

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
One Water LA
Stakeholder Workshop #3 (Phase 2)
Tuesday, September 13th, 2016 9:00 am -1:30 pm

Meeting Summary

This summary is not intended to be a transcription of the third One Water LA Workshop. 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 VanWagoner from the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP). Ali Poosti mentioned that it was the 131st day since the City has had any measurable precipitation in downtown Los Angeles; thus emphasizing the need to address water issues and develop strategies to make the City more sustainable. Ali also expressed gratitude to stakeholders who committed their time to participate in the five One Water LA Special Topic Groups.

Bill Van Wagoner mentioned that it will take a City-wide collaborative effort to make the City sustainable and he valued the partnership between LADWP and LASAN in leading the One Water LA effort. Additionally, Bill provided the following LADWP updates: 1) City has removed 47 million square feet of turf in LADWP's Conservation Program; 2) City is down to 105 gallons per capita per day; and 3) Starting on October 1st, a recycled water fill station will be opening at the Los Angeles Glendale Water Reclamation Plant on weekends.

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

1. Alternatives Analysis – World Café
2. Special Topic Group Presentations (Funding, Outreach & Communication, Stormwater and Urban Runoff)
3. Lunch
4. Climate Change Interactive Presentation
5. Next Steps & Closing

1. Alternatives Analysis – World Café

Please refer to One Water LA Workshop PowerPoint Presentation (Slides 3-9)

The objective and desired outcome of the Alternatives & Integration Strategy Analysis was presented to set the stage for the World Café discussion. The following three questions were

presented during the World Café discussion and stakeholders provided their input on the draft project/portfolio evaluation criteria:

World Café Questions

1. Given One Water LA's goals to reduce our reliance on purchased imported water, and develop more sustainable local water supplies, what potential projects, programs, and/or policies are you most excited about?
2. Thinking about the concepts you just discussed, what are the most important benefits that One Water LA needs to achieve?
3. Understanding that many objectives need to be considered, what evaluation criteria are most important to make the One Water Plan a success?

After three rounds of questions for the World Café Discussion, table hosts briefly reported out the key themes the stakeholders mentioned at their respective tables.

World Café Report Out (Themes per table)

Table 2

- Integration of efforts is significant.
- Diversification of large and small projects.
- Restoration of watersheds.
- Multi-benefit projects should be the priority.
- Capture public interest and imagination and get them involved.

Table 3

- Have more regionalization – get the County more involved because water knows no boundaries.
- Identify who pays for projects using a cost-benefit analysis.

Table 4

- Collaboration among agencies at the federal, state and local level especially for businesses subject to requirements.
- Implement feasible projects on a neighborhood scale - part of the change in mindset.
- Have a systems-based approach for: 1) Green infrastructure, and 2) economic, environmental and social sustainability.
- Give people (e.g. industries) credit for what they have already done for water conservation and stormwater management.

Table 5

- Capture, conserve and reuse. Simply relying on one approach will not achieve goals for One Water LA.
- A paradigm shift is needed in community perceptions and attitudes about water.
- Quantifiable targets (e.g. percent reduction in imported water) are crucial for evaluation criteria.

Table 6

- LA River Revitalization – have more of a coordinated approach that involves community.
- Have standard plans for stormwater capture.
- Quantify benefits.
- Maximize Hyperion reuse.
- Evaluate all criteria as a group – don't just focus on cost but also social and environmental benefits.

Table 7

- Define the water we have in the City both on available supply and what we can do on the demand side (e.g. decreasing demand by conserving).
- Figure out how much water we have (e.g. think about captured volumes of stormwater).
- Get public and institutional buy-in to make changes happen (incorporate engagement plans).
- Have more green infrastructure and permeable surfaces. Figure out how to get more water into the ground. Part of that is figuring out conductivity of stormwater and groundwater from a water supply standpoint.

