CITY OF LOS ANGELES
One Water LA
Stakeholder Workshop #1 (Phase 2)
Thursday, December 10th, 2015 1:00 -4:00 pm

Meeting Notes

The following notes are not intended to be a transcription of the One Water LA Phase 2 Workshop #1 meeting. These notes generally express the sentiment and direction provided by those that attended.

Please refer to attachments for additional information regarding these notes.

INTRODUCTIONS:

Attendees were welcomed with opening remarks by Ali Poosti from Los Angeles Sanitation (LASAN), Adel Hagekhalil from LASAN and Penny Falcon from the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP). Ali mentioned the Mayor's Executive Directive #5 as one of the drivers for the One Water LA Plan. Adel Hagekhalil mentioned that integration, innovation and inclusion are the three "I's" we need to address to solve the City's water challenges. Penny Falcon reviewed the overarching goals for the One Water LA plan which are: 1) supporting the Mayor's Goals to reduce imported water use, 2) improving wastewater facilities, 3) managing runoff, and 4) balancing needs for water.

Lewis Michaelson (Katz & Associates) was the meeting facilitator and he reviewed the agenda, ground rules and meeting objectives. The workshop agenda was organized as follows:

1. One Water LA Update
2. Los Angeles World Airports Presentation
3. Los Angeles Department of Transportation Presentation
4. Phase 2 Stakeholder Involvement Process
5. Break
6. Existing and Future Conditions
7. Discussion Questions Exercise on Existing and Future Conditions
8. Next Steps

1. One Water LA Update– Lenise Marrero (LASAN), Tom West (Carollo Engineers, Inc)

Please refer to Attachment #1 – PowerPoint Presentation (Slides 14-18)

- Lenise Marrero provided some updates regarding the One Water LA team staff, and introduced key members of the prime consultant, Carollo Engineers, and their more than 20 sub-consultants.

- Lenise Marrero then provided the One Water LA update starting with the accomplishments of Phase 1 (slide 14). She discussed the agencies involved in the Steering Committee (slide 15), and

ongoing One Water LA work (slide 16). Stakeholders can find the One Water LA Guiding Principles Report that comprehensively summarizes Phase 1 accomplishments at www.OneWaterLA.org.

- Tom West, the Carollo Project Manager, provided an overview of key activities for Phase 2, which includes a number of both specific tasks and ongoing tasks (slide 17). The end product will be the One Water LA 2040 Plan to be completed in January 2017. A Programmatic Environmental Impact Report will be completed in 2018. The schedule shows the synchronization of all tasks with continuous stakeholder involvement (slide 18).

After the One Water LA Update, stakeholders provided the following questions and comments summarized below:

Question: I see a communications strategy, but I don't see an educational strategy. Will the project include an educational component with schools and local students? Not including education seems like a mistake.
Response: This has been something that we've talked about as a team and we have been reaching out to academic institutions.
Response: The One Water LA team and the LASAN team is working with LAUSD – junior and senior high school students – on a One Water LA curriculum, which will start as a pilot at several middle schools and high schools and be considered for implementation city-wide.

Question: Are there other plans besides wastewater treatment and stormwater to be prepared? It seems like there are other plans that need to address the other components of One Water.
Response: Yes, there are other plans under preparation by other agencies, such as LADWP. These plans will be addressed in the One Water LA process.

Question: I don't see a tool for identifying opportunities and mechanisms for cost sharing among departments, which was discussed substantially in Phase 1.
Response: This will be rolled into the cost-benefit analysis (Task 6).

Question: The cost-sharing analysis is different than a cost-benefit analysis.
Response: Part of the cost-benefit analysis will include the tool to assess cost sharing.

Question: In the introduction we talked about 50% by 2025. Where did the goal less than 50% by the year 2040 come from?
Response: The first target is to reduce purchased imported water use 50% by 2024. The second goal is to have 50% locally-sourced water by the year 2040.

