



WATER AND PEOPLE: AN “OUR COUNTY” WORKSHOP

JUNE 28, 2018

Summary

The following are comments from the “Water and People” workshop held at The California Endowment in downtown Los Angeles on June 28, 2018. 66 attendees representing 55 nonprofit organizations (see Appendix A) participated throughout the 6-hour workshop via a plenary discussion session, three morning breakouts, and an afternoon breakout dot-voting prioritization activity. This compilation represents all of the comments that we were able to capture through butcher paper notetaking, computer laptop transcription, and written note cards from the afternoon activity. Written feedback received after the event is also included. Because participants were asked to share individual opinions, in some cases comments may conflict or be duplicative.

Morning Plenary Comments on Water Goals:

- Request to alter wording in Goal 5 so that things aren't being "to" but rather "with" disadvantaged communities
- Language on equity is too broad, should be more explicit on disproportionate impacts/burdens in Goal 5.
- Sustainable agriculture, food infrastructure, and/or food sheds should be included in water goals.
- Issue of complex governance is key and currently missing in the framework.
- Include issue of increasing privatization of water.
- Better governance is a key goal.
- More focus on urban core issues to explicitly prevent further sprawl in Goal 3.
- Include advancing water literacy on top of self-sufficiency in Goal 2.
- Redefine “disadvantaged community” for the County, extend to governments that may not have capacity to implement.
- Better acknowledgement of indigenous perspectives on water rights throughout all goals going forward.

Morning Breakouts on Cross-Cutting Topics:

Housing and Land Use Comments

Land Use

- Funding should prioritize urban core/infill land use to prevent sprawl/exurban development.
- Consider emissions related to fossil fuels and freeway expansion when considering development and how they contribute to climate change.
- Pervious spaces should be prioritized.
- Flood plains and floodplain reclamation should be prioritized.
- View strategies with respect to Wetlands, rivers, coastal zones, watersheds
- Public Parks should be prioritized.
- Urban agriculture should be prioritized.
- More thoughtful development and planning on how water impacts land use, buildings, ecosystem.
- Infrastructure and amenities placement important, in regards to pollution and impacts.
- Up-zoning, densification should be prioritized, but consider gentrification.
- Make parcels more sustainable (utilities/ ecosystem management).
- Consider benefits to wastewater – co-funding mechanisms.

Habitation

- Minimize unequitable displacement (home and neighborhood improvements).
- Encourage Conservation habits/ programs.
- Improve public services.
- Increase self-sufficiency in communities and families.
- Encourage ecosystem conservation.
- Prioritize improving water quality in industrial centers alongside residential centers.
- Regulating industrial uses as a way to improve public health.
- Implement smaller projects to promote access to ecologically significant areas.
- Capital-facing action strategy to prioritize county-owned assets.
- Reduce groundwater contamination.

Buildings

- Improve and leverage building codes.
- Continue efforts to reduce potable water in landscaping irrigation demand.
- Encourage greywater recycling and non-potable water use.
- Ensure non-residential buildings are also considered.
- Integrating agricultural development codes.
- Include industrial run-off and how it significantly contributes to contamination.

Governance

- Ensure connections and communications between water agencies in County.
- "Ecosystem management center" - great opportunity for County to pilot - ensuring that every strategic parcel captures water where feasible.
- Employ Market-based strategy similar to cap & trade that takes away onus on County to regulate and instead incentivizes.
- Be cognizant of the down-stream costs regulations might have on renters.
- Restructuring of County agencies that gets away from "flood control" - need to work with nature to focus on special places.
- Seek replacement tool for redevelopment (Community Reinvestment Act).
- Put equity into building codes - create toolkit for development equity.
- Considering Native communities/nations in all aspects of plan.

Challenges

- Lack of oversight.
- Duality of enforcement vs empowering incentives.
- Ensuring those who own assets don't pass costs down to renters or people who don't own capital assets.
- Improve Data.
- Lack of cross-sector outreach.
- Funding of long-term maintenance of projects in addition to new projects.
- Genuine ground-up community engagement vs checking a box.
- Environmental impacts of outdoor water use w/ landscaping.
- Actual implementation of good policies instead of creating new ones.

Opportunities

- Require integrated water capture plans.
- Create water markets.
- Incentivize private industries with performance standards.
- Amplify community voices through an Oversight Committee.
- Transit Oriented Development (TOD) policies.
- Co-funding mechanisms.
- Removing the risk of financial investment of public infrastructure.
- Floodplain buy-back.
- More information available - present a menu of options to communities.
- Offer more opportunities for small businesses and renters to engage.
- More available and accessible data.
- Bringing County agencies together in charrettes to discuss a common goal.
- Combining incentives and regulations.
- Partner with other agencies like DWP to split cost of leak detection tests to tackle residential challenges.

