



One Water LA-Stakeholder Meeting Notes
Monday, March 5th, 2018- 12:30PM – 3:30PM
Friendship Auditorium, 3201 Riverside Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90027

The purpose of these notes is to provide an overview of the meeting. They are not intended as a transcript or as minutes. Major points are summarized herein, primarily for context.

INTRODUCTION

Attendees were welcomed with opening remarks from City Commissioners, and Los Angeles Sanitation (LASAN) and Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) Management.

Los Angeles Department of Public Works Commissioner Heather Repenning thanked the stakeholders for their attendance and continued participation. The commissioner also touched on the importance of a reliable water source and the need to look at the water we currently have today including recycled water and stormwater. A recent article in the Daily News from Mayor Garcetti highlighted the Mayor's goals and what he calls our "Mulholland Moment" for safe and reliable water. Unlike Mulholland, the City is conducting the One Water planning process with the public, with full transparency and collaboration and that is what so great about the process. There is hard work ahead to implement the key recommendations of the Plan and the commissioner encouraged the stakeholders to help identify funding opportunities for the One Water LA plan, such as upcoming state measures. She encouraged the stakeholders to help educate others about the need for a local funding source to help meet our goals and objectives. The Commissioner also thanked all of those from the City who helped lead the effort.

Board of Water and Power Commissioner William W. Funderburk, Jr. welcomed stakeholders and thanked those that have been involved in the process. The Commissioner has always been a strong proponent of stormwater capture, water recycling, and taking the measures necessary to deploy our assets in the best way to build resilience that the Mayor has been talking about. The commissioner also thanked the City's County partners and Commissioner Repenning for their work and support. He indicated that together we can accomplish a lot more than independently and separately. We can show Washington and the rest of the country how it is done through our collaboration. The Commissioner also mentioned LADWP's upcoming commercial level stormwater capture incentive program that is market-based and relies on market capital, and the Equity Metrics Data Initiative which is a tool to make sure our resources are spent by City grounded in equity. For more information on the Equity Metrics Data Initiative visit www.ladwp.com/equitymetrics.

LA Sanitation's Chief Operating Officer, Traci Minamide also thanked the stakeholders for attending this milestone day for One Water LA. It is great to look back at all the progress that has been made. There is a lot going on in the world of recycled water with the City and all of the City's partners. Ms. Minamide mentioned last year's ribbon cutting at the City's Terminal Island Water Reclamation Plant (WRP), which is the one of the few WRP's in the country that is treating raw wastewater through the entire spectrum of advanced treatment. The high purified water is being used for a sea water intrusion barrier, and the City is also bringing in new customers to use of the water. LASAN is also working with LADWP and West Basin on a pilot project at Hyperion WRP, to improve the treatment of the water by adding membrane bio reactors. We are also working on an advanced water purification facility at Hyperion to deliver water to LAWA and a few other customers on the Westside. There is another project at the Donald C. Tillman WRP to add new innovative water technologies with a smaller carbon footprint at a lower cost. There is a lot going on today based on the work done with the IRP and



now moving forward with the One Water LA Plan. Ms. Minamide thanked the stakeholders for their input and shared her appreciation for their dedication to the City's efforts to develop local water resources.

Rich Harasick, Senior Assistant General Manager of the Water System for LADWP, and Adel Hagekhalil, LASAN's Assistant Director, were also invited to say a few words.

Mr. Harasick mentioned the Mayor's term "Mulholland Moment" on developing local water resources. Mulholland certainly had his challenges and the City has its challenges too such as increasing water demand, aging infrastructure, regulations, flood control and decreasing our dependence on purchased imported water. The City was built on meeting its water challenges and we will continue to do that with our plans. The Mayor's Sustainable City plan lays out the foundation by setting goals to reduce our per capita use of water in the City, reducing the amount of purchased imported water by 50 percent, and sourcing 50 percent of our water supply by 2035. LADWP also has its Stormwater Capture Master Plan, Urban Water Management Plan, Water Recycling Master Plan and our new award winning Water Conservation Potential Study. All of that combined will provide a clear path to the future. The City is expected to grow by four hundred thousand people by 2040, and the City will be able to meet that demand through water conservation. We will also increase our stormwater capture efforts; maximize the use of recycled water; and increase groundwater production in the San Fernando Valley. The Mayor also had a significant initiative to develop an integrated strategy to help increase local water supply, which is One Water LA. It is a collaborative effort that brings forth a sustainable plan for the entire City, leverages all of the City's plans and brings together all of City Departments and other regional entities. Mr. Harasick thanked all of the stakeholders that have been involved, especially those that began participating many years ago. Stakeholder's input is valuable, it's needed, and the City relies on it. Mr. Harasick also thanked Adel Hagekhalil and his team, David Pettijohn (LADWP) and his team, and the City's regional partners.