Question: Is there a groundwater component?
Response: LADWP already has groundwater plans underway, and the One Water LA plan will address how to support the groundwater plans regarding groundwater replenishment.
Response: The timeline for the 2015 Urban Water Management Plan is from 2015-2040, and we've aligned One Water LA with the same planning horizon. The One Water LA program is looking at projects that can be implemented with an integrated approach by multiple City departments.

Question: Where is direct and indirect potable reuse water in the One Water LA program?
Response: All reuse is being taken into account in the One Water LA planning effort. In thinking about going out to 2040, technology, regulations and thinking will change.
Response: Direct potable reuse is on our radar, but we need the regulatory structure. The good news is that in September 2015, an expert panel came out with a framework for potable reuse. We don't know the exact date that regulations will be in place, but it may be within the next decade.

2. Los Angeles World Airports Presentation – Jeffrey Smith

LAWA gave a brief presentation on how their department interfaces with the One Water LA program and the actions they are taking to conserve water.

Jeffrey Smith, LAWA: Jeffrey Smith introduced Sheralyn Burr, a student from Brigham Young University of Idaho, to co-present. LAWA is working together with the One Water LA Team to comply with the Mayor's Executive Directive #5. Some of LAWA's key water-related actives, projects and programs are summarized below:

- Sixty-three (63) percent of LAX's landscape is irrigated with recycled water. For areas not irrigated with recycled water, there are plans being developed to install recycled water pipelines. This includes a recycled water pipeline connection at Imperial Highway and Sepulveda Boulevard to irrigate surrounding areas with recycled water.
- LAWA has updated 95% of their restroom fixtures to be low-flow and ultra-low flow.
- LAWA is working with LADWP to post water conservation signs in public areas. This will help educate the public on water conservation measures
- As a result of these water conservation efforts, Ontario Airport has a 16% reduction in potable water use since 2012; Van Nuys Airport has removed 18,000 square feet of turf and has replaced sprinklers with drip systems.
- LAWA is working with LASAN in planning a stormwater capture and infiltration system to ensure that stormwater is used rather than discharged into the ocean.
- LAWA is going to build a Landside Access Modernization Program which is an area that includes car rental facilities that will provide 20,000 rental cars to passengers. Specific plans for this program include: 1) using California Friendly Landscape palletes that will be irrigated with recycled water, 2) capturing and treating stormwater to be reused at the car wash facilities, and 3) using stormwater Best Management Practices (e.g. bioswales, permeable pavement) throughout the program.

3. Los Angeles Department of Transportation Presentation – Miles Mitchell

LADOT gave a brief presentation on how their department interfaces with the One Water LA program and the actions they are taking to conserve water.

Miles Mitchell, LADOT Planning Division:
When LADOT was first asked to participate in One Water LA, they were unsure of their role and involvement. After talking with the Steering Committee and One Water LA team, LADOT began to see a link between One Water LA objectives and LADOT programs, particularly in the areas of:

- New maintenance facilities for transit fleet, which incorporates water conservation measures.
- Green Streets support, with best management practices in parking facilities that include water efficiency practices.
- Active transportation – People Street Program – including transformation of temporary plazas into permanent plazas that can incorporate Green Street elements into them.
- Capital improvements – roadway improvements, transit improvements, safe routes to school – will work with other One Water LA partners to identify water efficiency and stormwater components for projects still in the planning stages. LADOT will also expedite One Water LA projects.

After the LAWA and LADOT presentations, only one question was asked:

Question: What is the project located on the west side of the airport?
Response: The project is a Prop O project meant to capture stormwater.

4. Phase 2 Stakeholder Involvement Process – Serge Haddad (LADWP)

Please refer to Attachment #1 – PowerPoint Presentation (Slides 22-24)

Serge Haddad talked about the stakeholder involvement for Phase 2. In addition to the stakeholder workshops, there are opportunities for stakeholders to participate in discussions about specific topics. There were sign-up lists in the room for Special Topic Groups – Funding, Cost Benefit Analysis, Outreach and Marketing, Partnerships and Collaboration, and Stormwater and Urban Runoff. Two meetings per group are anticipated before the next stakeholder workshop. There is an opportunity to participate in the Advisory Group, particularly individuals that represent business interests and academia. Members of the Advisory Group in attendance were acknowledged. The overarching goal is to offer a variety of opportunities in order to increase diverse stakeholder engagement.

