

To: Chino Basin Watermaster Stakeholders
From: Watermaster 2020 OBMP Update Team
Subject: 2020 OBMP Update -- Listening Session #1 Memorandum
Date: February 5, 2019

The objectives of this memorandum are to summarize the information provided by the stakeholders during Listening Session #1 and provide information that will assist the stakeholders in reviewing the work products of Listening Session #1 and preparing for Listening Session #2.

Background

During 1998-2000, the Chino Basin Watermaster (Watermaster) conducted a process to develop the Chino Basin Optimum Basin Management Program (OBMP). The OBMP was developed in a collaborative public process that identified the needs and wants of all stakeholders; described the physical state of the groundwater basin; developed a set of management goals; identified impediments to those goals; described a series of actions that could be taken to remove those impediments and achieve the management goals; developed and executed agreements to implement the OBMP; and certified a programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) pursuant to CEQA.

By 2019, many of the projects and management programs envisioned in the 2000 OBMP have been implemented, while some have not. The understanding of the hydrology and hydrogeology of the Chino Basin has improved since 2000, and new water-management issues have been identified that necessitate that the plan be adapted to protect the collective interests of the Chino Basin parties and their water supply reliability. For these reasons, the Watermaster parties are updating the 2000 OBMP (2020 OBMP Update) to set the framework for the next 20 to 30 years of basin-management activities.

The 2020 OBMP Update will be conducted using a collaborative process like that employed for the development of the 2000 OBMP. A description of the development of the 2000 OBMP and the rationale for and process to prepare the 2020 OBMP Update is included in a white paper prepared for the Chino Basin stakeholders: *White Paper – 2020 Update to Chino Basin Optimum Basin Management Program* (OBMP White Paper). The OBMP White Paper, and all documents relevant to the 2020 OBMP Update, are available on the [Watermaster's ftp site](#).¹

A series of eight public listening sessions are being held by the Watermaster throughout 2019 to support the 2020 OBMP Update. The purpose of the listening sessions is to obtain information and feedback from the parties and other Chino Basin stakeholders to define the collective goals of the parties, the impediments to achieving the goals, the management actions required to remove the impediments, and an implementation plan for the management actions. Watermaster staff will provide key information prior to and during each listening session to help the parties and other stakeholders provide their input on each topic discussed. The objective is for the ideas and opinions of every stakeholder to be heard. Participation in the listening sessions is critical to the development of the 2020 OBMP Update. Watermaster held Listening Session #1 on January 15, 2019.

Summary of Listening Session #1

Listening Session #1 was a four-hour workshop broken down into three main agenda topics:

¹ https://cbwm.syncedtool.com/shares/folder/9abb162877b999/?folder_id=670

- History of the 2000 OBMP
- Rationale for the 2020 OBMP Update – Drivers, Trends, and Implications (Breakout Session)
- Rationale for the 2020 OBMP Update – Issues, Needs, and Wants (Group Participation Session)

Prior to Listening Session #1 the following materials were distributed:

- Meeting agenda
- The OBMP White Paper
- An explanation of the assignment to prepare for Listening Session #1

These materials and a copy of the presentation given during Listening Session #1 are available on the Watermaster's ftp site.

History of the 2000 OBMP

The history of the 2000 OBMP and its implementation was provided by Watermaster staff and its legal, engineering, and environmental consultants. The presentation provided detail on why the OBMP was created; the process to develop it and the associated implementation agreements and environmental review documents; the OBMP Program Elements; and the progress and accomplishments in implementing each of the OBMP Program Elements, including a discussion on what was not accomplished.

Rationale for the 2020 OBMP Update – Drivers, Trends, and Implications

As described in the OBMP White Paper, the strategic drivers and trends that shaped the OBMP in the late 1990s have since changed. Exhibit 1 in the OBMP White Paper was a first attempt to summarize the current drivers and trends shaping water management, and their basin management implications for the Chino Basin parties. "Drivers" are external forces that cause changes in the Chino Basin water space. Grouped under each driver are expected trends that emanate from that driver. The relationship of the drivers/trends to the management implications are shown by arcs that connect trends to implications.

A breakout session was held to obtain input on the proposed drivers, trends and implications in Exhibit 1. The listening session attendees were divided into four groups to discuss changes and additions to the drivers, trends and implications. Each group documented its discussion and one member of each group reported out a summary of the group discussion to all attendees. The input provided by each breakout group was used to revise Exhibit 1 (attached to this memorandum). The following are the revised implications for Basin management that form a rationale for the 2020 OBMP Update:

- Reduced recycled water availability and increased cost
- Reduced imported water availability and increased cost
- Inability to pump groundwater with existing infrastructure
- Imported water quality degradation
- Chino Basin water quality degradation
- Increased cost of groundwater use
- Reductions in Chino Basin Safe Yield
- Recycled water quality degradation
- Increased cost of Basin Plan compliance

The final version of Exhibit 1 will be included as a final deliverable of the 2020 OBMP Update. Additional comments on Exhibit 1 can be submitted in writing to Edgar Tellez-Foster (etellezfoster@cbwm.org).

