



2020

Optimum Basin Management Program Update

Background

The Chino Basin Judgment gave the Chino Basin Watermaster (Watermaster) the discretionary authority to develop an Optimum Basin Management Program (OBMP) for the Chino Basin, including both water quantity and quality considerations. Watermaster, with direction from the Court, began the development of the OBMP in 1998 and completed it in July 2000. 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 thereby achieve the management goals; developed and executed agreements to implement the OBMP; and certified a programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) pursuant to CEQA with IEUA as the lead agency.

By 2019, many of the projects and management programs envisioned in the 2000 OBMP have been implemented, while some have not. The OBMP goals have been partially achieved. 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 adapted to protect the collective interests of the Chino Basin parties and their water supply reliability. For these reasons, the Watermaster parties are preparing a 2020 OBMP Update to set the framework for the next 20 to 30 years of basin-management activities.

2020 OBMP Update Goals



Enhance Basin
Water Supplies



Protect and Enhance
Water Quality



Enhance Management of
the Basin



Equitably Finance the
OBMP

2020 OBMP Update Listening Sessions

Listening Session 1 (January 15, 2019):

- History of the OBMP and its implementation
- Rationale for an OBMP Update

Listening Session 2 (February 12, 2019):

- Drivers, Trends and Implications for Basin Management
- Issues, Needs and Wants of the Stakeholders

Listening Session 3 (March 21, 2019):

- Review of OBMP Goals in 2000
- Review of OBMP Goals in 2020
- Activities of the OBMP

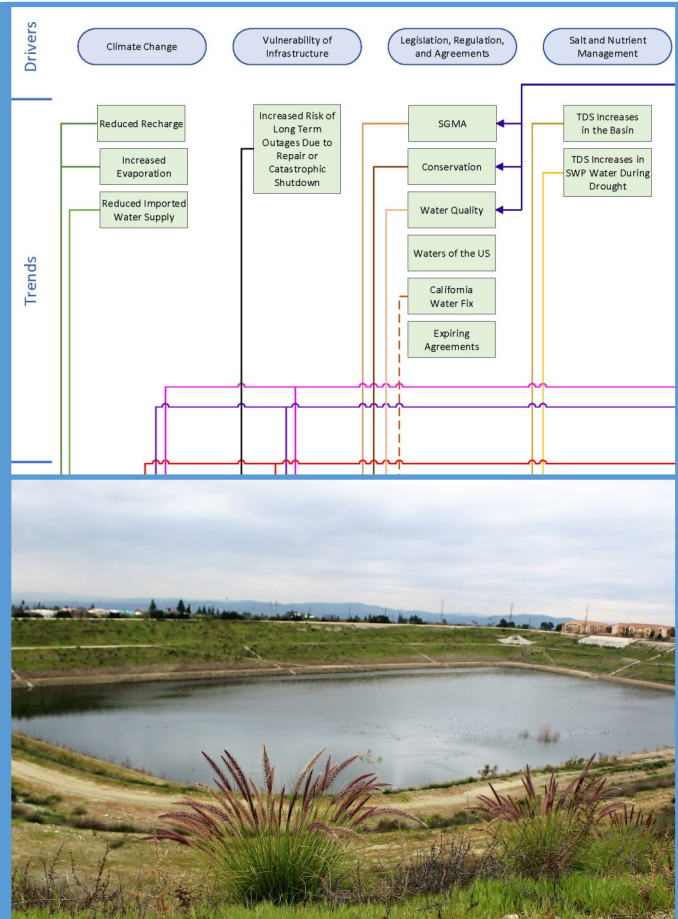
Listening Session 4 (May 16, 2019):

- Activities, Nexus and Outcomes

Listening Session 5 (July 31, 2019)

Listening Session 6

Listening Session 7



Activities Being Considered for the 2020 OBMP Update

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

Monthly Update

The 2020 OBMP Update is being conducted using a collaborative stakeholder process like that employed for the development of the 2000 OBMP. 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 issues needs and wants, their collective goals for the 2020 OBMP Update, the impediments to achieving the goals, the management actions required to remove the impediments, and an implementation plan for the management actions. The objective is for the ideas and opinions of every stakeholder to be heard and considered.

Thus far through the Listening Session process, the Chino Basin stakeholders have achieved the following:

1. Drivers, Trends, and Implications for Basin Management. The stakeholders identified the drivers and trends in today’s water management space that will challenge the ability of the parties to protect their collective interests in the Chino Basin and their water supply reliability. The drivers and trends have basin management implications that are forming the rationale for updating the OBMP:

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

2. Goals of the 2020 OBMP Update. The stakeholders articulated their issues, needs and wants, which formed the basis of the management goals of the 2020 OBMP Update. A total of 57 unique needs and wants were identified by the Chino Basin stakeholders. Through this process, the stakeholders concluded that the goals of the 2000 OBMP are still relevant today and should be the goals of the 2020 OBMP Update. The stakeholders developed a statement of intent for each goal:

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.

3. Activities of the 2020 OBMP Update. There are physical, institutional, and financial impediments to achieving the goals of the 2020 OBMP Update. The stakeholders identified and described 12 activities to remove these impediments and achieve the goals. These activities will be considered for inclusion in the 2020 OBMP Update.

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.

TM1 will be released to the Chino Basin stakeholders for review in two parts. This first part includes the description of the first four activities: A, B, D, and E/F. The second part includes the description of the remaining four activities and will be released in August 2019.

2020 OBMP Update Process



Timeline

