

**CITY OF LOS ANGELES**  
**One Water LA**  
**Stakeholder Workshop #3**  
**Thursday, March 5, 2015**

**Meeting Notes**

The following notes are not intended to be a transcription of the One Water LA Workshop #3 meeting. These notes generally express the sentiment and direction provided by those that attended.

**WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS:**

Attendees were welcomed and were provided with opening remarks by Bill VanWagoner from the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), Adel Hagekhalil from LA Sanitation (LASAN), and Greg Good from the Mayor's Office. The workshop agenda was briefly reviewed:

1. Recap of One Water LA Phase I Activities
2. City Department Comments
3. Advisory Group Comments
4. Discussion of Draft Guiding Principles
5. Next Steps
6. Closing Remarks

**1. RECAP OF ONE WATER LA PHASE I ACTIVITIES – Lenise Marrero, LASAN**

A recap of One Water LA Phase I Activities was presented prior to the main discussion of draft Guiding Principles. Phase I Activities included:

1. Three stakeholder workshops
2. Four Steering Committee meetings with City Departments & Regional Agencies
3. Four Advisory Group meetings with eight stakeholders
4. Seventeen individual focus meetings with City Departments & Regional Agencies

**2. CITY DEPARTMENT COMMENTS – Chris Brown, Port of Los Angeles and Hagu Solomon-Cary, Department of City Planning**

The Port of Los Angeles and the Department of City Planning provided a brief overview of their Programs and their involvement in the One Water LA Plan.

### **3. ADVISORY GROUP COMMENTS – Carolyn Casavan, Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council and David Nahai, David Nahai Companies**

Two stakeholders provided their perspective on the Advisory Group and the One Water LA Plan. Other stakeholders from the Advisory Group were offered to share their thoughts and no additional comments were made.

### **4. DISCUSSION OF DRAFT GUIDING PRINCIPLES - Paul Brown, Facilitator, Paul Redvers Brown Inc, and Dan Rodrigo, CDM Smith.**

The Guiding Principles presented were aligned to specific One Water LA Objectives.

Stakeholders in attendance provided the following comments and questions on the final draft Guiding Principles. City staff will review the feedback and comments received to update the Guiding Principles where necessary (**Please see Responses to Comments on Draft Guiding Principles Document**).

#### **4.1. Objective: Integrate Management of water resources and policies**

##### **Stakeholder comments:**

- One Water LA and Water Reuse issues are not well known to the public. The Media needs to spread the word.
- The first guiding principle is leaving out other Governing Agencies that make laws that impact the City dramatically at the State and County level.
  - Public agencies may not capture the entire universe of folks that have jurisdiction over what the City does (e.g. State, EPA).
  - Coordinate with elected bodies and officials.
- Issues included in the One Water LA Plan should be part of the City's General Plan. The City should spend more money on conformance of legal requirements before rolling out the One Water Plan.
- Replace the second "understand" in the fourth bullet with a different word.

#### **4.2. Objective: Balance environmental, economic, and societal goals**

##### **Stakeholder comments:**

- A stakeholder was wondering whether the bullet points around cost sharing, analyzing financial merits of programs, and emphasizing multi-benefit projects were in conflict with each other and would these three guiding principles be accomplished at the same time?
  - **Question:** Are they competing or can there be a balance?
  - **Response:** The City believes that environmental, economic, and societal goals can be balanced with an integrated water resources approach.

- Philadelphia is the first City that tried to work with this process of trying to find a way to integrate social benefits, economic benefits all together. Use their model as a potential template.
- The first guiding principle should be straight forward and state “consider the cost of no action alternative, including the cost of project alternatives underneath.” It takes an explanation for people to understand by the way it is written.
- **Question:** Why not partner with academia & private interest to advance measure of social benefits and new technologies?  
**Response:** The City agreed to add private interests to the guiding principle.
- **Question:** What is the status with Prop 1 funding? What has been done in Southern California?  
**Response:** Information is available if you contact LADWP or LASAN staff.
- “County” and “local” are left out of the last bullet regarding funding opportunities.
- Add the word “environmental benefits” not just social on the bullet that mentions “partnering with academia”.

#### 4.3. Objective: Improve health of local watersheds

##### **Stakeholder comments:**

- **Question:** Is LASAN’s Enhanced Watershed Management Program & LADWP Stormwater Capture Master Plan coordinating with the County’s Stormwater Master Plan?  
**Response:** The County is participating in the development of the Enhanced Watershed Management Program Plans and the Stormwater Capture Master Plan.
- The One Water LA Plan shouldn’t limit itself to the plans listed in the guiding principles and change the language to allow for “any relevant” plans to be coordinated.
- On the third bullet, replace “significant tributaries” with “creeks & streams”
- Watersheds outside of the City should also be mentioned.

