

**CITY OF LOS ANGELES**  
**One Water LA Workshop #1**  
**May 21, 2014**

**Meeting Notes**

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

\*Please refer to the PowerPoint Presentation for additional information.

**OPENING REMARKS:**

Attendees were welcomed and were provided with opening remarks by Adel Hagekhalil (LASAN) and David Pettijon (LADWP) about One Water LA. The Workshop Agenda was briefly reviewed. The Agenda items reviewed were as follows:

1. Introductions and Expectations
2. Introduction to One Water LA
3. Water IRP Updates
4. One Water LA Project Overview & Schedule
5. Networking Break
6. Planning Baseline
7. Next Steps

**1. INTRODUCTION AND EXPECTATIONS – Paul Brown, Facilitator, Paul Redvers Brown Inc, Adel Hagekhalil - LASAN, David Pettijohn - LADWP**

City staff, consultants, and stakeholders introduced their name and affiliation. Stakeholders that are not City employees were asked the following question:

*What would you like the City to achieve through One Water LA?*

Stakeholders' responses were as follows:

- decrease the City's reliance on imported water
- improve water quality so that we can be in contact with it without having to worry about it being unsafe or illegal
- improve the quality of the ocean
- harvest and reuse water that would otherwise flow out to the ocean
- preserve stormwater that falls on our park properties

- provide education and rebate incentives to encourage people to reduce and capture their water, as well as accept reuse
- desist from using potable water for non-potable water uses
- integrate water resource management with open space goals in a functional and sustainable manner
- reduce the cost of water to the community
- protect the ratepayers’ costs and ensure that they receive the benefits of One Water LA
- identify how the City will plans to fund these One Water LA projects in place
- include the original Go Policy Directions that were adopted by the City during the first IRP
- review ordinances that currently impede us from capturing, conserving and reusing our local water resources
- execute projects developed under the Enhanced Watershed Management Program (EWMP) Plans and Stormwater Capture Master Plan
- secure dedicated participation from City departments that did not actively participate in the Water IRP
- change the way the question is asked to what we as a whole want to achieve through One Water LA instead of just the City
- identify issues that he/she is passionate about articulated at the first workshop that will be carried through this process
- accomplish the vision and promises of One Water

2. Public Works Commissioner Barbara Romero attended the workshop as a representative for the Mayor’s office. She expressed that the Mayor and his team are supportive of One Water LA and that internal discussions about One Water LA are occurring. **INTRODUCTIONS**

**TO ONE WATER LA**

2.1. Draft vision statement – Doug Walters (LASAN)

- The draft vision statement for One Water LA was presented. The City would like to hear and consider your feedback to the vision statement. Please email any comments to Chris DeMonbrun at [chris.demonbrun@lacity.org](mailto:chris.demonbrun@lacity.org) by Monday, June 30, 2014.

2.2. City objectives for One Water LA – Evelyn Cortez-Davis (LADWP)

The following objectives are listed in no particular order of preference:

City Objectives for One Water LA	Stakeholder Input
A. Increase water use efficiency, reuse of wastewater and capture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stormwater capture is going to be the most expensive out of the other</li> </ul>

<p>of stormwater to reduce future reliance on imported water and increase resiliency</p>	<p>strategies mentioned in this objective</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City should consider electronic water meters to monitor water used in gardening as a strategy to increase water use efficiency.</li> <li>• Does “reuse of wastewater” include the concept of graywater?</li> </ul>
<p>B. Develop multi-purpose/multi-beneficial stormwater projects for improving water quality and health of local watersheds</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multi-purpose/multi-beneficial should refer to all water projects not just stormwater projects.</li> <li>• Since the City is on a watershed that is shared by other cities and jurisdictions, it is important at some point in the process to engage with other cities that are downstream and upstream from the City.</li> <li>• Recommend rewording objective because</li> </ul>
<p>C. Develop, monitor and maintain a sound wastewater system that safely conveys wastewater to water reclamation plants, while reducing sewer system overflows and odors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where does gray water fit in?</li> </ul>
<p>D. Work to balance water supply development with Los Angeles River Revitalization for social, environmental, and economic benefits</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recommend rewording objective</li> </ul>
<p>E. Support the beneficial role of trees and green spaces in public areas throughout the City</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recommend rewording objective</li> </ul>
<p>F. Incorporate climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies in our actions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate change should be incorporated in all of the participating departments’ long term planning. It is important to expect permanent water scarcity due to climate change.</li> </ul>
<p>G. Coordinate among all City</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mention the partnership between City</li> </ul>

