

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
IRP Steering Group Workshop No. 4
May 22, 2003

MEETING MINUTES

Attendees: See Attached

OPENING REMARKS

Attendees were welcomed and were provided with opening remarks on the Integrated Resources Plan (IRP). It was announced that, since our last workshop on March 27, one of the IRP Steering Group Members, Susan Nelson, was struck by a car and killed. A moment for “speaking what’s on your mind” was observed in her memory. The Workshop Agenda was briefly reviewed. The Agenda items reviewed were as follows:

- Welcome
- Alternatives Analysis Objective Weighting Results
- Wastewater “Gap” Analysis
- Considering our Wastewater Options
 - Options for Existing Plants
 - Options for New Plants
 - Site Considerations
- Wastewater Options Breakout Session
- Performance Preference
- Wrap-up

WHAT DID WE COVER?

The following topics from Workshop No. 3 were briefly reviewed:

- Developing our Alternatives Analysis Approach
- Defining Objectives and Sub-Objectives
- Objectives Weighting and Exercise
- Site Criteria Breakout Sessions
- Introduction to Financial Planning

WHAT DID WE HEAR?

A summary of the major comments presented by the Steering Group at Workshop No. 3 was reported as follows:

- Think “outside the box” in developing options
- Keep a regional perspective; make sure that all impacted agencies are at the table
- Incorporate need for open space in planning
- Consider capturing rainfall in new communities
- Will there be future increases in sewer service fees?
- Consider decentralized approach to wastewater treatment

- Limit paving

RESULTS OF IRP STAKEHOLDER SURVEY

The results of the customer services survey that was distributed at Workshop 3 were presented. The results showed that we are doing well in these areas:

- Sharing the IRP mission with Steering Group
- Giving stakeholders the opportunity to express concerns or opinions
- Developing a program that is “heading in the right direction”

And need improvement in these areas:

- Getting the word out about the IRP to the general public
- Structuring workshops so that everyone works together to reach goals
- Conveying technical information in a clear and efficient manner

IRP WEBSITE:

The website address for the IRP was given:

[HTTP://WWW.TEC-WEB.COM/CITYOFLA/IRP](http://www.tec-web.com/cityofla/irp)

It was announced that there was a computer available in the back of the room set-up to view the website.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

A report was given about the second series of Advisory Group meetings that were held in April and May. The meetings were held at 7 different venues. A summary of the major feedback advice received at the meetings was reported as follows:

Maximize multiple benefits/multiple uses

- Preserve open spaces
- Blend in with community and enhance safety and security
- Increase promotion of public education
- Increase community involvement (e.g., unions, neighborhood councils, school kids, media, etc.)

The next set of Advisory Group meetings will take place in August.

AGENDA ITEMS DISCUSSED AT WORKSHOP NO. 4

ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS OBJECTIVE WEIGHTING RESULTS

The results of the Objective Weighting Exercise that was distributed at Workshop 3 and later mailed to all 117 Steering Group members was presented. It was reported that only 30 Weighting exercisers were returned, and it was requested that others who did not return theirs, to please fill it out and return it to the Bureau of Sanitation.

WASTEWATER “GAP” ANALYSIS

Wastewater Sub-Service Areas (Sewersheds)

It was presented that for the IRP, the wastewater collection system was broken into the following seven areas (areas were shown graphically on map):

- Tillman
- Valley Spring Lane/Forman Avenue
- Los Angeles Glendale
- Tunnel
- Hyperion – Coastal
- Hyperion – Metro
- Terminal Island

Existing Wastewater Treatment Facilities

The four treatment plants for the wastewater service function being studied in the IRP were reviewed. The four plants and their respective capacities are:

- Donald C. Tillman Water Reclamation Plant-Current Capacity = 64 million gallons per day*
- Los Angeles/Glendale Water Reclamation Plant-Current Capacity = 15 million gallons per day*
- Hyperion Treatment Plant-Current Capacity = 450 million gallons per day
- Terminal Island Treatment Plant-Current Capacity = 30 million gallons per day

*Assuming derating due to planned nitrification/ denitrification projects.

Estimated Average Wastewater Flows in Year 2020

Next, the estimated average wastewater flows in the year 2020 was presented for each of the seven sewersheds.

- Tillman-104 million gallons per day
- Valley Spring Lane/Forman Avenue-56 million gallons per day
- Los Angeles Glendale-35 million gallons per day
- Tunnel-48 million gallons per day
- Hyperion – Coastal-25 million gallons per day
- Hyperion – Metro-243 million gallons per day
- Terminal Island-20 million gallons per day

The total estimated wastewater flow in year 2020 = 531 million gallons per day.

