

DRAFT 11/24/14

Tri-Valley Water Roundtable Held November 17, 2014 Discussion Notes

On Monday, November 17, 2014, the Tri-Valley Water Policy Roundtable met from 5 – 7:00 pm at Zone 7 Water Agency's Office at 100 North Canyons Drive in Livermore.

Agencies represented included the Cities of Livermore, Pleasanton, San Ramon and Dublin; Zone 7 Water Agency; Dublin San Ramon Services District (DSRSD); and the California Water Service Company. Pat O'Keeffe and Brittany Gabel of Management Partners served as the facilitator and recorder, respectively. The following is a write up of the discussion ideas that were captured on flip charts.

Three objectives were established for the session, as follows:

- Discuss results of the first workshop held on September 27, 2014 and review the list of priority policy areas generated from that discussion.
- Rank all issues and identify top two policy issues for further in-depth discussion at future sessions with staff research and analysis.
- Agreement on standing meetings for on-going discussion of issues.

Participants

Elected/Designated Representatives

- Mayor John Marchand, Livermore
- Council Member-elect Stephen Spedowski, Livermore
- Council Member Karla Brown, Pleasanton
- Council Member Harry Sachs, San Ramon
- President Georgean Vonheeder-Leopold, DSRSD
- Director Richard Halket, DSRSD
- Vice President Sarah Palmer, Zone 7
- Director Bill Stevens, Zone 7
- Director Dick Quigley, Zone 7
- Frank Vallejo, General Manager Cal Water-Livermore

Staff

- Daniel Smith, Operations Services Director, Pleasanton
- Bert Michalczyk, General Manager, DSRSD
- Dan Gallagher, Operations Manager, DSRSD
- Brian Bornstein, City Engineer, San Ramon
- Roger Bradley, Assistant to the City Manager, Dublin
- Dan McIntyre, Public Works Director, Livermore
- Darren Greenwood, Assistant Public Works Director (Operations Manager), Livermore
- Jill Duerig, General Manager, Zone 7

Large Group Discussion of List of Priority Issues

In order to debrief the group on the progress made during the previous water policy roundtable held on September 27, 2014, the facilitator Pat O'Keeffe reviewed the list of nine policy issues generated during that discussion (see Attachment A).

In order to prepare a more consolidated list of policy issues for the discussion on November 17, 2014, staff of the represented agencies refined the list of policy issues into six major issue areas:

A. Improved reliability through diversification of supply, storage, and facilities

Possible examples:

- Interties with adjacent agencies
- Partnerships for regional storage projects such as Los Vaqueros
- Expanded use of Lake Del Valle
- Early acquisition of Chain of Lake(s) for surface storage
- Investment in regional desalination projects
- Long and short term water transfer agreements with other agencies

B. Increased use of recycled water

Possible examples:

- Minimize export of wastewater from the Valley
- Seasonal storage of water normally exported through LAVWMA for use in the summer
- Extension of irrigation-based recycled water systems to the maximum extent feasible
- Appropriate indirect potable re-use of reverse osmosis treated water (groundwater injection or other methods, etc.)

C. Increased “structural” conservation

Possible examples:

- Gray water systems for new construction where appropriate
- Rebates for conversions to gray water systems for existing users
- Rebates for installation of rainwater capture systems



D. Planned growth to proceed when reliability criteria are being met*Possible examples:*

- Standardized and consistent conclusions regarding water reliability
- Standardized and consistent water supply mitigation measures for environmental review documents

E. Coordinated legislative and regulatory outreach and lobbying to enhance Valley water*Possible examples:*

- Coordinated support for agency grant applications for water reliability projects
- Influence Department of Water Resources to improve water reliability
- Work cooperatively with the State for relaxation of affordable housing mandates that affect water supply and reliability

F. Governance changes that lead to or are needed for implementation of the above policy points

To begin group discussions, facilitator Pat O’Keeffe asked participants to share their feedback on these six major policy areas. Comments included:

- For issue area A, the issue statement should more explicitly say that improving reliability is important during non-drought as well as drought periods.
- For issue area C, examples should address the crumbling infrastructure more clearly.
- For issue area D, the term “reliability criteria” should be more prominent.
- For issue area E, “affordable housing” should not be called out in the example, because lower-income housing developments typically have less landscaping and have lower impacts on water demand.
- Not represented in this list of issues: the importance of minimizing large projects with extensive landscaping or a moratorium on all new connections.
- Not represented in this list of issues: Water reliability is important for wet and dry periods. After all, 80% of water is imported and we may not have a place to put it.

Participants were invited to further discuss the issues in small groups and were also asked to rank each of the six items in order of importance. The results of each group’s ranking is documented in Table 1, with “1” being the most important priority for the roundtable to discuss and “6” being the least important priority.