<p>departments to achieve: stronger integration of water-related codes and ordinances in the City’s planning, zoning, engineering and building &amp; safety requirements; and incorporation of water management into City’s recreation &amp; parks and street design and services</p>	<p>departments and stakeholders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DOT should play a role in the long term plan of One Water LA because building our streets to maintain water is currently one of our most extensive element of stormwater management infrastructure.</li> </ul>
<p>H. Coordinate with regional water management planning activities, such as Los Angeles County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, and Metropolitan Water District of Southern California</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate with more non-governmental organizations</li> </ul>
<p>I. Address funding for capital and O&amp;M costs for water management and facilities – with a focus on “green” infrastructure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include a “no action” scenario when addressing funding because there are costs associated to a system that is no longer serving our needs.</li> <li>• Why are there were quotation marks around green?</li> <li>• The use of the green infrastructure is unclear</li> <li>• City needs to have a plan to address how green and complete streets will be repaired and identify the appropriate funding sources.</li> </ul>
<p>J. Ensure that stakeholders are representative of the LA community and have a voice in the direction of One Water LA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is there a process to recruit more diverse stakeholders?</li> <li>• Do we have the resources committed to recruit stakeholders?</li> </ul>
<p>K. Support education and learning center activities that further One Water LA goals</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are learning center activities?</li> <li>• City needs to put more resources to increasing literacy and awareness of</li> </ul>

	<p>water treatment processes and recycled water because people still think that there is such thing as pristine water.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where will the City obtain such resources?</li> </ul>
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Other stakeholders' comments:

- Objectives need to also address the following topics:
  - Water supply
  - Urban runoff
  - Public safety with respect to flood
  - Outreach to the public
- All of the objectives must be accomplished but there are limited resources. In the future, interest groups may be formed but it is unclear as to how the resources will be divided up amongst interest groups.
- A glossary of water terms should be created to help reach out to stakeholders and communities who may not be familiar with them.
- The Mayor would be one of the best advocates for these objectives.
- A formal document detailing the goals should be written
- Focus on ways to achieve the IRP that saves money such as focusing on gray water systems and conservation
- Benefits should follow the tax payer
- There should be metrics that measure how effective One Water LA is in meeting its objectives

### **3. WATER IRP UPDATES – Doug Walters (LASAN) and David Pettijon (LADWP)**

#### 3.1. Background

- Brief history and description of the IRP since its implementation in 2006

#### 3.2. More information can be found on [www.lacitysan.org/irp](http://www.lacitysan.org/irp)

#### 3.3. Recommendations

Triggers, Go Project, Go-If Triggered project statuses, and Go Policy directions

##### 3.3.1. Updates

- Wastewater Go Projects implementation
- Stormwater
  - LASAN - LID, Prop-O, and Green Streets statuses  
Projects currently in construction
  - LADWP – Stormwater and potable water

- Recycled water
  - GWR, NPR,
    - Downtown Water Recycling Project - \$340/AF
    - San Fernando Valley Water Recycling Project - \$560/AF
    - MWD subsidies for NPR projects

#### 3.4. Drought Response

- LA's Water Conservation Ordinance
- Focused media campaign

#### **Stakeholders' comments:**

- Policy document needs to be revisited to see what we have not carried forward
- In regards to our local water supply projects, how important is the San Fernando Basin?
  - Response: The San Fernando basin is essentially the City's largest local reservoir. Currently it is contaminated which does not allow us to fully utilize this resource. Once the basin is healthy, it will be the cheapest water available to us. Thus projects aimed to store water in the basin and pump water out of the basin are contingent on having a healthy groundwater basin.
- Concern over the high cost of recycled water in Los Angeles vs. the cost of recycled water in the Coachella and Imperial Valley
- Need to be as aggressive as we can about recycled water and groundwater recharge
- Need to acknowledge that direct potable reuse is potential use
- Concern raised regarding MWD rate increase of \$850 M due to cost "shifting" from San Diego actions. Facilitator requested the discussion be accomplished offline
- Concern raised regarding recycled water funding mechanism. Response – bonding for capital program
- Concern raised regarding advanced treated water to Lake Balboa and then through to the LA River. Response – advanced treated water is designed to go to GWR. Current water treated at DCT does go through the lakes however it is not advanced treated
- Concern raised to revisit IRP Go Policy Directions and determine areas that were not carried forward

## **4. ONE WATER LA PROJECT OVERVIEW - Lenise Marrero (LASAN)**

### 4.1. Project Phases

- Phase I
  - Anticipated Completion December 2014
  - Development of initial baseline and establishment of guiding principles
- Phase II
  - Refine baseline established in Phase I

- Updated facilities plan for SW and WW
- Provide guidance for future master-plans within the City

#### 4.2. Project Schedule

- Provide comments by June 30th
- Guiding principle development to begin after June 30th

#### **Stakeholders' comments:**

- Opportunities to see what other stakeholders have stated
  - Will be posted on website
- Put together analysis of strengths, weaknesses, and FAQs
  - Complete documentation of all viewpoints of all stakeholders
  - Maintain transparency
- One Water LA does not seem as ambitious as the 2006 Water IRP due to the following reasons:
  - Shorter planning and coordination time frame
  - No stakeholder steering committee
  - Fewer meetings planned
  - Higher imperatives
  - Potentially reframe goals to “raise the bar”
- Concern regarding thorough integration of climate change into all long-term planning efforts
- City of LA will have to live with water shortage/scarcity
- Concern raised regarding flood risk management with respect to transportation development and maintenance
- Concern raised regarding how this document will create an integrated framework for all water related issues

