



**Stormwater and Runoff Management
Special Topic Group
Meeting #1**

2714 Media Center Drive, Los Angeles, 90065
Thursday, March 24th, 2016
1:00-3:00pm

"This summary reflects the opinions of stakeholders and may not necessarily be those of the City of Los Angeles."

Meeting Summary

The purpose of this summary is to provide an overview of the discussion topics, including ideas, solutions and issues. It is not intended as a transcript or as minutes.

Meeting Attendees:

Participants

Liz Crosson	LA Mayor's Office of Sustainability
Arthur Pugsley	LA Waterkeeper
Shawn Warren	FOLAR
Jack Humphreville	GWNC
Kevin Fellows	PB
Guangyu Wang	SMBRC
Daniel Berger	TreePeople
Katie Mika	UCLA
Steve Johnson	Heal the Bay
Melanie Winter	The River Project
Rita Kampalath	Heal the Bay
Natalia Gaerlan	The Trust for Public Land
Johanna Dyer	NRDC

Meeting Team

Facilitator	Rebecca Drayse	LASAN
Scribe	Stephen Groner	SGA
Technical Lead	Mark Hanna	Geosyntec
One Water LA Team	Wing Tam	LASAN
One Water LA Team	Steven Nikaido	LASAN
One Water LA Team	Azya Jackson	LASAN
One Water LA Team	Rafael Villegas	LADWP
One Water LA Team	Art Castro	LADWP
Note Taker	Julia Kingsley	CORO / Carollo



Welcome & Introductions

Introduction of LASAN and LADWP staff, consultant staff, and lead team took place. Participants also introduced themselves to the group.

Overview of the One Water LA Plan 2040 (OWLA):

The purpose of One Water LA is to integrate and implement within the City water projects, policies, and programs that support the Mayor's Sustainability Plan and Executive Directive #5. A key to doing that includes a Stormwater facilities plan that will pull together information based on new climate studies and other work by various City departments including the EWMP and the LA River Master Plan. One Water LA will provide a roadmap for all types of water efforts that will lead us to 2040. The City has considered which elements of the plan could benefit from stakeholder input, hence the formation of the Special Topic Groups (STGs). All comments from these meetings are being collected and will be considered for incorporation in the One Water LA plan which includes future policies. The purpose of these meetings is to build relationships, solicit input and to have a two-way conversation between stakeholders and the City. The objective for the first meeting is to share/discuss information, ideas, resources, opportunities, and priorities.

Background Presentation - Specific Task of Storm water and Runoff Management STG:

The task for this Special Topic Group (STG) is to provide ideas and recommendations related to stormwater planning for the City. There is a need to prepare stormwater facility master plans every five years. The City will be creating a Stormwater facilities plan which will include a capital improvement program for the City. This Facilities plan will address three main components: water quality, water supply, and flood control to alleviate unmet drainage needs. The impacts of climate change will be incorporated with this effort. The three agencies that have been working together for years (LASAN, LADWP and LADPW) are doing so in a manner which leverages what the other agencies are doing, and to focus on flood risk management, water quality, and water supply in an integrated fashion. The intention is to use data that already exists; compile GIS, look at current and future system demands, identify where priority projects are needed, evaluate infrastructure repairs, upgrades and improvements, and to incorporate the GRASS (Greenways to River Arterial Stormwater System) concepts, where possible. local, state, and national goals are center to this work effort, as well as all of the regulatory requirements.

We are currently in the data gathering process of the master plan and are building the structure of the plan. The goal is to have a draft of the plan in early fall. These meetings are important as the One Water LA team will evaluate how the group's ideas and recommendations can be incorporated in the process and the plan.

Response to question about County involvement: The County is a key partner in the One Water LA Plan and has been attending the Steering Committee meetings. Senior managers are meeting on a regular basis. The County has already moved forward with the EWMP process.

Stormwater & Runoff Management Discussion Topics

Topic 1 -What are the programs, policies, and/or research that One Water LA should consider during the plan's development?



