CITY OF LOS ANGELES
One Water LA
Stakeholder Meeting (Phase 2)
Thursday, February 16th, 2017 1:00 pm -3:30 pm

Meeting Summary

This summary is not intended to be a transcription of the One Water LA Stakeholder Meeting. This summary generally expresses the sentiment and information provided by those that attended.

Please refer to attachments for additional information regarding this summary.

INTRODUCTIONS:

Attendees were welcomed with opening remarks by Ali Poosti from Los Angeles Sanitation (LASAN) and Bill Van Wagoner from the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP). Ali Poosti mentioned that the City is proud to have stakeholders as part of the process to develop projects, programs and policies to ultimately make the City resilient. The One Water LA Journey is coming to an end and participation from stakeholders now is essential for finalizing the Plan which is anticipated to be complete by July.

Bill Van Wagoner mentioned that Penny Falcon has returned to the Water Sector for LADWP and she is now in charge of the Water Conservation and Water Recycling Policy Program. As of the end of January approximately 60% of state is still in some sort of drought condition. Despite all of the rain, one wet year does not restore groundwater basins and snow pack. This shows why long range planning is so important.

Hampik Dekermenjian (CDM Smith) was the meeting facilitator and he reviewed the agenda and meeting objectives. The Stakeholder Meeting agenda was organized as follows:

1. Purpose of One Water LA
2. Who's Involved: A Collaboration Effort
3. Presentation of One Water LA 2040 Plan Elements
4. Next Steps & Upcoming Events

1. Purpose of One Water LA

Please refer to Informational One Water LA Overview PowerPoint Presentation (Slides 11- 21)

The purpose of One Water LA was presented to attendees. Key items presented regarding purpose of One Water LA are summarized:

- Addressing the City's water management challenges including: recurring drought, dependence on imported water, increasing water demand.

- Meeting goals set forth in the Mayor's Sustainable City pLAn including: sourcing 50% of water locally by 2035.
- Incorporating integration, collaboration and innovation into the City's planning efforts to result in smarter land use, healthier watersheds, enhanced communities, climate change resilience, and greater protection of public health.

2. Who's Involved: A Collaborative Effort

Please refer to Informational One Water LA Overview PowerPoint Presentation (Slides 22-32)

The One Water Team presented on multiple engagement efforts involved in developing the One Water LA Plan summarized below:

- City Departments & Regional Agencies
    - Steering Committee – Meet quarterly to discuss how to leverage resources to collaborate on projects.
    - Focus Meetings – Individual meetings held to discuss opportunities for integration – e.g. (Re:Code LA, Changing Engineering Specs to allow recycled water for concrete mixing)
- Stakeholder Engagement
    - Total of 8 workshops held to date to obtain input from the public at large on the One Water LA Plan.
    - Special meetings held throughout the One Water LA planning process to discuss specific topics in greater detail (e.g. Project Ideas Workshop, Stormwater Fee Dialogue - for Stormwater Funding).
- Advisory Group
    - 10 Stakeholder Advisors, representing a diversity of groups and interests who provide advice on the direction of One Water LA.
- Special Topic Groups
    - Held meeting discussions focused on 5 key topics: 1) Funding, 2) Outreach & Communication, 3) Stormwater and Urban Runoff, 4) Partnerships & Innovation and 5) Decentralized/Onsite Treatment.
- Additional Stakeholder Engagement Efforts
    - Youth Education – Challenging students to come up with ideas for capture, conserve and reuse at their schools and home.
    - Academia – Collaborated with Pepperdine University to obtain creative ideas for Marketing One Water LA and collaborating with UCLA
- How to be involved and/or share One Water LA
    - Request presentations for your organization
    - Take tours – including of the City's Water Reclamation Plants.
    - Share the One Water LA message with constituents in your organization.

3. Presentation of One Water LA 2040 Plan Elements

Please refer to Informational One Water LA Overview PowerPoint Presentation (Slides 33-83)

The One Water LA Team provided a comprehensive overview of all of the Plan's elements to describe how they fit together to form the One Water LA 2040 Plan. Questions and comments received during and after the overview are summarized:

MASS BALANCE TOOL

Question: What if academic analysis comes up with a consensus that 50% locally sourced water is not an achievable objective? Do we still march forward with this whole plan?
Response: The tool will help determine what the most efficient strategy would be looking at different project options to achieve the goal of 50% locally sourced water. Each strategy would have a different price tag and different pros and cons.
Response: The goals that the City hopes to achieve are critical because as we look at our imported water supply it is getting more and more unreliable.

