

## Summary of Feedback Received From both MOU Signatory Survey and Public Outreach Meetings Held in Late 2011

**Overview:** This memo provides the consolidated responses from a survey made available to all Regional Water Management Group MOU signatories as well as the “take home” messages from the three public outreach meetings held in Ridgecrest, Benton, and Coleville in October 2011. This input will assist in considering how to revise and update the overall project’s objectives and corresponding resource management strategies as well as the project ranking system. The findings will be summarized at the January 23, 2012 Regional Water Management Group meeting and revisions to the overall project objectives and strategies will be considered in February.

**Question 1:** Considering the original set of identified strategic goal areas (Watershed Ecosystem Health, Water Resources, and Water and Community) and reviewing the list of objectives, do you believe the original three strategic goal areas are appropriate or should new goal statements be developed?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Goals are appropriate as is	91.7%	11
New goal statements needed	8.3%	1
<i>answered question</i>		<b>12</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>2</b>

**Question 2:** If you desire new goal statements, what suggestions do you have for what these goal statements should be?

Answer Options	Response Count
	1
<i>answered question</i>	
<i>skipped question</i>	
	<b>1</b>
	<b>13</b>

- Justice and equity in resource investment.

**Question 3:** Please review the current program objectives listed below and indicate which should be kept as currently worded, which (if any) should be deleted, and which (if any) should be revised. Please provide suggestions and/or explanations for any suggested rewording in the box below the objectives (please be sure to identify which objective you are commenting on).

Plan Objectives	Keep as currently worded	Delete entire objective	Revise / re-word objective
Objective 1: Protect, conserve, optimize, and augment water supply	9	0	1
Objective 2: Protect, restore, and enhance water quality	10	0	0
Objective 3: Provide stewardship of our natural resources	8	0	2
Objective 4: Maintain and enhance water, wastewater, and power generation infrastructure efficiency and reliability	9	0	1
Objective 5: Address climate variability and reduce greenhouse gas emissions	8	0	2
Objective 6: Increase participation of small and disadvantaged communities in IRWM process	9	0	1

- *Objective 1-"Protect, conserve, optimize, and augment water supply without further damaging ecosystem health." Explanation: Some agencies unfortunately choose to entirely remove water from an ecosystem as a means of "conserving" it. Therefore, I think we ought to clarify that conservation and optimization of water supply does not mean extirpating the endemic organisms that use it or removing it from a natural river or stream bed and putting it into a pipe so that it evaporates less. The word "further" is a possibly pessimistic acknowledgement that we're unlikely to put back the water we're removing already."*
- *Objective 3-Pretty general, Not specific to water-related issues.*
- *Objective 4-power generation does not seem appropriate.*
- *Objective 5-"address" seems to imply some specific action, maybe a bit too strongly worded."*
- *My major concern would be for providing safe drinking water. It would appear that it could fall in several of these objectives.*
- *Objective 6: suggest "Maximize" in place of increase -- as then the goal will still be relevant even when DACs are participating at level of other entities.*
- *Provide tools to maximize stewardship; and identify methods to reduce greenhouse gas emissions*

**Question 4: Objective 1: Protect, conserve, optimize, and augment water supply**

Resource Management Strategies	Keep as is	Reword	Delete
A. Improve water supply reliability	6	1	1
B. Improve system flexibility and efficiency	8	0	0
C. Support compliance with current and future state	8	0	0
D. Address local water supply issues through various	8	0	0
E. Protect and improve the quality and quantity of	7	1	0
F. Identify existing gaps in groundwater and surface	8	0	0
G. Monitor groundwater and surface water supply	7	1	0
H. Optimize existing storage capacity	8	0	1
I. Conserve and adapt water uses to future conditions	8	0	0
J. Capture and manage runoff	5	3	1
K. Incorporate and implement low-impact	8	1	0
L. Support appropriate recreational activities	6	1	1