Rationale for the 2020 OBMP Update – Issues, Needs, and Wants

As described in the OBMP White Paper, the issues, needs and wants of the parties will form the basis of the management goals of the 2020 OBMP Update and inform the identification of impediments to the

goals and action items to remove the impediments. A full group participation session was led by Watermaster staff to obtain feedback from the listening session attendees on their individual issues, needs and wants related to basin management. The listening session attendees articulated the issues, needs, and wants of their associated party in writing and then verbally shared with the full group. The feedback provided by the attendees was transcribed by Watermaster staff and then the needs and wants were organized into similar classes of issues. The classes of issues identified were effectively the same as the implications for basin management defined in Exhibit 1. Table 1 is a summary of the needs and wants of the parties, organized by the basin management issues. Attribution by party was assigned to each need and want.

Next Steps

The next steps in the process to develop the 2020 OBMP Update are:

1. Finalize the descriptions of issues, needs, and wants for basin management in Table 1.
2. Describe the goals for the 2020 OBMP Update, and impediments to achieving the goals.

OBMP Goals and Impediments

For the 2000 OBMP, the Chino Basin stakeholders established four management goals for the OBMP that addressed the issues, needs, and wants of the parties:

Enhance Basin Water Supplies. The intent of the goal was to increase the volumes and variety of available water supplies. This goal applied not only to local groundwater, but also to all sources of water available to the parties (*e.g.*, recycled, imported).

Protect and Enhance Water Quality. The intent of the goal was to ensure the protection of the long-term beneficial uses of the groundwater basin.

Enhance Management of the Basin. The intent of the goal was to encourage stable, creative, sustainable and fair water resources management for broad mutual benefit to all stakeholders and avoidance of undesirable results.

Equitably Finance the OBMP. The intent of the goal was to identify and use efficient and equitable methods to fund OBMP implementation.

While these general goals are as valid today as they were in 2000, it was apparent from the discussions of issues, needs, and wants at Listening Session #1 that the impediments to achieving the goals have changed and that the stakeholders have more focused goals for basin management. The focus of the next two listening sessions will be to identify the issues/needs/wants that are common to most stakeholders and to define focused goal statements and the impediments to achieving the goals. Listed below are four example goals, based on common issues/needs/wants, for the 2020 OBMP Update. Below each goal are some examples of the impediments to achieving the goals, and actions to remove the impediments. The impediments listed are not exhaustive.

Goal #1: Be able to rely on local supplies to meet potable demands for a [6, 12, 18, 24-month] period in the event of a [short-term, long-term] outage of imported water supply.

Impediments to achieving the goal:

- The current capacity to rely on groundwater during these periods is constrained by insufficient pumping capacity, insufficient conveyance, poor quality, and subsidence.
- Exercising storage in the Chino Basin as a way of enhancing local water-supply reliability can cause undesirable results such as subsidence and loss of yield.

Actions to remove impediments and achieve the goal:

- Develop a Storage Management Plan (SMP) to define how to utilize storage without causing undesirable results.
- Build the production, conveyance and treatment facilities necessary to meet demands and operate in accordance with the SMP.

Goal #2: Avoid shutdown of groundwater production facilities due to existing or potential new water-quality regulations.

Impediment to achieving the goal: Insufficient treatment and brine disposal capacity.

Action to remove impediment and achieve the goal: Build conveyance and regional treatment facilities (with ability to expand, if necessary) to treat current and potential future contaminants of concern.

Goal #3: Optimize the use of unused storage space in the Basin by implementing storage and recovery programs.

Impediment to achieving the goal: Exercising storage in the Chino Basin can cause undesirable results such as subsidence and loss of yield.

Action to remove impediment and achieve the goal: Develop a Storage Management Plan (SMP) to define how to utilize storage without causing undesirable results.

Goal #4: Fund [X%] of the implementation of the OBMP Update with supplemental resources, such as grants, low-interest loans, or outside funding partners.

Impediment to achieving the goal: Competition for future grant funding will be fierce; success in obtaining grant funding is uncertain.

Recommended Preparation for Listening Session #2

1. Review the Issues, Needs, and Wants matrix in Table 1. Ensure that the feedback you reported at Listening Session #1 was accurately captured. Come to Listening Session #2 prepared to provide your feedback and add your party's attribution to the needs or wants identified by others, if you deem appropriate. The intent is to finalize Table 1 and use it to identify the specific concerns shared by most stakeholders. These common concerns will serve as that starting point for defining goals for the 2020 OBMP Update.
2. Based on your review of this memo and Table 1, come prepared to suggest and formulate goals for the 2020 OBMP Update and the impediments to achieving those goals.