## **5. NETWORKING BREAK**

## **6. INITIAL PLANNING BASELINE - Lenise Marrero (LASAN)**

### 6.1. Why a new planning baseline?

- Water demands are lower despite over one million new residents
  - Chart on Water Demands vs. Population growth
- Projected water demands lower than Water IRP
  - Chart on Projected Water Demands from IRP vs. UWMP
- Wastewater flows are lower
  - Chart on Projected Wastewater Flows from IRP vs. Actual vs. What can be conservatively projected through One Water LA

- Shift in water reuse from non-potable to a mix of non-potable and indirect potable
  - Overview of Recycled Water Master Planning (RWMP) and Public Outreach
  - Chart on Water Reuse Targets from IRP vs. RWMP
- Stormwater capture successes through Prop O and other programs
  - One Water LA coordination on stormwater
  - Enhanced Watershed Management Program
  - LADWP's Stormwater Capture Master Plan
- Balancing water supply needs and LA River restoration
- Can the One Water LA Plan be the singular water plan for all water related projects within the City of Los Angeles not just LASAN and LADWP?
- Prop O financial analysis needs to be undertaken

#### 6.2. Climate change overview

- Was not considered in the Water IRP. Need to consider in One Water LA as it will impact water supplies and water resources

#### 6.3. Climate change infrastructure impacts to LASAN facilities

- Brief overview of study currently being conducted as a portion of the EWMP

#### 6.4. Current activities that will impact baseline

##### **Stakeholders' comments:**

- Incorporate climate change into Planning Baseline topic
- Avoid the use of "flood control." Use "flood hazard mitigation" or "flood avoidance" instead
- Importance of aggressive approach to GWR and NPR
- Acknowledge DPR as a potential use because IPR through GWR actually diminishes water quality
- Concern raised regarding LA River restoration and whether or not it can actually be integrated into water resource management strategy
- Concern raised regarding the removal of project details and how it may reduce the perceived level of difficulty of the plan. This in turn could potentially reduce the level of importance to the public
- City needs to commit resources to education on an ongoing basis
- List of current activities is too short
- Expand list to consider activities that are going on right now on a regional basis
- Need to consider the impact of campaigns and plans (i.e. Save Our Streets Campaign, County Basin Plan, Recode Plan, and Plan for Healthy LA) to our objectives. Need to consider their objectives in our plan.

## 7. NEXT STEPS

- Please email all comments and suggestions in regards to this workshop to Chris DeMonbrun at [chris.demonbrun@lacity.org](mailto:chris.demonbrun@lacity.org) by June 30, 2014.

### **Common comments and questions from stakeholders:**

The comments made by stakeholders were divided into 3 sections: Outreach and Participation, Ongoing Transparency, and One Water LA Workshop #1 Presentation

#### **1. Outreach and Participation**

- Some expressed that the outreach was not very good because stakeholders only comprised a third of the people that attended the workshop.
- Since stakeholder participation was low, some had concern whether the analysis would be biased.
- Some expressed that they did see staff from both agencies (LASAN and LADWP) conducting outreach at numerous events.
- City departments that were not present in the Water IRP were present at this workshop.
- Is it appropriate to expect that the amount of stakeholders will be similar to that of the first IRP? (Note: There were 175 stakeholders who participated in the Water IRP)
  - Response: Adel addressed that the City received 50 stakeholder RSVPs but most did not come. He also mentioned how there are 200 people on the mailing.

#### **Recommendations**

- Stakeholders should also assist the City with spreading the word about One Water LA by talking to their neighbors, colleagues, associates and friends. Everyone should be responsible for getting people to these meetings.
- The City should send out a reminder email in advance of the next workshop.
- City representatives beyond LASAN and LADWP should be in attendance and be involved in the process of the development of Phase I and Phase II as this interaction yields greater involvement from the other departments rather than just reporting on the actions of the development

#### **2. Ongoing Transparency**

- Stakeholders' comments and suggestions, regarding to One Water LA, should be made accessible to everyone. City staff commits to providing all comments and suggestions made by stakeholders to everyone on the email list. Also, the comments will be made accessible on the One Water LA website once it is completed.

- City staff should analyze the comments by noting the weaknesses, strengths, and frequently asked questions of all matters regarding One Water LA.

### **3. One Water LA Workshop #1 Presentation**

- City staff should add more details to the presentation to show how important the issues are (i.e. include more information of the success of Prop O).
- Referring to “One Water LA Plan,” can we be that bold to say that it will be one plan for the City?
- It is unclear how One Water LA is going to create an integrated framework