

To: Chino Basin Watermaster Stakeholders
From: Watermaster 2020 OBMP Update Team
Subject: 2020 OBMP Update -- Listening Session #3 Memorandum
Date: May 9, 2019

The objectives of this memorandum are to summarize the information provided by the stakeholders during Listening Session #3 and provide information that will assist the stakeholders in reviewing the work products of Listening Session #3 and preparing for Listening Session #4.

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 OBMP be updated to protect the collective interests of the Chino Basin stakeholders 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 is being 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 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, ideas, and feedback from the Chino Basin stakeholders to define their collective goals, the impediments to achieving the goals, the management actions required to remove the impediments, and an implementation plan for the management actions. Watermaster staff is providing key information prior to and during each listening session to enable the stakeholders to 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 #3 on March 21, 2019. Prior to Listening Session #3, the *Listening Session #2 Memorandum* was distributed which summarized: the feedback received during Listening Session #2, how the feedback will be used for 2020 OBMP Update, and the recommended preparation for Listening Session #3. The PowerPoint presentation given at the meeting is available on the [Watermaster's ftp site](#).¹

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

Summary of Listening Session #3

Listening Session #3 was a three-hour workshop broken down into two main agenda topics:

- Discussion and feedback on the recommendation that the 2020 OBMP Update goals are the same as the 2000 OBMP goals (OBMP goals survey)
- Update and refinement of the types of activities that will be considered for inclusion in the 2020 OBMP Update (OBMP activities group breakout session)

OBMP goals survey

As discussed in the *Listening Session #2 Memorandum*, the stakeholder input provided in Listening Sessions #1 and #2 indicated that the goals defined in the 2000 OBMP are still relevant today. Based on the assessment of stakeholder input, the 2020 OBMP Update Team proposed maintaining the 2000 OBMP goals in the 2020 OBMP Update and drafted a statement of intent for each goal. During Listening Session #3, the 2020 OBMP Update Team gave a presentation to explain how the stakeholder input was used to conclude the goals remain the same and explained that the next step was to obtain feedback on these recommended goals and intents. The goals and intents presented during Listening Session #3 were:

Goal No. 1 - Enhance Basin Water Supplies. The intent of this goal is to increase available water supplies for all the stakeholders that rely on the Chino Basin and to improve supply reliability.

This goal applies to Chino Basin groundwater, to other sources of water available to the OBMP stakeholders, and to the optimized use of Chino Basin storage to regulate the variability of the available water supplies and improve supply reliability.

Goal No. 2 - Protect and Enhance Water Quality. The intent of this goal is to ensure the protection of the long-term beneficial uses of Chino Basin groundwater.

Goal No. 3 - Enhance Management of the Basin. The intent of this goal is to encourage stable, creative, sustainable and fair water resources management for broad mutual benefit to all stakeholders and avoidance of undesirable results.

Goal No. 4 - Equitably Finance the OBMP. The intent of this goal is to identify and use efficient and equitable methods to fund OBMP implementation.