It was also discussed that dry weather runoff could also impact the wastewater system if it is diverted to the wastewater collection system.

Wastewater flows vary depending on the time of day and the season

It was reported that the wastewater flow is less during the night when few people are contributing to the system and is higher during the day. The wastewater has daily peak flow

which is the criteria used to design the sewers, and the flow can be averaged over the day to calculate the average flow which is the criteria used to design the treatment plants. The wastewater flow is also dependant on weather conditions. In wet weather conditions, stormwater inflows and infiltrates into the wastewater system increasing wastewater flow.

Estimated peak wet weather wastewater flows depend on size of rain storm

Next, the wet weather condition assumptions and the design goals for the IRP were presented:

- IRP Planning Assumptions for peak wet weather flow
 - 10 year storm
 - 24 hour duration
 - Over whole City
- Goal of sewer design is to prevent overflows from design storm
- The City designs their new sewers so that at least half of the pipe is available for peak dry weather flows and full under wet weather conditions.

Estimated impacts of 2020 wastewater Flows on the existing wastewater collection system

The Estimated impacts of 2020 wastewater Flows on the existing wastewater collection system was presented graphically by showing the percent full of each sewer (studied in the IRP). The percent of full sewer was color coded by the following categories:

- >100%
- 75% to 100%
- 50% to 75%
- <50%

To view the colored coded percent of full sewer information, please refer to the figure attached to the Feedback Report titled “Wastewater System Flows and Capacity Gaps in Year 2020”.

Wastewater Treatment Facilities - Environmental Goals

It was reported that the goals for the wastewater treatment facilities are:

- Hyperion Treatment Plant - Current level of secondary treatment
- Upstream Water Reclamation Facilities
 - Discharge to the LA River
 - 1995 Operating Permit (current operation)
 - 1998 Operating Permit (pending)
 - California Toxics Rule
 - May require membrane treatment technologies
 - Recycled Water
 - Current recycled water regulations

CONSIDERING OUR WASTEWATER OPTIONS

Wastewater Options

The following options for managing the gaps for the wastewater service function was briefly discussed:

- Reduce flows (conservation and infiltration/inflow)
- Optimize existing sewer and treatment system
- Expand existing treatment facilities
- Build new treatment facilities
- Build storage facilities (both plant and sewer system)
- Build new sewers
- Some combination of above options

Sewer System Options

More detailed information was provided about the following options for providing sewer system capacity relief:

- Operational Modifications
 - Provide greater flexibility for flow routing and maximizes use of existing interceptor capacities
- Wet Weather Storage
 - In-system (in-line) storage takes advantage of available excess sewer capacity
 - Out-of-system (off-line) temporary storage includes tanks or new pipelines dedicated to storage
- Upstream Treatment
 - New or expansion of existing upstream treatment plants removes flow that would otherwise need to be conveyed downstream
- New Interceptors
 - Provide additional sewer capacity
- All options to include odor control facilities

Wastewater Treatment Options - Tillman Water Reclamation Plant

It was review that the Tillman Water Reclamation Plant is projected to have capacity gaps in year 2020, and the following options were presented to fill the gaps.

- Option 1A: No Expansion
- Option 1B: No Expansion with Storage
- Option 2A: Expansion
- Option 2B: Expansion with Storage

Wastewater Treatment Options – Los Angeles-Glendale Water Reclamation Plant

It was review that the Los Angeles-Glendale Water Reclamation Plant is projected to have capacity gaps in year 2020, and the following options were presented to fill the gaps.

- Option 1A: No Expansion
- Option 1B: No Expansion with Storage
- Option 2A: Expansion
- Option 2B: Expansion with Storage
- Option 3: No Discharge to Los Angeles River

Wastewater Treatment Options – Hyperion Treatment Plant

It was review that the Hyperion Treatment Plant is projected to have capacity gaps in year 2020, and the following options were presented to fill the gaps.

- Option 1: No Expansion
- Option 2: Expansion

Wastewater Treatment Options – Terminal Island Treatment Plant

It was review that the Terminal Island Treatment Plant is projected to not have any capacity gaps in year 2020; therefore the only option presented was the “No Expansion Option” (Option 1).

Wastewater Treatment Options - New Water Reclamation Facility

Another option for meeting the wastewater treatment gaps is to build a new water reclamation facility. The options are:

- No new plant
- New plant without LA River discharge - would only be used to meet recycled water demands. Storage would be needed.
- New plant with LA River discharge - would help relieve system during wet weather. Would also be needed for larger plant and to provide reliable capacity.