During the discussion period following an overview of the Phase 2 stakeholder involvement process, stakeholders provided the following questions and comments summarized below:

Question: Should One Water LA be reaching out to adjacent jurisdictions for coordination purposes?
Response: Yes, we are coordinating with cities that contract with the City of LA for wastewater discharge and are also looking at how to coordinate with other cities as well.

Question: We haven't talked about watersheds. City boundaries are not nearly as important as watersheds.
Response: We agree, water doesn't know municipal boundaries, and our analyses and tools consider watersheds.

Question: What is the relationship with One Water LA to the County? They manage watersheds; they have the Flood Control District.
Response: We are coordinating with the Flood Control District and LA County Public Works regarding stormwater capture. There are representatives of the County here at this workshop.

Question: Three out of the four special topic groups have direct relationships to One Water LA Phase 2 tasks. Which task addresses partnerships?

Response: All of the tasks address partnerships.
Response: It is the core of the process and part of the One Water LA vision statement.

Question: An incredible amount of work is being planned in a very short amount of time. How will that work?
Response: Yes, the schedule is aggressive. We hope that the political will and departmental support we have will be enough to meet the schedule.
Response: We also don't have the luxury of time since there are City goals we have to meet. We have learned from the lessons of the City's Water Integrated Resources Plan in 2006. We believe we can successfully complete the One Water LA Plan under the existing timeline.

Question: I am concerned about the needed monitoring and maintenance and related capitalization. I don't see any budget for these needs. I see it as a giant hole.
Response: Please sign-up for one of the special topic groups and participate in it in order to voice all concerns.

5. BREAK

Please refer to Attachment #2 – Workshop Poster Board Content

During the 10-minute break, stakeholders in attendance had the opportunity to look at poster boards developed by the One Water LA Team. The poster boards consisted of: 1) Phase 2 One Water LA Consultant Team, 2) One Water LA Phase 2 Schedule, 3) Short-Term Policies and Recommendations for City Departments and regional agencies, 4) Vision Statement and Objectives for One Water LA, 5) Simplified Water Balance Model Flow Chart and 6) One Water LA - Water Balance Model.

6. Existing and Future Conditions Reports – Inge Wiersema (Carollo Engineers, Inc)

Please refer to Attachment #1 – PowerPoint Presentation (Slides 27-31)

Inge Wiersema of Carollo Engineers discussed existing and future flow conditions and the use of a flow balance model which considers water supply, wastewater, recycled water and stormwater. The model will allow for analysis of wet, dry and normal years. She explained that understanding the flows is an essential building block for the planning of tasks in Phase 2. She also reviewed some of the challenges for optimizing water flow balance, including water supply, wastewater flows, recycled water, stormwater/urban runoff, climate change impacts and other uncertainties. Water conservation has reduced wastewater flows, and wastewater flows could be reduced by distributed treatment where the treated water is diverted from the City's system. There are uncertainties about the timing of recycled water delivery due to the regulatory structure, and stormwater infiltration needs to correlate to locations where groundwater is readily usable. Climate change predictions include more severe and more frequent drought events and wet events, which could affect the flow balance year to year. Funding is also another uncertainty. The One Water LA team will present more conclusions from the flow balance model work at future meetings.

7. Discussion Questions Exercise on Existing and Future Conditions – All Participants

Please refer to Attachment #3 – Discussion Exercise Form

Discussion Questions
Lewis Michaelson explained that participants could either raise their hand and pose a question or comment during the discussion period or submit their input using the comment card provided in their meeting folder.