Adel Hagekhalil welcomed all of the attendees. Mr. Hagekhalil stated that One Water LA is all about connecting the dots, drops and hearts. We can connect the supply and demand by working with the people. It is all about partnerships and collaboration. The City staff, stakeholders, consultants, and our partners are all here because we want to be part of this process and to make a difference in this great City. The City is proud of what we have done today, but it will be an on-going process. We need to continue to working and continue to be innovative across the board. To echo what LADWP mentioned regarding the great things we are doing with recycled water and stormwater capture, we are breaking the silos and working together to look for new opportunities. For example, we are working with the airport to bring recycled water to LAWA; we are looking to increase our recycled water use at Hyperion; working with the Harbor; Low Impact Development at the Public Right-of-way; and more. Stormwater is one of our biggest challenges and also our biggest opportunity. By working with our regional partners we will make a difference to improve our water quality, local water supplies, and quality of life. Mr. Hagekhalil thanked the stakeholders for their continued participation.

GUEST SPEAKER

Hampik Dekermenjian, meeting facilitator, introduced Mark Pestrella the Director of Los Angeles County of Public Works.

Mr. Pestrella thanked the City of Los Angeles and its residents for their partnership with the County. Despite of what others might say, it has been a great relationship. We have been working together and getting along for a long time and we are happy to be coming out with this



partnership and being open about how strongly we work together. There is no other more important natural resource than water. We don't have life unless we have water. Our wins and our losses have been about how well we manage our natural resources. "We" includes everyone in the room, the public, NGOs, community groups, consultants and public servants in the government service. Mr. Pestrella congratulated the City on a great Plan and everyone who helped develop the Plan. You are forming and informing the policy moving forward. The hard part is now implementing and putting the ideas on the ground and working. Water has historically been managed in silos and that has been a problem. The Plan attempts to break down those silos.

LA County's Current Efforts:

- The County's Water Resiliency Plan -The County is working on a plan that breaks down silos throughout Los Angeles County, not just the City of Los Angeles. The County's Water Resiliency Plan will be informed by One Water LA and the other plans in the county. There are at least 200 water retailers that handle water in Los Angeles with their own boards and strategies on how to best manage the water resources in Los Angeles. The County's plan seeks to inform our board and community on where our water comes from, how it is used, and seeks to provide policies and incentives that would push for a more united use of the water in Los Angeles County. We will include all of the 200 retailers and the citizens of Los Angeles County. The plan is called *H2O for LA*, and it will be a document that can be referred to throughout LA County as an education tool for policy development, legislation, and for investment.
- Safe Clean Water Program - One important investment, identified in One Water LA, is stormwater capture. Local water, such and stormwater, is something to be cherished and used for its highest and best use. Stormwater capture has played a major role in LA County for many years. The LA County Flood Control District, one of the biggest in the nation, is contemplating a program that will capture more stormwater for water supply and will improve the water quality and the surface water throughout LA County. The program is called the Safe Clean Water Program. The program will be presented to the Board of Supervisors in April. The Board will make a decision sometime in June whether or not introduce it as a ballot measure in November 6, 2018. For more information and to provide input, visit www.safecleanwaterla.org.

ONE WATER LA PLAN OVERVIEW

Lenise Marrero (LASAN) and Serge Haddad (LADWP) from the One Water LA team presented the presented the accomplishments and overview of the One Water LA Plan. The objective of the meeting was to present the key recommendations of the plan and the next steps.

Please refer to Informational One Water LA Overview PowerPoint Presentation (Slides 6-41).

Key Items Presented Include:

- The City's current water challenges include new regulations, recurring droughts, climate change, and more.
- The success of the Plan was mainly due to the collaboration and participation of the following groups: Advisory Group, Steering Committee, Strategic Planning Group, and the Stakeholders.
- The Plan's development also helped create water awareness. It has helped others think about water and multi-benefits including when building a new park or a new school.
- The One Water LA 2040 plan consists of many elements & recommendations (slide 12). An outline of each plan element is summarized below.



- The Stormwater Facilities Plan (SWFP) – leverages and looks at other existing City documents through an integrated lens. The SWFP looks to maximize the benefits of recommended projects through a three-legged stool approach (slide 15). The projects with the maximum benefits were at the top of the list. The plan also includes funding strategies for the projects, and recommended policies and programs.
- Wastewater Facilities Plan – the types of recommended projects includes: projects to maximize potable reuse, capital improvement projects, rehab and rehabilitation projects, wastewater conveyance projects, and climate resiliency projects. The wastewater plan outcome was also presented (slide 20).
- The Climate Resilient Infrastructure- the approach was to identify stormwater and wastewater infrastructure at risk for future extreme weather conditions, not just sea level rise. The recommendations are relatively low cost and what the City can do now to be more climate change resilient.
- Current Integration Opportunities – projects currently planned for the next 5 years. From the One Water LA Steering Committee meetings, the team identified 44 current water related integration opportunities. The top 10 opportunities were presented (slide 27).
- Future Integration Opportunities –27 concept opportunities were identified. There was an entire stakeholder workshop dedicated to the presentation of the criteria for the future concepts. The six preferred future concept projects and anticipated outcomes were presented (slides 30-31).
- Policies and Programs – the initial process included ideas from the different groups (advisory group, stakeholders, city staff, etc.) on potential policies and programs. There was also a stakeholder workshop dedicated to policies and programs.