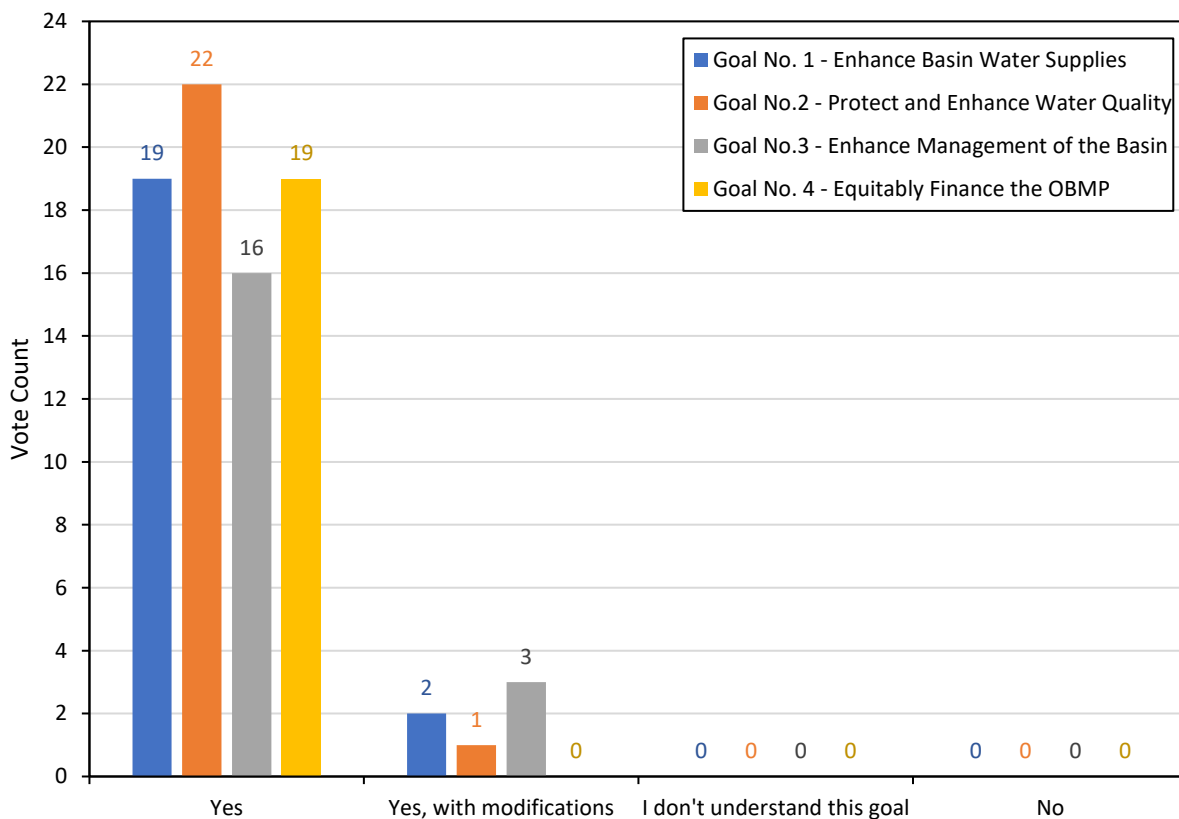
Following the presentation, the participants at Listening Session #3 participated in a live web-supported survey on the goals and their intents. There were a total of five questions. For each of the four goals, the participants were presented the following question and multiple-choice answers:

- Do you think this goal is still relevant?
- A) Yes
 - B) Yes, with modifications
 - C) No
 - D) I don't understand this activity

The survey also included the question: "Are there more goals that should be added?"

The results of the survey for the first four questions are shown in the bar chart below.

Results of Goals Survey -- Do you think this goal is still relevant?



As shown in the chart, all survey respondents indicated that the goals are still relevant today, and some respondents thought that Goals No. 1, 2 and 3 were still relevant but should be modified. The latter respondents were asked to explain their suggested modifications, resulting in a group discussion on the goal, the intent statement, and the respondents’ concern. A summary of the discussion for each goal is summarized below:

Goal No. 1 - Enhance Basin Water Supplies. The meeting participants that spoke about potential modifications to Goal No. 1 voiced the following suggestions/concerns/questions:

- The goal could be construed as Watermaster attempting to manage water supplies outside Chino Basin groundwater, and therefore acting outside its purview.

Following explanation by two participants as to the consistency of the Watermaster’s role in enhancing water supplies in the context of the Judgment and the 2000 OBMP, Watermaster legal counsel explained that Watermaster is responsible for ensuring that (1) the parties are able to meet their demands using Chino Basin groundwater and (2) sufficient water is available for replenishment if these demands result in overproduction; therefore, it is within Watermaster’s purview to enhance water supplies outside Chino Basin groundwater. Another participant indicated that the implementation agreement will identify roles and responsibilities for implementing the OBMP activities and that through this agreement it could/will be made clear that Watermaster is not taking on a role that is beyond its purview.

- Should storage be listed as source of supply in the intent goal? It seems management of storage is a function of Goal No. 3.

Goal No. 2 - Protect and Enhance Water Quality. The meeting participants who spoke about potential modifications to Goal No. 2 voiced the following suggestions/concerns/questions:

- Should the word “enhance” be added to the intent statement?

During the discussion, participants who spoke indicated that “enhance” was already explicitly used in the Goal statement and it did not need to be added to the intent.

Goal No. 3 - Enhance Management of the Basin. The meeting participants who spoke about potential modifications to Goal No. 3 voiced the following suggestions/concerns/questions:

- The descriptors used in the intent statement, such as “fair” and “broad mutual benefit” were unclear and unnecessary.

