

To: Chino Basin Watermaster Stakeholders
From: Watermaster 2020 OBMP Update Team
Subject: 2020 OBMP Update -- Listening Session #2 Memorandum
Date: March 14, 2019

The objectives of this memorandum are to summarize the information provided by the stakeholders during Listening Session #2 and provide information that will assist the stakeholders in reviewing the work products of Listening Session #2 and preparing for Listening Session #3.

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 #2 on February 12, 2019. Prior to Listening Session #2, the *Listening Session #1 Memorandum* was distributed which summarized: the feedback received during Listening Session #1, how the feedback will be used for 2020 OBMP Update, and the recommended preparation for Listening Session #2.

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

Summary of Listening Session #2

Listening Session #2 was a three-hour workshop broken down into two main agenda topics:

- Update and refinement of the issues, needs, and wants of the Chino Basin stakeholders (individual breakout activity)
- Development of draft goals for the 2020 OBMP Update (group breakout session)

Update and refinement of the Issues, Needs, and Wants of the Chino Basin Stakeholders

As described in the OBMP White Paper, the issues, needs and wants of the stakeholders 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. The issues, needs and wants were first discussed in Listening Session #1: the listening session attendees articulated the issues, needs, and wants of their associated party in writing and then verbally shared with the full group. Following Listening Session #1, the 167 individual issues, needs and wants provided by the attendees were transcribed by Watermaster staff and then combined into a list of 55 unique needs and wants. The needs and wants were then reviewed and categorized into nine classes of basin management issues:

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

A draft matrix was then developed to show attribution of the needs and wants by party/stakeholder. This matrix was circulated for review, editing, and comment as part of the *Listening Session #1 Memorandum*.

The OBMP Update Team gave a presentation to explain the process to develop the draft matrix and explained that the next step is to identify the needs and wants that are common to most stakeholders. These common needs and wants will serve as the starting point for defining goals for the 2020 OBMP Update. Following the presentation, the participants at Listening Session #2 were asked to circulate the room to review poster-sized versions of the matrix to: (1) confirm that attribution for their party's needs and wants were appropriately assigned, (2) revise the needs and want statements as needed to accurately describe their needs and wants, and (3) add their party's attribution to the needs and wants identified by others. Members participating by phone were asked to email their comments and input.

Table 1 (attached) is the revised matrix of the issues, needs and wants of the Chino Basin Stakeholders, inclusive of all feedback provided by stakeholders prior to, during, and following Listening Session #2. Additional edits to the matrix can be submitted via email to Edgar Tellez-Foster (etellezfoster@cbwm.org).

Discussion of Goals for the 2020 OBMP Update

The OBMP Update Team provided an overview of the goals of the 2000 OBMP, which were:

1. **Enhance Basin Water Supplies**
2. **Protect and Enhance Water Quality**
3. **Enhance Management of the Basin**

4. *Equitably Finance the OBMP*

These goals were based on the then-current issues, needs and wants of the Chino Basin stakeholders and included associated activities that would be needed to achieve the goals. Using a similar transparent process as is being employed now for the 2020 OMPU Update, the stakeholders defined the impediments to the goals and activities and the specific actions required to remove the impediments and achieve the goals. The actions were formed into the 2000 OBMP implementation plan.

During Listening Session #2, a group breakout session was held to obtain input on defining goals for the 2020 OBMP Update based on the issues, needs, and wants of the stakeholders. The meeting attendees were divided into six groups. Each group was assigned to one or multiple of the nine “basin management issues” and their associated needs and wants. Each group was asked to:

1. Identify the needs and wants that are common to most stakeholders.
2. Define one or more goals or activities for the 2020 OBMP Update to address the most common needs and wants.

Following the group breakout session, one member from each group reported on the group’s discussions and ideas for goals and activities. Table 2 (attached) lists the stakeholder input presented by the breakout groups for goals and activities, categorized by basin management issues.