An initial list of 200 ideas was consolidated and organized into common themes (slide 34). The next step is to develop a feasibility analysis to determine the cost, benefits, and other impacts of each recommendation. The policies and programs are crucial to move forward and to help reduce existing roadblocks for multi-benefit projects.

- The potential fiscal impacts of the plan were presented (slide 38). A total of \$13.3 billion has been identified as the plan's potential fiscal impact. However, \$8.8 out of the 13.3 billion is from currently planned projects from other City plans.
- Funding Strategies – key highlights of the plan's funding strategies was presented (slide 39). Investment is needed to meet the City's water challenges and can be done through collaboration and by leveraging resources.

Stakeholders provided the following questions and comments:

- Related to the reference on habitat restoration (slide 15), aside from the LA River, what are some plans or programs that are currently underway or planned for the future? There are some opportunities that are being missed.
 - **Response:** In general, habitat restoration is mentioned in the plan due to all of the stormwater projects. Many of the stormwater projects do include habitat restoration benefits, including the South LA wetlands and the Rory Shaw Project.



- How severe will the cutbacks be from the recycled water program due to the future potable reuse projects? Are there any plans to implement a satellite plant to serve the west side of town?
 - **Response:** We are currently looking at a potential site in the Rancho Park Area. We are currently doing a feasibility analysis to have one or more facilities to meet the recycled water demands in the area.
- Most of the future integration opportunities presented seemed to be up north. There are a lot of challenges with water capture in the San Pedro and Harbor area. Are you still looking for feedback and stakeholder ideas for projects?
 - **Response:** Yes we are always looking for feedback. That will be what we will discuss next, and that is the future engagement opportunities. Also, the opportunities for stormwater capture are better in the valley due to the soil conditions.

FUTURE ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The One Water LA team presented a timeline that includes the upcoming efforts for One Water LA (slide 43). Future City Activities for Plan Implementation include: prepare programmatic EIR; continued technical analysis; create supporting databases; work with other departments & agencies on current and future integration opportunities; conduct policy & program feasibility analysis; pursue funding opportunities; develop interagency agreements.

Future engagement opportunities for stakeholders included the One Water LA implementation committees. Future potential implementation committees include:

- Policy & Program Feasibility Analysis
- Funding, O&M, and Cost-sharing
- Partnership Strategies
- Climate Change & Resiliency Expert Panel

Stakeholders were asked to provide any other areas of interest and to indicate which of the existing potential implementation committees they may be interested in. Future collaboration activities with other City departments, regional entities, and academia was also presented (slide 46).

DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING

Claire Bowin, from the Department of City Planning, presented on their planning initiatives and results of collaboration efforts with the One Water LA team. The following key accomplishments were presented:

- Informed developers that they need to comply with the LID Ordinance at the early stage of the application process. It is critical to incorporate LID at the early stage of the design.
- On-going collaboration with One Water LA as we continue to update our zoning code (Re:Code LA) to look for other opportunities to incorporate One Water LA goals and elements.
- On-going collaboration as the City updates the General Plan. Water is a big part and the City plans to build on the One Water LA effort and refer to the policies and programs in the plan. The City will look to invite the One Water LA stakeholders to be part of that process as well.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Liz Crossen, the City's Deputy Chief Sustainability Officer and Director of Infrastructure, thanked the guests and those groups that have been part of the entire process. One Water LA Stakeholder process has been unprecedented and the amount of involvement is certainly appreciated by the Mayor and the Mayor's office. The One Water LA Plan is a key initiative in the Mayor's Sustainable City Plan. The plan could not have come at a better time as we wait for the snow pack survey to be released on April 1st, and the best we can hope for is 50 percent of normal. Having the City and all of the stakeholders come together and plan how to integrate our water and help build a more resilient future is great.

The following groups were thanked for their input and for identifying their priority throughout the One Water LA planning process:

- Stakeholders - were thanked and asked to stand up for acknowledgements.
- Special Topics Groups – were thanked and asked to stand up for acknowledgements.
- Advisory Group – this group represented a diverse set of interest and really helped shape the plan and the stakeholder engagement efforts. Advisory Group members were presented certificates as a thank you for their involvement.
- Steering Committee
- Management was also thanked for their leadership
- City Staff and Consultants

CLOSING

The group assembled for a photo and refreshments were served.