

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
IRP Steering Group Workshop No. 2
January 28, 2003

MEETING MINUTES

Attendees: See Attached

OPENING REMARKS

Attendees were welcomed and were provided with opening remarks on the Integrated Resources Plan (IRP). An overview of Workshop No.1 including the discussion of IPWP's objectives and Guiding Principles, Phase II's process and challenges and other workshop ground rules were discussed. The outreach and educational activities on water, wastewater, and runoff were outlined.

WHAT DID WE COVER?

The audience was briefed on the objectives of the IRP and Guiding Principles developed in Phase 1. The Guiding Principles will be kept intact and retain their integrity with certain exceptions required to update and reflect new technologies and new regulations.

The Steering Group member's role as representatives of various organizations, groups, and community at large is a two-way transmittal and conveyance of information. That is to take the IRP's developments, progress, and challenges to the people and bring back the needs and concerns of their groups and community to the IRP.

The day of the workshop was voted on by all steering group members in attendance and was decided to be on Thursdays to ensure Council participation. The Advisory Group Session 1 meetings will commence in February and end in early March. All Steering Group members are encouraged to attend the Advisory Group meetings in their neighborhoods, (see attached schedule).

WHAT DID WE HEAR?

Keep policy-making and policy-implementing agencies from City, County, State and Federal involved. Look outside the City and inspire regional approach for alternatives and solutions. Maintain clear and proactive communication with the public, and carefully balance costs and benefits.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

The Stakeholder Outreach for Steering Group, Advisory Group, and Information Group; Community Outreach including neighborhood, school and media outreach; and, educational courses and activities such as the planned facility tours were discussed. Names of those

interested in the upcoming tours were collected. The upcoming tours are scheduled for March and April. Additionally, Charles Brink is working with the City to establish an IRP website.

AGENDA ITEMS DISCUSSED AT WORKSHOP NO. 2

○ Service Area

Land use planning vs. water planning could be depicted on maps. Overlaying of maps shows natural versus civic boundaries. We will focus on the City of Los Angeles boundaries for runoff solutions; however, we will also work with outside agencies within the watershed to incorporate a regional solution.

Identify sewer and water utilities on maps.

A portion of the Ahmanson development in the upper Santa Monica Bay watershed affects runoff tributary to the Los Angeles River.

POPULATION AND GROWTH

Population projections are used to estimate water demand and estimate wastewater flows. These data and projections are derived from demographic sources and the City's Planning Department. The IRP will use 2001 population projections through year 2020 from Southern California Association of Government (SCAG). The City's population is projected to be 4.5 million by the year 2020.

THE PLANNING PROCESS

Land use options and population projection data (from SCAG) would be used to derive the community plans and proposals for land use plans. This is accomplished through public participation and adoption by the City Council.

It was suggested that land use and building permits be used to control growth and preserve open space. Additionally, open space should be made a priority in our planning approach, as it improves the quality of life.

It was also suggested that various agencies and departments such as Bureau of Street Services, Fire & Brush, and County Planning should be involved in planning to ensure that the evaluation criteria is broad enough to include all aspects of the environment with a focus on facilities and sewer construction. Also, the drought issue needs to be addressed concerning the environmental impacts of lack of rain.

There were some concerns on the population projections being self-fulfilling for the subject agencies and therefore inaccurate. This concern was responded by the fact that the IRP will use SCAG data and compare this to all other sources on population projection to verify consistency. Additionally, IRP's facility planning has the flexibility of scaling back in case the subject

projections are found to have been over-estimated. The implementation phase of the IRP will be done very carefully, ensuring that we are not over building facilities that are not needed.

POTABLE WATER

Water supplies come from the State Water Project, Los Angeles Aqueduct, Colorado River Aqueduct and local groundwater. Federal government has cut-off surplus water from the Colorado River previously designated for California. The State will have to come up with options for alternative water supply. We can no longer rely on the traditional sources we have relied on in the past. Desalination could potentially be a better option compared to groundwater in the near future.