#### 4.4. Objective: Improve local water supply reliability

##### **Stakeholder comments:**

- For the first bullet, broaden it to include other relevant plans
  - One particular omission that was forgotten was the Water Integrated Resources Plan. Concepts were developed that should be carried over to the One Water Plan.
- Watch the use of the words “groundwater basin”
  - People own their own groundwater.
  - The City cannot touch the Santa Monica Basin since it is not in the jurisdiction of the City.
- There is no indication of how the plans will be prioritized in One Water Plan. Not sure that Policy guidance is taking place other than a laundry list of things that will be considered.

- **Question:** Is there a reason why desalination is not on the list?  
**Response:** Ocean desalination is currently less cost-effective and more difficult to implement. It is important for the City to pursue the “low-hanging” fruit first, such as recycled water projects. However if new and advanced technologies emerge, ocean desalination can be revisited in the long term.

#### 4.5. Objective: Implement, monitor, and maintain a reliable wastewater system

##### **Stakeholder comments:**

- **Question:** Why is focus only on wastewater systems? Make it broader to include both potable water systems and recycled water systems. The City needs to have reliable water supply infrastructure.  
**Response:** This topic is still under discussion by the One Water LA Team.
- **Question:** Why is only Hyperion mentioned?  
**Response:** The majority of wastewater is treated at Hyperion therefore there is increased potential for water reuse.

#### 4.6. Objective: Increase climate resilience

##### **Stakeholder comments:**

- The State of California, when they were addressing greenhouse gas emissions created Cal Adapt, which is an adaptation website. It is never used by the City and it should be used by the entire State because a lot of questions were brought up in the regulations for greenhouse gases. The City needs to use what is built and add to it.

#### 4.7. Objective: Increase community awareness and advocacy for sustainable water

##### **Stakeholder comments:**

- Mention that the City is exploring the strategies to change residential behavior. Just because someone is educated and aware about a topic doesn’t necessarily mean that they are going to change their behavior.
  - Identifying the barriers people may be experiencing to change their behavior is key.
  - Giving people the tools to change their behavior is also important.
- On the third bullet point, Neighborhood Councils should be listed
  - Neighborhood Councils are the community outreach tool.
- The One Water Plan is still talking about City-owned properties largely. The reality is that the City is running out of space and the City can no longer continue to rely on centralized. The Plan should be looking at distributed and private property involvement and watershed management at the parcel scale.

- The City needs to shift from Government to Governance, which means working with communities to make that happen.
- Outreach should be done in multi-languages.
- **Question:** Where does the conversation occur that relates the level of service the One Water Plan will deliver (e.g. the benefits) and the rate/tax/fee payers willingness to pay? That could be a very beneficial set of activities in developing a Plan that could then provide guidance to how much investment to be made and documenting that conversation could give the elected officials the political cover necessary to move forward with raising the funds to implement the plan.  
**Response:** This is addressed in the second objective: “Balance environmental, economic, and societal goals.” The discussion about the level of service and cost needs to be considered during Phase II of the One Water LA Plan.
- Consider working with building departments to integrate facilities or building requirements to enhance water reuse opportunities (e.g. graywater reuse).
- The public needs to know the cost of no investment in sustainability.

## 5. NEXT STEPS – Lenise Marrero (LASAN)

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

1. Finalizing the Guiding Principles by incorporating all of the input received (Guiding Principles will be finalized by late March),
2. Presenting Guiding Principles to the Board of Public Works and the Board of Water & Power in April, and
3. Continuing discussions with City Departments & Regional Agencies to identify collaboration opportunities.

It was also mentioned that the One Water Team is refining the Scope of Work for Phase II so there will be a small gap between the end of Phase I and the beginning of Phase II. Activities (e.g. tours of facilities & projects) will be held in between Phase I and Phase II.

## **6. CLOSING REMARKS – Doug Walters (LASAN)**

- Please email any additional comments on the draft Guiding Principles and suggestions in regards to this workshop to [OneWaterLA@lacity.org](mailto:OneWaterLA@lacity.org) by **March 17, 2015**.

## **REFERENCE ATTACHMENTS**

- Responses to Comments on Draft Guiding Principles
- Revised Draft Guiding Principles
- PowerPoint Presentation
- Stakeholder and City Staff Attendance list