Table 9

- Have cost effectiveness considered in all work that comes out of One Water LA.
- Reduce reliance on imported water (cleaning up San Fernando Valley Aquifer is a critical component).
- There is a need for infrastructure to make One Water LA happen.
- Maximize the use of reclaimed water (IPR & DPR) and maximize use of stormwater.
- Implement multi-benefit projects as opposed to single purpose projects.
- Change public opinion and educate the public (e.g. youth) to make change in regional attitudes about the City's water supply and water reliability.

Table 10

- Establish partnerships to address issues related to cost and innovation.
- Pay more attention to distributed projects (stormwater capture for reuse and stormwater capture for recharge to groundwater).
- Distributed graywater and direct potable reuse.
- Habitat and ecosystem function, value and benefit both at the local community level and regional connectivity side.
- Consider energy and carbon footprint of projects during project selection (both in materials cost and in operation).
- Have community engagement and acceptance of every project.
- Maximize recycling and look for public acceptance on direct potable reuse.

Note: The full summary of the World Café exercise is attached separately.

2. Special Topic Group Presentations – Funding and Cost-Benefit Analysis, Outreach & Communication, Stormwater and Urban Runoff Management.

Please refer to One Water LA Workshop PowerPoint Presentation (Slides 10 – 37)

Stakeholders participated in three different Special Topic Groups (STGs): 1) Funding and Cost-Benefit Analysis, 2) Outreach & Communication and 3) Stormwater and Urban Runoff Management. Representatives reported on key outcomes and recommendations from their respective STGs. The key recommendations for each STG are briefly summarized below.

Funding and Cost-Benefit Analysis Special Topic Group

Key Recommendations

- Explore Stormwater Tax/Fee Options, State Revolving Funds and State Bonds as funding opportunities.
- Develop partnerships to reduce costs and maximize upstream solutions by:
 - Utilizing NGOs, neighborhood councils to assist with implementation and solutions
 - Creating public-private partnerships.
 - Involving other public agencies to share in projects, such as; stormwater from State, Federal, and Local Roads.
 - Developing incentives for leveraging private sector funds.
- Highlight benefit-based funding to enable multi-benefit projects to be built and maintained. Potential cost benefit considerations include the following:
 - Determine how to prioritize projects by measuring results and the value of benefits.
 - Highlight benefit based funding to enable multi-benefit projects to be built and maintained.
 - Understand how multiple agencies can and should contribute in identifying costs and benefits of water projects.

After the Funding and Cost-Benefit Analysis STG presentation, stakeholders provided the following comments:

Comment: In terms of quantifying intangibles, the US Army Corps of Engineers (US ACE) did their LA River Revitalization Study and they have a methodology for quantifying the benefits of ecosystem restoration. That methodology can be adopted and incorporated by One Water.

Comment: The Los Angeles Unified School District has been resistant to doing any regional/sub-regional scale projects on their property but they have ideally situated properties all over the region. Incorporating a strategy that provides an incentive for them to work with the City and other municipalities is brilliant.

Outreach & Communication Special Topic Group

Important themes that were recognized by group are listed below:

- One Water LA is a long-term plan to address long-term solutions.
- One Water LA is winnable and doable and progress is well underway.
- Water issues are interrelated and complex.
- Costs must be communicated in a transparent way.
- This is a city-wide collaborative effort; not just a government program – everyone needs to be involved.

Key Recommendations

- Include simple call to actions (e.g. capture, conserve and reuse) that would be applicable to all audiences.
- Make communication personal and relatable, ensure multilingual outreach and empower others to carry the message.
- Coordinate with other programs (e.g. “Save the Drop”).

After the Outreach & Communication STG presentation, stakeholders provided the following comments:

Comment: There are a lot of people who can do outreach but they need materials. One Water LA should develop and provide materials so that people could present and help with One Water LA outreach.

Comment: There are a lot of general discussions of One Water LA as a concept; thus the public who needs to support it doesn’t have a very clear idea. One Water LA materials need to have specific points (e.g. costs, benefits) that are not easily recognized.

