



IMPERIAL IRWMP

Policy Work Group Report

Issues

During its deliberations the Policy Work Group identified a number of issues to be addressed through the planning process.

Issue Statement: Land use decisions sometimes do not follow existing general plan policies on water supply and availability and decisions do not comply with state code requirements to prove a sustainable water supply. There are inconsistent policies applied by the cities, County and IID.

Issue Statement: Local jurisdictions have low areas that are subject to flooding from stormwater runoff. Many areas have limited ditch capacity and water is slow to drain. There is a need to define localized problems; review existing design requirements/standards and local policies; clarify roles and responsibilities; and seek regional solutions. There are no flood control or assessment districts.

Recommendation/Needs

The group made other recommendations, identified issues, or defined needs to be addressed during the planning process.

1. Prepare a white paper or briefing that reviews and summarizes the state requirements for evaluating water use for new development; discuss at the work group level and involve the city and county planners in developing solutions. Define possible impacts. Conduct a workshop at the Forum.
2. Need standard approach for UWMP that recognize the available supplies.
3. A demand management work group should review the future demand forecast to make sure it is consistent (or could be used) by those updating UWMPs.
4. Should consider drought response and contingency plans.
5. Need to address the capacity of the drinking water treatment plants when making planning decisions.
6. Need more detailed discussion of demand management and conservation measures for the renewable energy industry by a demand management work group.
7. Address wastewater reuse questions to a work group tasked with analysis and review of this the resource management strategy. Whose water is it? What would be the impact to the IID drains or Salton Sea? How do you quantify and mitigate? Where can the water be used and under what conditions?
8. Forum to consider policy recommendation or planning assumptions: *Reclaimed wastewater should not be distributed via IID canals due to issues of crop marketability issues and domestic 'pipe' connections.*

9. Suggestion was made for IID Employees in Drainage, to work with Counties, and Cities to work on the Flood Protection and Storm portion of the IRWMP. Decide who to involve in the Work Group or which group to refer this to.
10. Review the Draft DWR handbook during consideration of the flood and stormwater resources management strategy; summarize needed changes to local approach; include in Phase 2 work plan.