Question: Does the project incorporate other water efforts such as the California Water Fix?
Response: We are focusing on getting the City off of imported water. The water fix in the Delta has to do with imported water as well as other aspects up to the North. What this is all about is becoming less dependent on things like the water fix.

Question: What is the model's name? Who is charge of it? Where is the link to modeling report? Where are assumptions?
Response: The name of the model is Blue Plan-it and it is being used to aid the One Water LA planning process. Documentation regarding the tool will be part of final One Water LA Plan and all of the data input has been tabulated. Information going into the model comes from other documents and modeling efforts conducted prior to One Water LA. All assumptions are documented in terms of percentages. The tool is not available for review and there is currently no link available. The model requires a special software license that the City will have once the final Plan is complete.

Comment: For an example on resiliency, one of the things we are looking is what happens if there is an earthquake break in our water supply. We are talking about storage in the San Fernando Valley Groundwater Basin. In general we don't have much storage in the City. One of the items that is possible is buying and banking City owned water in MWD's Lake Castaic. That is the example of approaches to water resiliency that I hope would be included as opposed to looking only at the reservoir for the San Fernando Valley.

Question: Does the model include multi-year water storage issues?
Response: The tool is a one year time step model.

CLIMATE RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE

Question: Is there a link to the Climate Models that are being used?
Response: We are using an EPA online tool (CREAT) that is widely available. The data that we are using can be made available and a summary of the most relevant data will be summarized in the One Water LA Plan.

Question: Do you consider the watershed part of the conveyance system when determining climate risk?
Response: We consider storm drains, all sewers and pump stations. Distributed green infrastructure is not included in the current analysis.

NEAR-TERM INTEGRATION OPPORTUNITIES

Comment: LAUSD has been really hesitant about stormwater capture because of liability of bringing off-site pollutants onto their site. I hope the City does not proceed with that until all of their concerns are addressed.
Response: We have been working very closely with LAUSD over a series of months going over what their concerns are and what One Water LA can do to address their concerns and we are getting closer to implementing a pilot project. All of the concerns are being addressed during the process in a manner that benefits both sides.

LONG-TERM INTEGRATION OPPORTUNITIES

Question: Assuming you are using rates of imported water, when you project out to long-term that is a slippery slope of what that gallon is going to cost depending on who you ask.
Response: We have developed ranges of cost for each option all expressed in dollar per acre-foot. We can compare them to both existing as well as projected out costs. We haven't made a decision yet on what the threshold is. We need to look at this comprehensively. Need to balance cost and other benefits.

Question: Why is Groundwater Remediation not being considered as an option?
Response: In addition to 25 potential project concepts, there are in progress projects. The Groundwater Remediation project is a prerequisite for a lot of the potential project concepts and LADWP is moving forward with it.

Question: LA County Sanitation Districts has some long-term aspirational projects analysis on their way. How do you propose to include them in the collaboration so that you don't overlook opportunities for the Greater LA Basin?

Response: A lot of the project concept options include partnering with other agencies (e.g. MWD). We are looking at project timeline in addition to looking at other things going on in the area so we can know about other major projects/efforts going on that may be related to what we are doing.

Question: How far in the future is Direct Potable Reuse (DPR)?
Response: It comes down to if it is feasible and if regulators will allow it. Direct Potable Reuse is being considered as we look into the future because there will be less infrastructure required for DPR then Indirect Potable Reuse.
Response: It boils down to the regulatory regime. We may not have regulations anytime soon so we have to look at what is realistic. One option that might be more realistic is to get advanced treated effluent to the Los Angeles Aqueduct Filtration Plant, blend it with other raw sources (e.g. LA Aqueduct or State Water Project), run it through a water treatment plant and then put it into the distribution system.

Comment: I am really interesting in seeing more recycled wastewater than what we are doing now. The City should implement a case by case section as opposed to waiting for regulations for DPR.