Table 1. Workshop Participant Rankings of Major Policy Issue Areas

Major Policy Issue Area	Group 1 Ranking	Group 2 Ranking	Group 3 Ranking	Average Ranking
A. Improved reliability through diversification of supply, storage, and facilities	1	2	1	1.3
B. Increased use of recycled water	2	1	2	1.6
C. Increased “structural” conservation	5	4	4	4.3
D. Planned growth to proceed when reliability criteria are being met	3	5	5	4.3
E. Coordinated legislative and regulatory outreach and lobbying to enhance Valley water	6	3	6	5.0
F. Governance changes that lead to or are needed for implementation of the above policy points	4	6	3	4.3

Based on these group rankings, the two highest priority issue areas to discuss first are:

1. *Issue area A.* Improved reliability through diversification of supply, storage and facilities.
2. *Issue area B.* Increased use of recycled water.

During the large group discussion on priorities among these six issue areas, each group mentioned that areas A and B were assuredly the top priorities on the list. Some specific comments provided by each group are listed below.

Group 1 Comments

- An important part of issue area A is to establish a shared definition for what water reliability means.
- Issue areas C through F were less important priorities than A and B.
- Issue area F may be needed for implementation.

Group 2 Comments

- It was very easy to pick issue areas A and B as the top priorities; there was a large gap between these and the others.
- Issue area B was selected as their top priority because they have more local control over recycled water, and it seems like a good time to focus on this item in light of the bond money that will be available.
- Issue area E is high on the priority list because it does not require project design or complicated steps such as an environmental impact report (EIR).
- Issue area C is characterized by local control and many opportunities, such as policies to enforce “net neutral” on water for new developments.
- Issue area D was less urgent than the others.
- Issue area F was last, because until we figure out the other items, the governance question cannot be answered.



Group 3 Comments

- Issue areas A and B were easily the top priorities.
- Revise issue area A to say: “Improved reliability through diversification and improvement of supply, storage and facilities.”
- Revise issue area F to incorporate collaboration models beyond a joint powers authority (JPA), which may include project-focused collaboration, coordinated legislative advocacy, as well as organizational models such as the Livermore-Amador Valley Water Management Agency (LAVWMA) or the Tri-Valley Transportation Council (TVTC). The idea is to “speak with one voice and one check book.”
- Revise the example under issue area E to strike out “affordable housing.”

Group Consensus on Subsequent Meetings

As a result of workshop discussions, the group agreed to continue meeting every two months for at least two additional meetings.

Participants also agreed that for the next meeting (tentatively planned for late January) the roundtable participants would focus on the topic of improving reliability. Staff from each represented agency will collaborate to prepare high-level background information on different policy alternatives that will improve water reliability for the region. Staff reports will focus on the feasibility of each policy alternative, but are not expected to present specific details regarding costs.

Bike Rack

The group reviewed items placed on the bike rack during the last roundtable meeting on September 17, 2014 and decided that:

- Cloud seeding could be pulled from the future topics list for lack of interest.
- Prop 1 Bond Measure and the 3 groundwater bills could be pulled from the future topics list because they have already been decided.
- Delta tunnels and the group’s stance on it will be discussed in the water reliability discussion.
- Long-term consideration of contaminants in groundwater basin will be considered when the group discusses recycled water.

Public Comment

Three members of the public provided comments, as follows:

- Armstrong Garden Center can be a great partner; they educate customers on how they can have great gardens with limited water use; they provide tips, including water techniques for low water plants.
- Armstrong Garden Center would like City and agency websites that detail water restrictions to match a little better so there is more clarity. They would like to see Cities and agencies recognize that even drought-tolerant plants need irrigation at the beginning.



- Another member of the public commented that recycled water (from waste water) may contaminate groundwater; we do not want to see recycled wastewater from the sewers.

Wrap Up Discussion

To conclude the roundtable discussions, facilitator Pat O'Keeffe asked participants to identify what they liked about the meeting. Comments included:

- Small groups discussion
- Good exchange of thoughts and ideas
- Ranked priorities, leaving a more manageable list to discuss
- Mixed up the groups allowing increased interaction



ATTACHMENT A

LIST OF TOP PRIORITY POLICY ISSUES

From September 27, 2014 Policy Roundtable #1

1. Increase sources of water supply (the diversity of supply, storage and intertie facilities with other agencies).
2. More extensive recycled water use (great deal of water still being exported via LAVWMA).
3. More aggressive conservation (water use reduction; the public is a great ally; regional options and solutions; example – water efficiency built into building code or home upgrade incentives common throughout the region).
4. Improve local storage (accelerate acquisition of Chain of Lakes, Lake Del Valle use and expansion, removal of sediment, etc.).
5. Groundwater recharge (injection with recycled water; the political issues of “toilet to tap,” desalination, etc.).
6. Influence the California State Department of Water Resources (DWR) to provide the Tri-Valley with the water it needs; ensure the DWR meets their obligations; obtain funding; lobby State legislature and staff.
7. Aggressively coordinate legislative changes on a region-wide basis (example – the existing disconnect between water scarcity and economic development and growth policy; should there be a connection?).
8. Balancing reliability and planned growth.
9. Serious consideration of governance changes (e.g., a more coordinated approach or a JPA).