During the discussion, the participants who spoke suggested: that words with imprecise meaning should not be used; that keeping the goals broader in scope by removing these qualifiers is the best approach; and that the specificity of “benefits” will be addressed in the activities or implementation plans.

Goal No. 4 - Equitably Finance the OBMP. The meeting participants who spoke about potential modifications to Goal No. 4 voiced the following suggestions/concerns/questions:

- Are the terms “efficient” and “equitable” in the intent statement at odds with each other? What is the definition of efficient?

The OBMP Update Team explained that an example of “efficient” method to fund OBMP implementation is partnering with IEUA to obtain grant funding to implement projects, and that this was done successfully in implementing the 2000 OBMP.

For the survey question regarding addition of new goals for the 2020 OBMP Update, two out of 19 survey respondents voted “Yes.” The meeting participants who spoke offered the following input:

- Should we consider integrating the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) regulations with the 2020 OBMP Update goals?

During the discussion, the participants who spoke suggested that Goal No. 3 is encompassing of the SGMA regulations, but that it may be helpful to include language about “maintaining local control” of the groundwater basin in the intent of Goal No. 3.

- Should there be a goal related to regional collaboration?

During the discussion, the participants who spoke pointed out that regional collaboration is implied within Goals No. 1 and No. 3, so a separate goal is not needed.

- Participants also provided additional thoughts that should be considered by the stakeholders in the development of the 2020 OBMP Update, but not explicitly written as goals or intents of goals:
 - The OBMP Update activities should ensure Watermaster’s engagement on issues related to the Santa Ana River, which is a significant source of supply to the Basin.
 - The participants should strive for collaboration and openness to avoid conflict.

Based on the feedback from the goals survey during Listening Session #3, the recommended 2020 OBMP Update goals and intents are:

Goal No. 1 - Enhance Basin Water Supplies. The intent of this goal is to increase the water supplies available for Chino Basin parties and improve water supply reliability. This goal applies to Chino Basin groundwater and all other sources of water available for beneficial use.

Goal No.2 - Protect and Enhance Water Quality. The intent of this goal is to ensure the protection of the long-term beneficial uses of Chino Basin groundwater.

Goal No.3 - Enhance Management of the Basin. The intent of this goal is to encourage sustainable management of the Chino Basin to avoid material physical injury, promote local control, and improve water-supply reliability for the benefit of all Chino Basin parties.

Goal No. 4 - Equitably Finance the OBMP. The intent of this goal is to identify and use efficient and equitable methods to fund OBMP implementation.

OBMP activities group breakout session

During Listening Session #3, the meeting attendees participated in a breakout activity to review and provide feedback on the list of 10 new and revised activities for potential inclusion in the 2020 OBMP Update. The activities are shown in Table 2b, attached. These activities are based on the input provided by breakout groups during Listening Session #2, as documented in the Listening Session #2 memo. The Listening Session #3 participants were divided into six groups and each group was asked to:

1. Review a subset of the 10 activities (A through J) and suggest modifications to better address the needs and wants of the Chino Basin stakeholders, if necessary.
2. Review a subset of the issues, needs and wants (INWs) of the Chino Basin stakeholders to assess which of the ten activities address each need and want, and if any are not addressed by the activities, to suggest additional activities for consideration in the 2020 OBMP Update.

Table 1 shows the participants' assessment of which activities address each INW. Two new activities were defined by one of the breakout groups:

- K. Develop a management strategy within the Salt and Nutrient Management Plan to ensure ability to comply with dilution requirements for recycled water recharge.
- L. Perform the appropriate amount of monitoring and reporting required for basin management and regulatory compliance.

The 2020 OBMP Update team compiled the feedback from the breakout session and revised the list of activities for consideration in the 2020 OBMP Update. The revised list of activities was distributed to the Chino Basin stakeholders in the form of a survey to obtain additional feedback. The results of the survey and the complete list of activities is described below.

Follow-up survey on 2020 OBMP activities

The objective of this survey was to obtain feedback on the revised list of activities for consideration in the 2020 OBMP Update. For each activity, the survey asked:

- (1) Do you think this activity should be considered for inclusion in the 2020 OBMP Update?
 - A) Yes
 - B) Yes, with modifications
 - C) No
 - D) I don't understand this activity
- (2) If you answered C or D, please explain

Based on the feedback from the survey as of May 3, 2019, six out of six survey respondents answered “A) Yes” for all activities except Activity F: *Develop strategic regulatory-compliance solutions that achieve multiple benefits in managing water quality*. For Activity F, five out of six survey respondents thought that it should be included in the 2020 OBMP Update, and one participant responded that they did not understand the meaning of “strategic regulatory compliance solution.”

