 2013
GOVERNMENT ALIGNMENT OBJECTIVE
2:30 – 3:30 P.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).”

Document Walk Through

Kamyar Guivetchi, DWR, Manager, Statewide Integrated Water Management, reviewed the Government Alignment 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:

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:

- Put more boldness into this item. The agencies should outline their action plan for how they would implement the resolution. It is worthwhile to extract some key elements from CBC, that are meatier, to put it in here.
 - Local governments wouldn’t know where to find this. Downplay the CBC and resource conservation and highlight water-related processes. People might get alarmed at the potential scope of this.
 - Pull out the CBC principles and merge with IRWM concept, to highlight what ideas might work well in a regional context.
- The IRWM groups should be collaborative and reflect local interests.



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:

- Actions 2 and 3 seem more like principles, rather than actions which can be track for progress. It would be helpful to see specific actions.
 - If Action #3 is not already taking place, it needs to be included as a related action.
 - This seems more like a policy. There should be an action associated with this. For example: “State government should leverage the existing IRWM groups in...” That gets to more of what should be taken, rather than the how.
 - The regional water collaboratives (IRWMs) determine how state policies are implemented. This gets to the “who.”
 - That is the distinction here. Policies should be outcome-based, with the regions determining the how.
 - One implementation approach is that in developing regulatory programs and actions, regional IRWM groups should be a venue for adapting such actions to regional conditions. For example, if new water quality standards are developed – must work with regional entities to implement.
 - Where there is capacity. Not all the regions have the capacity to do that.
- 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:

- These address core competencies of the state.
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 manage 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:

- Describe the characteristics of the approach. Emphasize that this would be a voluntary approach.
- The key concept here is that as regulation is put together, the focus should be on the intended outcome.
- It's not clear "who does what."
 - The first part recommends that State and Federal government leverage collaboratives to implement policies or recommendations. The second part focuses on the collaborative – who would then have to lay out the strategies they would use to achieve the state regulatory goals. The State would have to acknowledge an adaptive management approach that allows revisions.
 - The last part is where the collaborative creates their plan, then presents it to the state agency.
- Strengthen the language a bit, so that regulators play at the table. The regions are burdened. The idea is that meeting the needs of one, meets the need of the other. Need to pressure both sides (IRWMs and regulatory agencies) to work together. Give them credits for meeting water basin objectives.
- Adaptive management seems universal – this should be focused on projects with high uncertainty or risk. Some projects don't need adaptive management. If you have a high degree of certainty, then adaptive management isn't needed as much.
 - If the regulations are outcome-based, and not prescriptive, then there is some uncertainty as to whether the outcome will be achieved.
- Consider a concept to, where appropriate, develop regional collaboratives to look at regulatory processes and addressing key issues.

Objectives Web-a-thon

Strengthen Alignment of Gov't. Processes & Tools

July 9, 2013



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:

- No comments.



Attendance

In Room

Dave Bolland, Association of California Water Agencies
Al Herson, American Planning Association
Brandon Souza, Farm Water Coalition
Valerie Nera, California Chamber of Commerce

Jose Alarcon, DWR, Water Quality Lead
Kamyar Guivetchi, DWR, Manager, Statewide Integrated Water Management
Paul Massera, DWR, Water Plan Program Manager
Elizabeth Patterson, DWR, Land Use Lead

Lisa Beutler, MWH, Water Plan Executive Facilitator
Heidi Hill Drum, CCP, Facilitation Support
Judie Talbot, CCP, Facilitator

Webinar

Brian Campbell, East Bay Municipal Utilities District
Mike Chapel, California Biodiversity Council
Ron Davis, Burbank Power and Water
Alicia Eagan, Edelman
Elizabeth Grassi, Strategic Growth Council
Bruce Gwynne, Department of Conservation
Alex Kim, UC Irvine
Glenn Knapp, City of Fresno
Debbie Liebersbach, Turlock Irrigation District
Karl Longley, California Water Institute, UC Fresno
Eugene Massa, Biggs-West Gridley Water District
Cynthia Naha, Kashia Band of Pomo Indians of Stewarts Point Rancheria
Bob Siegfried, Carmel Area Wastewater District
Ron Sprague, County Planners Association
Tony St. Amant, blogger on water issues
Mark Stadler, San Diego County Water Authority
Eric Thorburn, Oakdale Irrigation
Iovanka Todd, Floodplain Management Association
Bori Touray, Parsons Brinckerhoff
Betty Yee, Central Valley Regional Water Board

Alan Aguilar, DWR
Jennifer Kofoid, DWR
Katherine Spanos, DWR
Terri Wegener, DWR, Flood Safe Program Manager