It Takes a Village: Water Sustainability Planning Requires More than the Wet Stuff

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Presentation Outline

Part 1 - The Village
Jeanette Hayhurst, Chairperson
MWA Technical Advisory Committee

Part 2 – The Mission
Lance Eckhart, MWA Director of Basin Management and Water Resources

Part 3 – The Successes
Richard Selby, Technical Field Specialist
California Rural Water Association
The Village

➢ In 1960 voters approved the formation of the Mojave Water Agency.
A question of reliable data

Conflicting statements raised the question of water supplies in the early years of MWA.
The Water Wars…

City of Barstow et al, v. City of Adelanto et al,
Riverside County Superior Court Case No. 208568

The Adjudication of the Mojave Basin was initiated by a lawsuit filed May 30, 1990 by the City of Barstow and Southern California Water Company. The complaint alleged that the cumulative increase in water use in the upper part of the Mojave Basin caused or threatened to cause a reduction in the natural flow of water to the central part of the Mojave Basin (the area in which the City of Barstow is physically located). The complaint requested that an average annual flow of 30,000 acre-feet of surface water accrue to the area where the City of Barstow is located. The complaint also included a request for a writ of mandate to require the Mojave Water Agency (MWA) to act pursuant to its statutory authority to obtain and provide supplemental water for use within the Mojave Basin Area.
The Judgment

While the Judgment determined water rights to protect the basins, emotions ran high and created mistrust and divisiveness.
The Village

- Efforts to develop a regional council to advise MWA on water matters was discussed as early as September 1977.
- Following 10 years of effort, the Technical Advisory Committee was formed in 1988.
The TAC’s Mission

“advise and provide technical, professional, economic, and community recommendations and counsel to the MWA concerning policy decisions relating to management of water resources. The TAC will assist in determining the needs, desires, and financial capabilities of the MWA with respect to management of water resources and, upon deliberation, shall convey recommendations to the Board of Directors of the MWA. To recommend specific water resource programs with recognition of technical, professional, economic, and community values of the proposed programs. To recommend methods of financing water resource programs. To provide any reasonable and necessary information to the MWA in order to assist the MWA in achieving the legal purposes of the Agency.”
The Village

➢ The IRWM Plan served as call to arms and the TAC stepped up big.
➢ Many products emerged from the 2014 IRWM Plan as well as an award winning program.
➢ Great plans, require great planning efforts.
“Plans are nothing; Planning is everything.”

Dwight Eisenhower
Our Mission...
To manage the region’s water resources for the common benefit to assure stability in the sustained use by the citizens we serve.
Start Planning for the Future

• Organize Ourselves out of Chaos
  • Establish Rights
  • Understand our Basins
  • Define our Future Demands
  • Develop a Strategy of Collaboration

• A Decade of Realizing...
  • “We are all in this together....”
Regional Planning Keeps Us Talking

- UWMP 2010/2015
  - Supply vs. Demand
  - One set of books
  - Realistic Numbers
    - Not a Water Wish List
Determining supply and demand for our region
Regional Planning Keeps Us Talking

- UWMP 2010/2015
  - Supply vs. Demand
- SNMP 2015
  - Water Quality and Humans
  - Quality today… tomorrow…
Regional Planning Keeps Us Talking

- UWMP 2010/2015
  - Supply vs. Demand
- SNMP 2015
  - Water Quality and Humans
- Storm Water 2017
  - Manage All Sources
  - Multi-Benefit Opportunities
Regional Planning Keeps Us Talking

- UWMP 2010/2015
  - Supply vs. Demand
- SNMP 2015
  - Water Quality and Humans
- Storm Water 2017
  - Manage All Sources
- IRWMP 2014
  - Continue to Coordinate
  - Continue to Learn
  - Reprioritize as a Region
Regional Planning Keeps Us Talking

Plan Objectives Arranged by Priority

Tier 2

High

Tier 3

Tier 1

Tier 1

Obj. 7 – Support & Assist DACs

Obj. 1 – Balance Supply & Demand
Obj. 3 – Maintain Stable GW Basin

Obj. 8 – Improve Environmental Stewardship
Obj. 13 – Establish Reliable Maintenance Funding
Obj. 14 – Increase Use of Recycled Water

Obj. 2 – Improve Water Use Efficiency
Obj. 4 – Reduce Reliance on Delta
Obj. 5 – Optimize Use of Assets
Obj. 9 – Improve Floodplain Mgmt.
Obj. 10 – Preserve Water Quality
Obj. 11 – Obtain Financial Assistance
Obj. 12 – Improve Public Awareness

Tier 4

Low

Obj. 6 – Prevent Land Subsidence

Low

Medium

High

Importance

2014 IRWMP Ranked Objectives
The Successes

- About the program (what is a DAC?)
- Awards winning program (locals know best)
- Becoming a model for the State
- Walk through the planning grants, etc.
- Grants (map)
- Why it’s working: Trust
Disadvantaged Communities (DAC)

- CA Median Household Income (MHI):
  - 2010-2014 CA MHI - $61,489/yr.
- DAC - Communities making less than 80% MHI
  - ~<$49,000/yr.
- Severely DAC – Communities making less than 60% MHI
  - ~<$37,000/yr.
Fruit of the Planning Efforts

➢ The creation of the Small Water Systems Assistance Program
➢ MWA contracts with Cal Rural Water Association as partner
➢ Richard Selby a trusted community member becomes the face of Cal Rural in the region
Incorporated in 1990, California Rural Water Association (CRWA) has emerged as the State’s leading association dedicated to providing on-site technical assistance and specialized training for rural water and wastewater systems.
Issues…
Issues...
Issues...
Avenue of Help: Small Systems Seeking Support

A model that is assisting DAC’s across the State
Local Training (and Networking)
$3,140,000 in Planning & Grant Funding through the Small Water Systems Assistance Program
Questions?

Together, we’re securing water for today and tomorrow...