Proposed Goals for the 2020 OBMP Update

The feedback and input provided by the stakeholders during Listening Session #2 was used by The OBMP Update Team to develop proposed goals and their associated activities for the 2020 OBMP Update for review and discussion at Listening Session #3. The process followed to develop the proposed goals and activities included:

- An assessment of alignment of the stakeholder input in Tables 1 and 2 with the goals of the 2000 OBMP.
- An assessment of alignment of the basin management goals and activities in Table 2 with the needs and wants in Table 1.

The stakeholder input shown in Tables 1 and 2 indicates that the 2000 OBMP goals are still relevant today. To illustrate, Tables 1 and 2 each contain a column entitled “Alignment with 2000 OBMP Goal(s).” In both tables, the column indicates which of the four goals from the 2000 OBMP is in alignment with each line item of input provided, if applicable. Every need and want listed in Table 1 can be addressed through activities that are consistent with the 2000 OBMP goals. And, every activity described in Table 2 is in alignment with one or more of the 2000 OBMP goals. For this reason, we recommend that the goals for the 2020 OBMP Update are the same as the goals for the 2000 OBMP. While we propose that the goals for the 2020 OBMP Update are unchanged, the activities and implementation plan defined in 2000 need to be refined for the 2020 OBMP Update.

Our assessment of the stakeholder input for basin management goals and activities in Table 2 indicates that most of the issues, needs and wants described in Table 1 would be addressed by the activities. To illustrate, a column entitled “Addressed by Activities in Table 2” was added to Table 1. This column indicates which of the 17 activities listed in Table 2 have the potential to address each need and want. There are seven needs and wants in Table 1 that may not be addressed by the activities in Table 2 – additional activities may need to be considered to address these needs.

Based on our assessment, we propose the following set of goals and associated activities for the 2020 OBMP Update. For each goal, the following information is described: a statement of intent (relevant to

2000 and 2020), what has been accomplished to achieve the goal during the last 19 years of OBMP implementation, and a list of the proposed new or modified activities for to achieve the goals. The list of activities is based on the input in Table 2 (the number in parentheses following the activity description matches with the identification number shown in the first column the stakeholder input in Table 2).

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.

Since the implementation of the 2000 OBMP, Watermaster and the OBMP stakeholders have completed or are currently implementing the following activities that enhance basin water supplies:

- constructed recharge projects to offset the stormwater recharge lost due to channel lining, increase Safe Yield, and ensure that there will be enough supplemental water recharge capacity to satisfy replenishment obligations;
- expanded the recharge and direct reuse of recycled water;
- constructed the Chino Basin desalters to recover contaminated groundwater in the southern part of the basin and to maintain the Safe Yield that would have otherwise been reduced due to the land use transition from agricultural to urban uses;
- recalculated the Safe Yield for the period 2011 through 2020; and
- started the process to recalculate the Safe Yield for 2021 through 2030.

The proposed new or modified activities to enhance basin water supplies to address the issues, needs and wants identified by the stakeholders in Listening Sessions 1 and 2 are based on the input in Table 2 and include:

- Construct new recharge facilities to increase the capacity for stormwater and recycled water recharge and provide recharge capacity in areas of the basin necessary to ensure long-term balance of recharge and discharge (1, 4 and 9).
- Develop and implement storage-and-recovery programs to increase water supply reliability, increase Safe Yield, and improve water quality (1, 2 and 3).
- Develop and implement regional conveyance and treatment programs to enable all stakeholders to exercise their pumping rights and minimize land subsidence (7, 12 and 13).
- Maximize the reuse of recycled water produced by IEUA and others (10 and 11).

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.

Since the implementation of the 2000 OBMP, Watermaster and the OBMP stakeholders have completed or are currently implementing the following activities to protect and enhance water quality:

- initiated a comprehensive basin-wide water-quality monitoring program;
- collaborated with the Regional Board in its efforts to facilitate the cleanup of groundwater contamination in the basin;
- developed an innovative salt and nutrient management plan to enable the use of recycled water that reduced treatment requirements without adversely impacting beneficial uses;
- constructed and operated the Chino Basin desalters to recover high-TDS and high-nitrate groundwater in the southern part of the basin and put it to beneficial use;

- identified opportunities to use the Chino Basin desalters to assist in the remediation of the Chino Airport and South Archibald plumes; and
- constructed new recharge facilities to enhance the recharge of high-quality storm and imported waters.