Questions:

Why is the percentage of groundwater usage (15%) rather low, and who can use it?

Groundwater quality in the San Fernando Valley is poor, therefore its usage is limited.

Excessive paving does have an affect on infiltration. The IRP will look at options for runoff capture and infiltration.

WASTEWATER

Wastewater contributions come from residential, commercial, industrial, and groundwater infiltration into the collection system. There are wastewater flow variations based on the time of day and wet or dry seasonal weather conditions. Time of day variations have to do with increased sanitary use in the morning and in the evening, as most people wake up, and return home around the same time. Also, wet weather seasons increase infiltration and inflow into the sewer system.

Wastewater infrastructure and programs are composed of the collection system (pipelines and pump stations) treatment facilities, and the biosolids management program. There are two main wastewater service areas; the Hyperion Service Area (HSA), and Terminal Island Service Area (TISA).

Questions:

Can current wastewater treatment plants handle the increased concentration caused by conservation, drought, or growth? Yes, design criteria are based on both the volume of generated wastewater and on the mass produced relevant to the population projection.

Are there plans for new facilities at this point? There are no definite plans at this time, but the IRP will address the issue using revised and updated data in the alternatives analysis portion of the plan.

Based on the “Historic and Projected Wastewater Flow” chart in the handout, there was a drop in wastewater generated in the last four years. Will this affect our flow projections for the year 2020? The drought and water conservation have attributed to the decline in flow. This trend could very well be reversed by cyclic rainy season years after a few years of drought.

Upgrading the current sewer system will reduce infiltration. However, for the most part, it is more cost effective to convey and treat the generated wastewater including the infiltration, than to rehabilitate the whole collection system. Protecting the health and safety of the public is always a top priority in sizing new systems. Currently wastewater flow comprises approximately 90% residential and 10% commercial and industrial.

Security will be considered in the IRP. For example, what would happen if the wastewater flow from the valley to HTP was interrupted due to a security failure? New performance measures must be implemented that address security concerns.

CURRENT EVENTS IN THE NEWS

Sanitary sewer overflow litigation has been addressed by issuing Fats Oil and Grease (FOG) permits to restaurants and food establishments. Also, increased sewer cleaning and maintenance, and reducing adverse affects of tree roots on the sewer system are being implemented.

TWRP and LAGWRP permits were in the news as well. The Appellate Court overturned the California Superior Court decision on the new permit conditions. There were a total of 33 new constituents added to the permit, out of which, seven constituents are believed to be of concern for attaining compliance with the designated limits.

The City currently has 100% beneficial reuse of its biosolids. The City spent twenty million dollars on upgrades of biosolids processing, to convert Class B biosolids to Class A Exceptional Quality (EQ), in line with Kern County's new ordinance effective January 1, 2003 for land application.

RECYCLED WATER

This task examines how much of recycled water can be diverted from the Los Angeles River. To address the distribution costs of recycled water, major customers are identified and a tiered (tier 1, 2 and 3) approach is applied for a cost effective distribution of recycled water to customers. It was noted that 50% of demand would be used by the top 300 customers out of the total 2,500 potential customers. Treatment, conveyance, and storage of the recycled water comprise the major cost centers for recycled water utilization.

The major uses of recycled water are industrial, irrigation, and seawater intrusion protection. Building and Safety currently issues permits for use of gray water.

RUNOFF

Stormwater infrastructure includes 1,500 miles of pipe, 100 miles of open channels, 33,000 catch basins, 12 low-flow diversions and one demonstration treatment plant.

Impacts of urban runoff are important because it carries trash, bacteria, oil, pesticides, fertilizers, and many other pollutants. Also, illicit connections affect runoff and water bodies.

Biological solutions for runoff including floating wetlands, and treatment wetlands will be explored further under the IRP.

AGENDA FOR WORKSHOP NO. 3

The next workshop is scheduled for **Thursday, March 27, 2003**. Alternatives Analysis and Financial Planning will be covered.

WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES?

Refer to attached Feedback Report.