Questions and comments made by stakeholders during the discussion exercise are summarized below:

Question #1: Given the competing needs and uses for wastewater (recycled water, graywater, satellite treatment, etc.) as a resource along with its finite nature, do you have any suggestions or recommendations on how we should approach this dilemma?
Responses

- We need to be more aggressive on the timeline in order to have the draft available in July for City budgeting purposes. Bravo on including direct potable reuse on the poster board.
- I would like to see a pre-development model of LA River flows in order to understand the seasonal flow requirements.
- Look at competing uses for the same source, need to understand minimum flow requirements for the sewer system, and assess co-benefits as a way to prioritize programs.
- Given climate impacts, we need to consider the carbon footprint of many water treatment technologies compared to onsite water recycling and graywater use. There seems to be resistance on the part of certain City departments to residential water recycling.
- With the water balance tool, where will you be in summer 2016 and how much further out do you anticipate modeling this? There are so many linchpins in the model that you will be heavily criticized for things that you either put in or leave out with time.
  Response: It is a model that can be continually updated and adjusted with time.
- Use full life cycle costs for 25 years and the ability to pay as a way to address competing needs.
- The Burbank Wastewater Treatment Plant discharges into the LA River. It should be considered in the One Water LA mass balance model. Partnering with the City of Burbank will be useful.
- Who owns the water, who has rights, and what about riparian needs? Is this being taken into consideration in the model?
  Response: It will not be included in the model but needs to be addressed.

Question #2: What are the best ideas and challenges to significantly increase stormwater capture?
Responses

- The City needs to get the funding to make developed plans (e.g. SCMP and EWMPs) a reality because there are amazing ideas at the residential level and at the street level. Tree People is working with many agencies on a project called the Greater LA Water Collaborative where they are documenting challenges (among the County, Dept. of Public Health, Flood Control District, LASAN and LADWP) on retrofitting homes with cisterns and rain gardens in order to work through the hurdles of collaborating, as well as sorting out the issues regarding permitting.
- If we integrate the EWMPs, Basin Study, and SCMP we can make great progress. We still have codes and ordinances that need to be changed, but education across all agencies on what true green infrastructure means – not just inserting things into the ground and landscaping over them - is a challenge we need to address. The lack of understanding is a barrier for adopting and adapting.
- Practitioners need to be trained on stormwater capture. With turf replacement, we saw that the contractors needed training, and this needs to be a lesson learned to make sure that the

program is successful. Contractors need to understand what they are doing and how to do it correctly.

- We need to make sure that the City charter is aligned with these new challenges so that both LASAN and LADWP have the flexibility to grow and adapt to address the needs and challenges. For example, LASAN currently can't sell water. The Prop 1 funding provides an enormous opportunity, but there needs to be investment in maintenance and operations for stormwater programs to function as intended.
- This region has been working on stormwater capture for years, and we know what we need to do. We need to stop not doing it the right way. We need to get the right way of capturing stormwater into everything that we do.
- The Low Impact Development Ordinance only requires two rain barrels per single family residence for compliance. Commercial and multi-family dwellings have to capture 400 gallons per thousand square feet which is equivalent to about 10 rain barrels per standard thousand square foot house. There are some inequities within the ordinance and all new single dwellings should have the same capture ratio as commercial and multi-family. We need to combine stormwater with graywater systems, and have a suitable irrigation system, to maximize efficiency on residential properties.

8. Next Steps – Lewis Michaelson (Katz & Associates)

The next steps for the One Water LA Plan were presented. Next steps include:

1. Special Topic Group Discussions (Jan – June)
2. Expansion of Advisory Group
3. Next Stakeholder Workshop (March 2016)
    a. Integration of projects
    b. Climate Change Impacts
    c. Alternatives Development

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1 – PowerPoint Presentation
- Attachment 2 – Workshop Poster Board Content
- Attachment 3 – Discussion Exercise Form
- Attachment 4 – One Water LA Phase 2 Overview
- Attachment 5 – Phase 2 Schedule
- Attachment 6 – One Water LA Ground Rules
- Attachment 7 – Attendees