



## **Tri-Valley Water Roundtable Held September 27, 2014 Discussion Notes**

On Saturday, September 27, 2014, the Tri-Valley Water Policy Roundtable met from 9 – 11:30 am at Beeb's Sports Bar & Grill in Livermore, California. Agencies represented included the Cities of Livermore, Pleasanton, San Ramon and Dublin; Zone 7 Water Agency; Dublin San Ramon Services District; and the California Water Service Company. Pat O'Keeffe and Brittany Gabel of Management Partners served as the facilitator and recorder respectively.

Two objectives were established for the session, as follows:

- Discuss ways to enhance communication between the agencies, discuss issues and trade information.
- Identify key issues for ensuring a reliable quality water supply, for current and future users, including need for Delta water project.

### ***Participants***

#### Elected/Designated Representatives

- Mayor John Marchand, Livermore
- Council Member Doug Horner, Livermore
- Council Member Karla Brown, Pleasanton
- Council Member Kathy Narum, Pleasanton
- Council Member Harry Sachs, San Ramon
- President Georgean Vonheeder-Leopold, DSRSD
- Director Richard Halket, DSRSD
- Vice President Sarah Palmer, Zone 7
- Director Jim McGrail, Zone 7
- Director Dick Quigley, Zone 7
- Frank Vallejo, General Manager Cal Water

#### 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
- Nelson Fialho, City Manager, Pleasanton (*absent*)

## ***Large Group Consensus About Top Policy Issues***

The group identified eight issues for discussion at future Water Policy Roundtable sessions. They are not listed in priority order.

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 (investigate possibility of accelerating acquisition of Chain of Lakes, 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)

## ***What was Valuable about Today's Session?***

Several participants shared comments about what was valuable about spending time on these topics today:

- Idea sharing – a good start
- Opportunity to free-think in a roundtable
- Consensus building
- Getting the “rubber to meet the road”
- All tables came to conclusion that the water portfolio was important
- Listened to others and voiced concerns of staff and residents – we are in this together (droughts will come again in the future)

## ***Public Comment***

Four members of the public provided comments, as follows:

- More emphasis should be put on recycling (think internally to the Tri-Valley region – we need a more efficient system than carting our shower water into our gardens by hand).



- Basic concern is planned growth and reliability (commentator suggested that group should look and see if they can build purple pipes into the community; the water for the future needs to be built into the ground and someone should pay for it)
- Rebates are difficult to access and not sufficient, especially for seniors; rules are not communicated well
- Regarding the tunnels (Delta tunnels), we need to communicate that it's our water, not Southern California's

### ***Bike Rack***

These are items for future discussion.

- Cloud seeding
- Prop 1 Bond Measure
- 3 groundwater bills
- Delta tunnels – take a stance on it?
- Long-term consideration of contaminants in groundwater basin

### **Highlights of Small Group Discussions**

Water Policy Roundtable participants were divided into three small groups. Each group discussed what is working well now within the Tri-Valley area regarding water policy, brainstormed policy issues that would benefit from Tri-Valley discussion, and selected their top priorities to share with the large group.

#### **Group One**

Group one participants included:

- Elected/Designated Representatives:
  - Mayor John Marchand, Livermore
  - Council Member Karla Brown, Pleasanton
  - Director Rich Halket, DSRSD
  - Director Jim McGrail, Zone 7
- Staff
  - Darren Greenwood, Assistant Public Works Director (Operations Manager), Livermore
  - Jill Duerig, General Manager, Zone 7

### ***Working Well***

- Water conservation
  - Good for residents, businesses and agriculture (using well water from fringe basins)
  - Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) versus Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI)



- Recycled water for residents
  - Public perception has improved (but current residential recycled water is not a significant water source)
  - Pleasanton use increasing
- Zone 7 water supply planning (annual sustainability report of 5-year horizon)

### ***Policy Issues***

- High cost of added reliability projects and unknown public support (Los Vaqueros, desalination)
- How to fully utilize groundwater basin storage available
- Diversity of supply is limited
  - Out of area storage is good, but not always available
- How to take advantage of local intertie options (SFPUC, EBMUD)
  - Is water even available in a drought?
- Lack of infrastructure to “wheel” water
- Certainty of recurring drought every 15-20 years
- Growth entitlements
  - Impact on water supply
  - State housing regulations
  - General Plans
  - “Normal” planning versus drought – do we build in reliability or allow for periodic conservation or outages
- Public frustration with continued building when they’re forced to conserve
- DWR has control of system – how do we influence the state to improve O&M and possibly provide more supplies?
- Can state help with more funding/loans for increased reliability?