Based on the input provided by the parties, the 2020 OBMP Update Team’s understanding of the scope of Activity F is to develop solutions to comply with evolving and more stringent drinking-water standards. Specifically, that the 2020 OBMP Update should explore regional, collaborative solutions that address multiple water-quality and water-supply issues.

Based on the feedback from the survey as of May 3, 2019, the recommended list of activities is:

- A. Construct new facilities and improve existing facilities to increase the capacity to store and recharge surface water, particularly in areas of the basin that will promote the long-term balance of recharge and discharge
- B. Develop, implement, and optimize storage-and-recovery programs to increase water-supply reliability, protect or enhance Safe Yield, and improve water quality
- C. Identify and implement regional conveyance and treatment projects/programs to enable all stakeholders to exercise their pumping rights and minimize land subsidence
- D. Maximize the reuse of recycled water produced by IEUA and others
- E. Develop and implement a water-quality management plan to address current and future water-quality issues and protect beneficial uses
- F. Develop strategic regulatory-compliance solutions that achieve multiple benefits in managing water quality
- G. Optimize the use of all sources of water supply by improving the ability to move water across the basin and among stakeholders, prioritizing the use of existing infrastructure
- H. Develop an equitable distribution of costs/benefits of the OBMP Update and include in the OBMP update agreements
- I. Develop regional partnerships to implement the OBMP Update and reduce costs and include in OBMP Update agreement
- J. Continue to identify and pursue low-interest loans and grants or other external funding sources to support the implementation of the OBMP Update. An example of such an effort is the Chino Basin Project
- K. Develop a management strategy within the Salt and Nutrient Management Plan to ensure ability to comply with dilution requirements for recycled water recharge
- L. Perform the appropriate amount of monitoring and reporting required for basin management and regulatory compliance

Nexus between the 2020 OBMP Update Goals, their impediments, and the activities recommended for consideration

Thus far through the Listening Session process, the following has been completed:

- Defined the drivers, trends and implications for Basin management that identify the need for the 2020 OBMP Update (see attached Exhibit 1).
- Defined the needs and wants of the Chino Basin stakeholders, categorized by the Basin management issues derived from the drivers and trends analysis (see attached Table 1).
- Defined the goals of the 2020 OBMP Update, which are the same as the goals of the 2000 OBMP (refer to discussion above in this memo).
- Defined a set of activities for consideration in the 2020 OBMP Update that address the common needs and wants of the Chino Basin stakeholders (refer to discussion above in this memo).

There are physical, institutional, and financial impediments to achieving the goals of the 2020 OBMP. The issues, needs, and wants of the stakeholders shown in Table 1 explicitly recognize these impediments to achieving the goals and the stakeholders have identified the activities that could remove these impediments to achieve the goals.

Based on the feedback obtained from Listening Sessions #1 through #3, the 2020 OBMP Update Team drafted an exhibit to show the nexus of all this information. Table 3 lists the goals, the impediments to achieving these goals, the activities to remove the impediments, and the expected outcome or the implications of implementing those activities. Table 3 also shows the nexus of each activity to the Basin management issues defined in Exhibit 1.

Next Steps

The next step in the process to develop the 2020 OBMP Update is to (1) define the action plans required to perform the activities and (2) prepare reconnaissance-level engineering cost estimates of the action plans. This information will be documented in a technical memorandum (OBMP Update Technical Memorandum #1 [OBMP TM1]). OBMP TM1 will be circulated for review and subsequently refined and formulated into a recommended implementation plan (OBMP TM2) over a series of Listening Sessions with the stakeholders. The draft outline of OBMP TM1 and TM2 is attached herein.

Recommended Preparation for Listening Session #4

1. Review Table 3 and be prepared to provide feedback. The intent is to ensure that the feedback from the stakeholders over the last three Listening Sessions has been captured and is complete enough to prepare OBMP TM1.
2. Review the draft outline of OBMP TM1. The 2020 OBMP Update team will provide an overview of the outline at LS4 and will describe an example out how the activities will be characterized in OBMP TM1.