- *A. Improving reliability has been used as an excuse to maintain a constant supply of water to some entities regardless of drought status and potential damage to ecosystems and/or less politically powerful water users. Therefore, without plenty of explanation, I'd avoid this strategy altogether.*
- *E. I'd insert "stored" in this strategy to read "Protect and improve the quality and quantity of stored groundwater supplies." Otherwise, this strategy might imply that the quantity of pumped and exported groundwater--or groundwater mining-- should be increased.*
- *J: "Capture and manage runoff" has already been pursued to powerful environmental effect in Inyo County, with impressive negative results."*
- *Improve regional water supply reliability*
- *L: Does not seem to fit with the objective"*
- *L: All the others in this objective have "water" explicitly or implicitly in the listed strategies. Could L be reworded to better indicate link to "Water supply objective?"*
- *Collect data on groundwater and surface water supply variability*
- *J: Capture and manage runoff from developed areas*
- *manage runoff, when permitted*
- *It seems that to do any of these tasks, each resource needs to be fully characterized and I do not see that specified.*

- *H: Storage capacity can be dams which can be controversial. J. How about just Manage Runoff.*
- *K: Eliminate "to reduce water demand" from sentence."*

**Question 5: Objective 2: Protect, restore, and enhance water quality**

Resource Management Strategies	Keep as is	Reword	Delete
A. Support compliance with current and future state	8	0	0
B. Improve the quality of urban runoff, storm water, and	7	1	0
C. Reduce erosion and sedimentation	8	0	0
D. Protect public and aquatic ecosystem health	8	0	0
E. Match water quality to water use	8	0	0
F. Support appropriate recreational activities	7	1	0

- B: Should this also include agricultural run-off?
- F. Again meaning is not transparent unless the link to water quality measures is made explicit -- perhaps by a "such as" clause."

**Question 6: Objective 3: Provide stewardship of our natural resources**

Resource Management Strategies	Keep as is	Reword	Delete
A. Protect, restore, and enhance natural processes,	7	1	0
B. Protect ecosystems such as upland forests and	7	1	0
C. Enhance recreational and educational	8	0	0
D. Identify, develop, and implement efforts to better	8	0	0
E. Assess ecosystem health of watersheds in the	8	0	0

- B: Protect ecosystems sensitive to adequate surface/shallow water supply
- D: Identify, protect, restore and enhance, where economically feasible

**Question 7: Objective 4: Maintain and enhance water, wastewater, and power generation infrastructure efficiency and reliability**

Resource Management Strategies	Keep as is	Reword	Delete
A. Systematically and strategically rehabilitate and	8	0	0
B. Ensure fire protection capacity	7	1	0
C. Improve energy efficiency of water systems and	8	0	0
D. Promote use of water efficiency in power generating	8	0	0

- B: perhaps add "and management" after "fire protection"

**Question 8: Objective 5: Address climate variability and reduce greenhouse gas emissions**

Resource Management Strategies	Keep as is	Reword	Delete
A. Increase understanding of water related	8	0	0
B. Manage and modify water systems to respond to	7	1	0
C. Use cleaner energy sources to move and treat	8	0	0

- B: Identify potential water system modifications to respond to increasing....

**Question 9: Objective 6: Increase participation of small and disadvantaged communities in IRWM process**

Resource Management Strategies	Keep as is	Reword	Delete
A. Engage regional communities in collaborative	8	0	0
B. Provide assistance for tribal and DAC consultation,	8	0	0

**Question 10: Are there any objectives and/or resource management strategies that you believe should be added?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	37.5%	3
No	62.5%	5
Suggested Additions		3
<i>answered question</i>		<b>8</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>6</b>

- Promote "good neighbor" practices among water agencies, organizations, and other water users within the watershed. (Explanation: there should be some way for the community as a whole to recognize both good and bad community members, to encourage good behavior by publicly acknowledging it, and to discourage bad behavior by public acknowledgement.)
- Overall objective: To assist water systems in identifying potential or existing issues that impact the environment and their users, and offer potential mitigations for their use.
- General assessments/characterizations conducted by neutral agencies on regional water resources.

**Question 11: After the most recent round of public outreach meetings, Program Staff heard about several stormwater and flood management issues throughout the planning region. Therefore, we are considering adding an objective and associated RMSs to**

**address this need. Do you agree with this addition? If so, how would you word an objective and/or RMSs related to stormwater and flood management?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	71.4%	5
No	28.6%	2
Suggestions for new objective and RMS		6
<i>answered question</i>		<b>7</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>7</b>

- Encourage the development of methods to identify flood-prone areas and strategies to reduce the impact of flooding. (This could include identifying communities where flooding is most likely to occur and developing a warning system, restoring devegetated areas, building water diversions and storage areas, etc.)
- I don't think this is as much of a regional priority as a DWR priority.
- Perhaps you could make an emergency preparedness objective with strategies for fires, droughts and floods.
- None - but should include attention to likely increased volatility of climate leading possibly to more frequent flood issues.
- How far do you or can you go?
- Characterize current stormwater and flood management issues. Prioritize current stormwater and flood management issues. Implement BMPs to improve stormwater management and outreach. Implement flood management education/outreach, flood insurance studies (new regional FEMA maps) and requirements of floodplain management regulations.