Stormwater and Urban Runoff Management Special Topic Group

Key Recommendations for major topics of discussion including: Incentives & Rewards, Outreach & Recognition, Regulatory Policies, Partnerships and Grants are listed below:

Rewards and Incentives

- Stormwater Fee Discount for property retrofits.
- Dedicate minimum percent for Community Grant Green Projects.
- Modify current Turf Removal Program to include stormwater capture.
- Foster NGO partnerships with City.
- Subsidize stormwater capture on private, commercial and industrial properties.
- Funding for Public Education Programs by City and non-profits.
- Impervious Buy-back program
- Initiate Stormwater Trading Credit System – Cap & Trade.
- Pervious Pavement Rebate and School Upgrade Incentives.
- Bonus for Improved Floor to Area Ratio.
- O&M Cost Share between Public/Private Entities.

Outreach & Recognition

- Create measureable metrics to communicate SW capture goals.
- Yard Signage and other property owner recognition programs.
- Promote property value benefits from Green infrastructure.
- Business acknowledgement for Sustainable Practices.
- Home improvement store water conservation promotion.

Regulatory Policies – Public/Private Development

- Remove regulatory barriers to aid adoption; standard forms for streamlined planning and approval process.
- Increase City requirements for stormwater capture using re:Code LA.
- Increased engagement of Industrial Community.

Partnerships, Grants, Other Program(s) Considerations

- Integrate conservation and green City programs.
- Metro grant program to include stormwater capture and green infrastructure.
- Have air quality agencies and regulatory bodies consider tree installation rebates.

After the Stormwater STG presentation, stakeholders provided the following comments:

Comment: We need to be able to have stormwater capture in our parkways through curb cuts you currently need a permit. An easy solution would be to develop a series of Best Management Practices (BMPs) standards where you do not need a permit if you meet the specification requirements of the BMPs.

Comment: One Water LA should learn from other Cities (e.g. Albuquerque, Phoenix etc.) that have retrofitted their existing facilities (e.g. parking lots) to create integrated comprehensive stormwater management systems.

3. Climate Change Interactive Presentation – Bill McMillin, CH2M Hill

Please refer to Climate Change PowerPoint Presentation

Bill McMillin (CH2M Hill) presented on climate change work that was implemented for New York City, Boston and Miami. The presentation also covered the climate change work underway for One Water LA including potential adaptation measures being considered for the City's wastewater and stormwater infrastructure.

The presentation was interactive and allowed stakeholders to respond to questions via handheld clickers. The questions asked solicited stakeholder feedback to the One Water LA Team regarding perceptions that would help frame future work related to climate change.

After the Climate Change presentation, stakeholders provided the following question and comment:

Question: On the coast, does the storm surge take into account high tide?

Response: The storm surge is independent of high tide but storm surge damage is exacerbated when accomplished by a high tide.

Comment: During the presentation, there was a clear indifference in the audience's response to the wastewater program as far as concerns on potential climate change impacts. Part of that indifference may be that people believe that the wastewater system is working really well.

4. Next Steps & Closing – Lenise Marrero (LASAN), Lewis Michaelson (Katz & Associates)

Please refer to One Water LA Workshop PowerPoint Presentation (Slides 39 – 45)

Examples of potential key programs, projects and policies to be considered were presented and the alternatives analysis process overview for screening projects using evaluation criteria was also presented. Additionally, upcoming water-related events were announced.

The next steps for the One Water LA Plan include the following:

1. The draft evaluation criteria will be revised, finalized and presented at the next stakeholder workshop.
2. Potential topics to be covered during upcoming workshops include but are not limited to: 1) Special Studies update, 2) Long Term Policies, and 3) Final Criteria and Portfolio Development.

ADDITIONAL ATTACHMENTS

- One Water LA Workshop PowerPoint Presentation
- World Café Questions and Responses by table
- Climate Change Presentation
- List of Attendees