Wastewater Treatment Options - Criteria for New or Upgraded Facilities

The following criteria for the options of building new or upgrading existing wastewater treatment facilities were presented:

- Location
 - Upstream Vs. Downstream
 - Zoning/Environmental Justice
 - Not Using Existing Open Space
- Low Cost
 - Land
 - Mitigation
 - Operational
- Best Use of Available Water Resources
 - Recycled Water Opportunities
 - Runoff Treatment Opportunities
- Multiple Benefits
 - Recreational
 - Commercial
 - Educational
 - Inter-Agency/Project Opportunities
 - Environmental
 - Revitalization/Redevelopment
- Most Adaptable
 - Site Location and Characteristics
 - Treatment Technology
- Least Risk
 - Technology
 - Collection System Relief
 - Site Characteristics
 - Environmental
 - Project Implementation

- More Decentralized
 - Site Location

Wastewater Options Breakout Session

To save time, the Steering Group attendees were asked to write down their concerns for each of the options presented above instead of a voicing their concerns in the breakout session. The comments/concerns collected from the attendees are presented in Attachment A.

Potential Considerations with Expanding Tillman and Los Angeles-Glendale Water Reclamation Plants

For this topic, the following considerations were presented:

- Aligns with Guiding Principle of maximizing reuse opportunities
- Could relieve downstream sewer system
- City already owns land, but availability is limited at Los Angeles-Glendale
- Could temporarily impact existing recreational use within the Sepulveda Basin (Tillman)
- Opportunities for LA River revitalization
- Could provide community enhancements, multi-use benefits

Potential Considerations with Expanding Hyperion Treatment Plant

Some of the pros and cons for expanding the Hyperion Treatment Plant were discussed:

- Does not align with Guiding Principle of maximizing reuse opportunities upstream
- City already owns land, although minimal space available for expansion
- Maximizes use of existing facilities
- Does not relieve sewer system

Potential Considerations with Building a New Plant(s) Upstream

Some of the benefits for building a new plant upstream was presented as follows:

- Aligns with Guiding Principle of maximizing reuse opportunities upstream
- Opportunities for LA River revitalization
- Could relieve downstream sewer system
- Maximizes opportunities for decentralized facilities
- Could provide community enhancements, multi-use benefits

PERFORMANCE PREFERENCE

All Steering Group members were asked to fill-out the Performance Preference sheet which will help us determine how well an alternative is performing according to their values. The Steering Group members were asked to check the one statement that most closely reflects how they feel for each of the 14 performance measures listed on the sheet. Example for the “Cost of alternative (present value)” performance measure, you have the choice of one of the following three statements:

- I prefer higher costs
- I prefer lower costs
- I don't particularly care

CURRENT EVENTS IN THE NEWS

- Diane Gilbert of the Bureau of Sanitation's Regulatory Affairs Division discussed the Biosolids Environmental Monitoring System (EMS) program. The biosolids EMS describes how the City tracks, monitors, and treats the biosolids generated at the Hyperion and Terminal Island treatment plants. The City's Biosolids EMS has been approved and is nearing the auditing stage of the program. Diane asked if anyone wanted to participate in the audit process which will begin June 2 and end on June 10.
- In a future workshop, we will be discussing a new change in water conservation which is the use of waterless urinals. This issue was introduced to the City Council's Planning and Land Use Management Committee, and is being reviewed by the various City agencies involved in the process.
- It was reported that the Metropolitan Water District presented water conserving awards for 6 water conserving gardens; legislation is moving forward in the City Council to stress the uses of water conserving plant materials; and North East Trees is hosting a series of enlightened programs dealing with the Arroyo Seco.
- All members were asked to place a tack on the map indicating where they live. The results will be used to determine the optimal meeting location for the IRP Steering Group workshops.

AGENDA FOR WORKSHOP NO. 5

The next workshop is scheduled for Thursday, June 26, 2003. Topics that will be presented are:

- Approach for creating alternatives
- Recycled Water Options
- Wastewater Alternatives

UPCOMING IRP OPPORTUNITIES – INFORMATION SHARING

- Neighborhood Councils
- The IRP Website: www.tec-web.com/cityofla/irp
- "101" Courses
 - City Planning
 - Finance Planning
 - Los Angeles River
 - Regulations

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment A - Wastewater Options Concerns (typed from hand written notes)
- Attachment B - Feedback Report - All major questions and concerns voiced during the workshop are addressed in the Feedback Report.
- Attachment C – Steering Group Attendance list
- Attachment D – Staff Attendance list