**Question 12: Do you know of any additional water-related issues within the planning region that are not covered by one of the objectives? If “yes”, what is the issue and where geographically within the planning region is it an issue?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	14.3%	1
No	85.7%	6
Description of issue and location		2
<i>answered question</i>		<b>7</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>7</b>

- Gap in balance of power between large water agencies and local agencies in both Inyo and Mono counties.
- To expand on the water quality strategy by region; there is a need for updated water filtration for drinking water in the Bridgeport area as Arsenic is an issue.

**Question 13: If you are familiar with the project ranking system used to select Phase I Implementation projects, how would you describe the process used (check the box that most closely summarizes your feelings about the process)?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Inadequate (major revisions needed)	11.1%	1
Adequate (minimal revision will suffice)	55.6%	5
Excellent (no further revision needed)	11.1%	1
Not familiar with the ranking process	22.2%	2
<i>answered question</i>		<b>9</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>5</b>

**Question 14: If you indicated in previous question that the Phase I Implementation project ranking system needs revisiting, please indicate how you think this issue can best be addressed. (check only one) Please note that the standardized ranking processes will need to incorporate and respond to specific program priorities called out in DWR PSPs.**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Development of Project Ranking Working Committee	25.0%	1
Development of standardized ranking process.	25.0%	1
Standard ranking process developed by the	25.0%	1
Standard ranking process developed by a Project	25.0%	1
Other (please specify)	0.0%	0
<i>answered question</i>		<b>4</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>10</b>

## Take-Home Messages from 2011 Outreach Meetings:

### Ridgecrest (10/17/11)

- Strong desire for increased knowledge on aquifers and overall groundwater situation as well as good working relationship between local government and China Lake NWS; need to consider whether or not aquifer test plan is viable project for Phase 2 IRWMP (**groundwater management**).
- Drinking water in certain areas is undrinkable (**water quality**).
- **Water supply** is an issue for Indian Wells Valley Water District.
- Natural conditions have been degraded from increased motorized recreation as well as increased erosion resulting from recent fires (**environmental quality**).
- Ridgecrest and the China Lake NWS have both seen significant flood damage from isolated, but severe rain in the past. Consider whether or not flood management plan is viable project for Phase 2 IRWMP (**flood protection**).

### Benton (10/19/11)

- Suspicion of DWR and overall process is strong (**human/institutional**).
- Concerns over groundwater and potential over exploitation of groundwater resources (**groundwater management**).

### Coleville (10/20/11)

- Diversion repair (infrastructure-tied directly to livelihoods as opposed to simply water delivery for domestic use) is a high priority (**private property protection and water quality**).
- Challenges are primarily in the form of funding and building/securing agreement among landowners (**human capacity/constraints**) subject to and potential beneficiaries to improved diversion.
- High levels of arsenic and uranium an issue in certain areas (**water quality**).
- Lack of human and financial resources to secure funding (**proposal writing**).
- Desire to implement and manage water infrastructure projects, particularly to help fire fighting response and to lower homeowner insurance (**human, financial and infrastructure constraints**).
- Concerns over groundwater and potential over exploitation of groundwater resources (**groundwater**-lack of knowledge and overdraft concern).
- Human constraint associated with completing permitting process (**human constraint**).
- Permitting would need to be completed for diversion work. Fisheries and habitat protection for Walker River (**Environment/Habitat health**).
- **Water quality** both in the Virginia Lakes and Bridgeport area is suspect.
- **Antiquated infrastructure**, particularly in Virginia Lakes-has imminent needs-big challenge with their current ability (**human capacity**) to secure funding and the limited time during the year to actually conduct upgrades.
- Overall lack of understanding of aquifers and groundwater connectivity (**groundwater management**).