### ***Priorities***

- Diversity of supply
- How can tri-valley influence DWR?
- Balancing reliability and planned growth

### **Group Two Discussion**

Group two participants included:

- Elected/Designated Representatives
  - Council Member Doug Horner, Livermore
  - President Georgean Vonheeder-Leopold, DSRSD
  - Director Dick Quigley, Zone 7
- Staff
  - Dan Gallagher, Operations Manager, DSRSD
  - Roger Bradley, Assistant to the City Manager, Dublin
  - Dan McIntyre, Public Works Director, Livermore



### ***Working Well***

- Willingness to work together
- Relationships continue to improve
- Quick response and implementation
- Very good results (better than expected)
- People embraced conservation
- People expect the future to be better

### ***Policy Issues***

- Clean water revival – reuse of stormwater and wastewater for groundwater recharge
- Legislation seeks to make groundwater recharge easier to accomplish
- Couple local storage with groundwater recharge
- Groundwater recharge needed to prevent subsidence
- Need to fix the state water project conveyance system
- Raise the level in Lake Del Valle
- Evaluate accelerating the acquisition of COL (chain of lakes)

### ***Side Discussion***

*Are we willing to rely on conservation to get us through droughts?*

- Feel this is unacceptable, too big of impact on quality of life
- Is not sustainable
- Increasing the reliability of the water supply will be expensive
- Would the area's treated wastewater be enough to recharge the aquifer
- Challenge will be convincing the public that it's safe to use treated wastewater for recharge
- May need to integrate efforts on a regional basis (Tri-valley)
- Possibly use existing recycled water facilities to begin reusing Livermore-Amador Valley Water Management Agency (LAVWMA) effluent (DSRSD, Livermore, Zone 7)

### ***Priorities***

- Increase sources of water supply
- Raise Lake Del Valle
- Accelerate acquisition of chain of lakes
- Groundwater recharge

### **Group Three Discussion**

Group three participants included:

- Elected/Designated Representatives
  - Council Member Kathy Narum, Pleasanton
  - Council Member Harry Sachs, San Ramon
  - Vice President Sarah Palmer, Zone 7
  - Frank Vallejo, General Manager Cal Water



- Staff
  - Daniel Smith, Operations Services Director, Pleasanton
  - Bert Michalczyk, General Manager, DSRSD
  - Brian Bornstein, City Engineer, San Ramon

### *Working Well*

- Public conservation
- Community among agencies during drought
- Outreach/public education
- Operational cooperation (agreement)
- Recycled water partnership (Livermore, Pleasanton, DSRSD)
- Recycled water expansion planning
- Open-mindedness regarding regionalization

### *Policy Issues*

- Communication on conservation incentive programs
- Valley wide partnerships to embed conservation efforts
- Short/mid-term reliability improvements (5-10 years)
- Governance opportunities
- Explore broader regional opportunities (EBMUD, SFPUC, CCUD, etc.)
- Growth in times of drought
- Coordinated communication to State on Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) (pause or extend planning period)
- Coordinated conservation program
- Coordinated recycled water incentive program
- Future recycled water treatment for indirect potable reuse
- These issues are immediate (not 20 years down road)
- Public acceptance of recycled water
- More incentives
- Other “sources”: rainwater capture, grey water, semi-pervious surfaces (how to incentivize)
- More storage opportunities
- Water quality

### *Top Priorities*

- More aggressive “permanent” conservation (water use reduction)
- Developing and evaluating short and mid-term water supply and storage enhancements (local and regional)
- Serious consideration of governance changes (JPAs)
- Aggressive communication and coordination with legislature on relaxing policy mandates related to water



### ***Next Steps***

At the end of this part of the meeting, the group agreed that the next step would be to reconvene to discuss high-priority policy issues and to identify implementation actions.

### ***Zone 7 Presentation***

Following the policy round tables, Zone 7 General Manager Jill Duerig gave a short presentation on “Water Supply Planning and the Drought.”

### ***Adjournment***

The meeting was adjourned by Mayor Marchand at about 11:45.

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