- The South LA Green Alley Master Plan should be considered in how to use stormwater efficiently as it identifies how alleys can capture stormwater. The plan was adopted by the City and was prepared with the Trust for Public Land. The data for the alleys has already been collected, some projects are underway, and additional projects are seeking grant funding.
- The City Sidewalks Policy should also be considered. As the City is working to upgrade its sidewalks, there are many runoff opportunities for stormwater capture.
- Another opportunity is Recode LA, looking to incorporate stormwater opportunities into the City's zoning code.
- We should consider areas with flood risk as a priority for stormwater capture projects.
- Look at best practices of transit and water. UCLA is looking at innovative water management.
- Incorporating the National Academy of Sciences report on Greywater and Stormwater.
- Prioritize sidewalks, parkways, medians, streets, road improvements, street ends and day-lighting.
- Approach this project with research first, and policy second. Look at the historical hydraulic study for the LA River: restoration and preservation.
- Consider all the different regulatory barriers associated with distributing, incentivizing, and the multi-benefits of parcel-based Residential Distributed Stormwater Capture.
- Look at the Los Angeles Basin Stormwater Conservation Study. We should also consider the green infrastructure benefits to flood reduction, as studied in Tucson, AZ. Reference back to studies and data that already exists.
- The Water LA program focuses on costs, social factors, rainwater harvesting, water reuse, flood reduction, water quality, and groundwater recharge. It should be a vital resource for with multi-agency support to meet the goals of the Sustainability pLAN, SCMP, the Upper LAR EWMP, and the Basin Study Plan.
- The plan should consider the new NRCS soil data anticipated to be released in summer of 2016. The study looks at the constraints to existing and future LID by the current state-derived definition of liquefaction zones. County geotech engineers acknowledge the problem. The data is old, out of date, created at a 3k ft. level and does not recognize the greater geologic hazards associated with groundwater depletion. This is a key issue that needs the state's attention.
- City of LA Watershed Motion
- Research on historical streams and other hydrology studies

Funding will be needed, and outreach is going to be incredibly important for this plan to work.

- Engage Metro, as they are rolling out Measure R2 and could incorporate stormwater capture into their capital projects. They are developing environmental and sustainable policy over the next few months.
- Reach out to schools districts and utilize bonds to retrofit schools for stormwater.
- Engage on the planned Parks Bond Measure to include stormwater capture



- Reach out to LAWA on their offsite planning projects and how the project may overlap with the City and the County. The Parks Measure should also be on our priority list.
- We should coordinate with the City Green Street Committee.
- We want to look at how we can better manage Urban dry-weather Runoff.

Topic 2 – Private Property role in meeting ED5 and EWMP Goals

How can we better manage dry-weather runoff?

What can be done to make decentralized strategies cost-effective?

How and NGO's, businesses and the general populace play a larger role?

Results of post-it note exercise

Incentives

- Education and incentives for residential storm water capture ('Stormwater Fee Credits and Incentives Whitepaper' is a resource).
- Focus on tracking and monitoring of BMP costs and effectiveness and sharing best performing applications with the community
- Incentivize residential rainwater capture systems. Potential through a rebate to cover a portion of the system cost or through a low-interest loan program
- Help fund projects
- Incentive and rebate for rain garden installation instead of simple turf removal
- Incentives for commercial/industrial distributed storm water capture
- Identify and incentivize private property parking lots for storm water recapture/infiltration
- Incentivize private property owners to put water use back into system
 - Reduced water rates
 - I.e. solar back into the grid
- Fund NGOs to do demonstration projects (rain barrel, rain garden, etc.) which are more effective than being done directly by city
- Increased incentives for homeowners and private businesses
- While the City may have all sorts of brilliant ideas, how does a private property owner implement these suggestions? Does the City have a list of qualified contractors? Will the City engage in cost sharing?
- Look at Water LA's strategies
- Tier-priced water bills
- The most important aspect is that private property owners trust the City
- Explore incentive program for residential cisterns

Voluntary

- Provide outside point of view and different perspective. Make sure we do not get stuck on a single track
- Large private property distributed opportunities
 - Churches or other places of worship throughout communities, usually some porous property
- Landscape alteration
 - Appropriate planting and maintenance
 - Micro-grating
- Education campaign for general public
 - Storm water/watershed literacy