The proposed new or modified activities to protect and enhance water quality to address the issues, needs and wants identified by the stakeholders in Listening Sessions 1 and 2 are based on the input in Table 2 and include:

- Develop a water-quality management plan to address current and future water-quality issues and ensure the protection of beneficial uses, now and into the future (5).
- Develop strategic regulatory-compliance solutions that achieve multiple benefits in managing water quality (6).

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 avoid undesirable results.

Since the implementation of the 2000 OBMP, Watermaster and the OBMP stakeholders have completed or are currently implementing the following activities to enhance management of the basin:

- initiated a comprehensive basin-wide monitoring program for groundwater levels, recharge and land subsidence;
- developed a subsidence management plan to minimize or abate the occurrence of land subsidence and ground fissuring;
- implemented the OBMP storage management plan and more recently initiated the process to update it;
- developed methods to estimate storage losses;
- entered into the Dry-Year Yield program with Metropolitan; and
- became eligible for a \$207 million grant to develop and implement a storage and recovery program.

The proposed new or modified activities to enhance management of the basin to address the issues, needs and wants identified by the stakeholders in Listening Sessions 1 and 2 are based on the input in Table 2 and include:

- Develop and implement storage-and-recovery programs that increase Safe Yield, improve water quality, and provide increased water supply reliability (1, 2, 3).
- Optimize the use of all sources of water supply by developing the ability to move water across the basin and between stakeholders (8 and 12).

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.

Since 2000, Watermaster and the OBMP stakeholders have completed or are currently implementing the following activities to equitably finance the OBMP:

- completed the Peace Agreement, Peace II Agreement, and other agreements to provide incentives and funding plans to construct and operate the Chino Basin desalters and recharge improvements;

- entered into an agreement with Metropolitan for a Dry-Year Yield Program to store imported water and provided funding for the construction of new wells and wellhead treatment to produce degraded water when Metropolitan made a call for the water in storage; and
- obtained low-interest loans and grants to construct groundwater treatment, recycled water treatment, conveyance, and recharge facilities to enable the cost-efficient implementation of the OBMP.

The proposed new or modified activities to equitably finance the OBMP to address the issues, needs and wants identified by the stakeholders in Listening Sessions 1 and 2 are based on the input in Table 2 and include:

- Develop an equitable distribution of costs/benefits of the OBMP Update and include in the OBMP update agreements (14).
- Develop regional partnerships to implement the OBMP Update and reduce costs and include in OBMP Update agreement (16).
- Continue to identify and pursue low-interest loans and grants to support the implementation of the OBMP Update. An example of such an effort is the Chino Basin Project (15).

Next Steps

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

1. Obtain feedback on the proposal that the goals of the 2020 OBMP Update are the same goals defined in the 2000 OBMP but that continued progress toward these goals requires consideration of new or modified activities in an updated OBMP implementation plan.
2. For each goal, obtain feedback on the proposed list of activities for consideration in the development of the 2020 OBMP Update implementation plan.
3. Identify and describe the impediments to implementing the activities and achieving the goals.
4. Develop an initial set of actions to remove the impediments, including reconnaissance-level cost estimates, for consideration by the stakeholders.

Recommended Preparation for Listening Session #3

1. Review Table 1 and confirm that the feedback you provided at Listening Session #2 was accurately captured in the issues, needs and wants matrix. Please send any edits to Edgar Tellez-Foster (etellezfoster@cbwm.org).
2. Review the assessments of the nexus of the 2000 OBMP Goals with the needs and wants and activities in Tables 1 and 2; and the nexus of the activities in Table 2 to the needs and wants in Table 1. Be prepared to provide feedback (e.g. do the activities in Table 2 address all of the needs and wants? Are there any activities that could be added to the activities in Table 2?).
3. Review the proposed goal statements and associated new/modified activities for the 2020 OBMP Update. Be prepared to provide your feedback on these goals and activities. The intent is to (i) finalize the goals and (ii) have a complete list of potential new or modified activities for consideration as part the 2020 OBMP Update implementation plan.
4. Be prepared to identify impediments to implementing the goals and their associated activities.