STORMWATER FACILITIES PLAN

Question: Is there any science related to the "$22M in added benefits or avoided costs" for Stormwater Projects (slide 65)?
Response: The slide is from the Stormwater Fee Dialogue Meeting. LA Sanitation's Watershed Protection Division has a source that equates $1M in Water Quality investments to $22M in added benefits/avoided costs. The One Water LA Team has requested the source and will provide it once it has been received.

Question: What is holding up Rory Shaw Wetlands project? I have been waiting on the project for 5 years.
Response: (Provided by LA County DPW) While completing geotechnical investigations at the project site, an unexpected organic landfill material (Class III Municipal Landfill) was found on the northern portion of the property, which prompted a re-design of the project. The project will keep the same amenities, but project elements will be shifted to avoid placing a water feature above the Class III Municipal landfill material. The discovery also made it so the project could not be completed in phases as originally planned. Additionally, a lessee is still on site and won't be vacating the property until March 2017 which has pushed back the project schedule. Updated 90% design plans should be ready by this summer, and a community meeting and Technical Advisory Committee meeting will be held at that time.

ADDITIONAL STUDIES: LA RIVER

Question: There was a reference to Low Flow Diversion (LFD) to the sewer systems. Does that include LA River flows?

Response: Low Flow Diversions are mostly dry weather runoff. Dry weather runoff is caused by over watering plants and washing cars so it does include water that would ultimately enter the LA River. All of the practices (e.g. LFDs, Low Impact Development, etc.) that happen upstream have an impact on the LA River.

Question: The same can be said for Ballona Creek since so much of the top of Ballona Creek Watershed is in the City of Los Angeles. Where is Ballona in all of this?
Response: For the Stormwater Facilities plan we are looking at all 5 watersheds that have Enhanced Watershed Management Program Plans which include: Ballona Creek, Dominguez Channel, Upper LA River, Santa Monica Bay and Marina Del Rey.

Question: For low flow conditions, what is the effluent discharge rate from Glendale? How much water is actually coming from natural sources in your low flow conditions rather than effluent discharges and others percentage-wise? What is the effect of climate change on the extremes of low flow?
Response: As part of the Stormwater Facilities Plan we are looking at all water that would come into the City from other sources (e.g. City of Glendale). For climate change there is a separate part of the One Water LA Plan that addresses climate change for all stormwater and wastewater facilities. Those elements of the City infrastructure that are impacted by climate change are being incorporated into the Stormwater Facilities plan for near-term and future conditions.

FUNDING STRATEGIES

Question: On one of the slides you mentioned sidewalk repair. With regard to short-term solutions and opportunities we are really looking for curb cuts and being able to integrate stormwater collection in parkways. Is One Water LA helping to get that through by the Bureau of Engineering?
Response: One of the One Water LA policy recommendations is to leverage opportunities like the sidewalk repair program. We are working with the Bureau of Engineering on how to incorporate stormwater collection.

Question: Does this mean that the proposed property tax is taken off the table?
Response: No it does not.

Question: Are the One Water LA funding strategies separate from existing funding strategies (e.g. LADWP's Rebate Program) or is it a combination where both strategies could complement each other?
Response: It is complimentary. One Water LA's Funding Strategies are looking to integrate and work together with Departments/Agencies to fund projects that are water-related.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

Question: What do you think the biggest challenge is going to be for implementing One Water LA? Is it Engineering? Economic? Regulatory? Public Support?

Response: Policy needs to be addressed and not just within the City. Some changes in Statewide Policy need to happen for projects like DPR to occur. Policies are one of the biggest challenges and the second would be cost.

4. Next Steps & Upcoming Events – Lenise Marrero (LASAN), Hampik Dekermenjian (CDM Smith)

Please refer to Informational One Water LA Overview PowerPoint Presentation (Slides 84-87)

Next Steps for the One Water LA Plan:

- Publish a high-level "Progress Report" (anticipated for early April)
    - Report consists of approximately 50 pages of highlights explaining what the Plan is.

Upcoming Events

- Steering Committee Meeting 3/1/17
- Advisory Group Meeting to discuss Draft Progress Report (Early March)
- Special Meeting for Wastewater and Stormwater Facilities Plan (Mid-March)
- One Water LA Day, April 11th
- Earth Day, April 22nd
- Young Citizens Artist Project – Presentation to Schools (To Be Determined)

ADDITIONAL ATTACHMENTS

- Attendee List
- Informational One Water LA PowerPoint Presentation