- Spread the work...too much for the City to do on their own
- Before managing (especially if capturing) urban dry-weather look at potential uses or larger opportunities downstream
 - How is run off best used?
- Are these policies economic for the property owner?
- Water LA - Request to incorporate Water LA strategies and How-To documents into the City & County's LID guidance for voluntary adoption outside of the regulatory framework.
- Education/job training
- Partner with NGOs to provide education and outreach regarding the benefits and implementation of distributed rainwater capture
- Explore the potential for "big box" retail parking lots to be used for larger scale storm water capture projects
- Strong focus on meetings, collaboration, and education of business groups

Mandated

- Dry weather/decentralized/public curb cuts and parkway basins
- Cost effective? Water LA
 - Some codes/ordinance revisions
- Forming public/private partnerships, combining mandates with incentives
- Further development and refinement of landscape and irrigation ordinances
- Increased oversight of industrial facilities that discharge TMDL pollutants
- Provide/budget for partnerships with other agencies who could capture some of City of LA's runoff, even though projects lie outside of the City. (Some of these other agencies can move much faster to implement projects.) These partnerships can also allow City to share match requirements for grant funding and front-funding.
- Standardized plans
- Common water rights
 - Water should fall under one agency for rights to be distributed
- Decentralized on Private
 - Figure out how to make Operation and Maintenance of distributed infrastructure cheap and efficient and track performance as implemented to make sure expected water quality or water supply benefits are being achieved
- Distributed residential projects
 - Will require development of a more robust, more accessible mulch program
- Address City codes that limit residential retrofits to capture/infiltrate storm water
- Mandatory onsite water capture
- Remove regulatory barriers to distributed rainwater capture.
 - Streamline and clarify relevant processes

Topic 3 Integrated Project and Partnership Examples

What processes have worked and what have not?

What are the known obstacles and constraints to partnering with the City on Stormwater projects and programs and possible solutions?

- The outreach for DWP's toilet replacement program was extremely effective in terms of the City working with nonprofits to make sure everyone knew what was happening.



- Small grants for NGOs are effective in getting things done. Small projects make a difference because there can be greater distribution of smaller amounts of money and can use pilots to change standards for larger scale efforts.
- Whatever we fund should become a standard practice, not just a pilot program. The rain garden program, for example, did not tackle what it needed to because it was considered a pilot.
- There should be an online platform for everyone to stay more in touch. There is amazing research going on and it is difficult to stay in touch. The platform could focus on what more needs to be done across all aspects of water, not just at LASAN.
- LMU is creating a database on different NGOs and projects in the area. Once the database is done, we can use it as a resource for who is doing what.
- We should reach out to area law schools/clinics, as they can help with issues we did not realize were in building codes because it's not specific to water, but could still prove important.
 - UCLA Law School looking at ordinances/regulation roadblocks on climate change → similar for water
- Pilot or demonstration projects should be undertaken with a plan upfront to translate the results into a standard practice, not just a one-off project or program. Past rain garden and downspout disconnect programs did not address or resolve conflicting code issues because they were considered pilots. Establish a process at the outset to coordinate with relevant agencies on identifying and modifying code and ordinance conflicts to insure that beneficial practices can be replicated broadly, cost-effectively, and in a timely manner.
- If we are to change the codes, it would have to come from the Mayor. We should focus on code evolutions, such as gutter drainage and reverse engineering water. Anytime there is a code evolution, there is an innovation.
- Look to the County on what they are doing with stormwater. The County is willing to make changes faster than the City.
- Look at the differing perceptions of stormwater between different agencies. Need internal education program to make sure that stormwater is viewed as a resource not a liability.
- LASAN is currently working on a curriculum program with LAUSD, so the message is getting out there. Kids are starting to recognize purple pipes.
- There are major barriers in working with the City, as they do not hold NGOs in the same regard they hold private entities.
- Schools/parks liability issues
- Need modeling linkage between stormwater and groundwater

Parking Lot

Will the plan result in an open data source that can be accessed and used by non-City entities?

Elaborate on County of Los Angeles involvement in One Water LA

Homework

Identify additional obstacles to, and opportunities for partnerships with City of Los Angeles.