- LA Department of Water and Power (LADWP) Watershed Policy around outdoor landscape is a good policy to replicate at the County level.
- More community-based organization (CBO) and agency partnerships like the Los Angeles Open Space and Affordable Housing Collaborative (LA ROSAH).
- Providing education and trainings with Environmental Justice organizations and native communities.
- Incentives (or requirements) for native plants and waterways for edibles.
- Community sharing networks for urban agriculture embedded into the policies so we're not over-producing/ over-replicating.
- Programs for healthy soil in terms of water capture.

Economy and Workforce Development Comments

Household/Community Economies

- Encourage residential water bill reduction.
- Incentivize efficient appliances
- Enforce bottled water costs to reduce waste.
- Encourage collaboration with nonprofits.
- Culturally competent education around water and water quality, change "disadvantaged or underserved" rhetoric.
- Democratizing water and communities' sense of ownership; more interdepartmental oversight.
- Empowering communities through greater share of funding going toward equity projects (i.e. \$40M conservation fund)
- When replacing infrastructure, ensure right to return and combat displacement and take into account contaminated water.
- Address aging infrastructure in schools.
- Safeguarding for water shortages with an equity lens.
- Need better representation on water boards, decision-making/ oversight bodies.
- Include goals on affordability of water.

Local Business

- Business contracting should be local, diverse.
- Prioritize Local purchasing
- Small Business Development
- Improve Reliability in water price and quantity.

Jobs

- Jobs - Good quality.
- Training and apprenticeships.

- Community Workforce Agreements/Project Labor Agreements.
- Infrastructure goals can create jobs.
- Require jobs sourced locally - require 40%; standards and oversight.
- Public investment as economic development tools.
- Urban agriculture (promotion and education).

Challenges

- Water Literacy.
- People being disconnected, distrust in agencies.
- Lack of budget (i.e. 2/3rds vote).
- Governance, too many agencies, lack of communication, accountability.
- Education about bottled water cost.
- Enforcement of water as a human right (State law).
- Planning for the driest day.
- Limited Capacity of small nonprofits to obtain contracts.
- Create permanent funding pipeline for maintenance jobs.
- Design bonds better by including equity measures.
- Change culture around bottled water.
- ID county hotspots and hold polluters accountable.

Opportunities

- Decentralizing education through non-governmental organizations (NGOs) connected to local communities.
- Big capital projects like water recycling and storm water capture.
- Connecting/ integrating funding for intersectional projects (land use, water, etc.).
- Partnerships between small and large NGOs.
- Requirements for procurement dollars for water and food/ other areas for people of color (POC) communities.
- Pre-vetting a group of NGOs.
- Invest in POC NGOs.
- Funding to provide resources to broader projects.
- Career pathways from NGO partners to infrastructure maintenance jobs.
- Bond measure in Nov for dairy fee (>\$1) to create jobs.

Short-Term Priorities

- Safe clean water measure.
- Fix water quality in contamination hotspots.
- Updating infrastructure for all communities.
- Funding measures.

- Using health and education as engagement mechanism/frame; decentralize outreach and doing broader water literacy/education.
- Consolidated curriculum for schools, which can be tied to funding.
- Literacy tied to economic development and jobs: "making it happen" after education.
- Invest in POC NGOs.
- Encourage swimming for kids and more involved in water in general.
- Governing bodies should exercise authority to require measures and standards.
- Changing leadership where oversight happens.
- Water testing, particularly in schools.

Long-Term Priorities

- Data tracking on jobs.
- Permanent funding streams to support job creation.
- Overturn Prop 218 (requires voter approval prior to imposition or increase of general taxes, assessments, and certain user fees).
- Governance: consolidation and integration of water districts, mandating compliance standards, hold agencies accountable
- Water literacy (both short and long-term).

Public Health and Safety, Air Quality, and Resilience Comments

Initial Discussion on Preventing Harm/Promoting Health

- Groundwater quality.
- Soil quality for healthy water filtration.
- Explicit inclusion in conversations about climate change.
- Intentionally couple issues, i.e. urban agriculture and drainage.
- Advance equity proactively, hold polluters accountable.
- Identify high areas of water quality need.
- Upstream perspective on contamination (how water gets contaminated in the first place).
- Conversion infrastructure planning, representation of environmental/nature orgs in planning.
- Focus on climate, need to include more nature and living soils into urban areas.
- Needs to be urgent language in order to prevent further harm.
- Focus on communities highly exposed to air toxics and contaminated soils, pushing implementation of action and/or closures of toxic facilities.

Challenges

- 200+ water agencies and not one coordinating agency for water governance and management.
- People (i.e. renters) don't have rights to control water management.

- Oil industry, natural gas industry. Major environment issues in communities have happened on behalf of oil and natural gas industry. Examine role of these industries and educating decision makers on this.
- Looking at water from a non-Western, de-colonial perspective. Use non-western values to re-educate; Respecting indigenous perspectives on water.
- How we define multiple benefits.
- Agency staffing practices. Deficient in staff with appropriate expertise
- Current lack of community agency.
- Make sure taxation doesn't hit low income communities and that incentives don't disproportionately benefit higher income communities.

Opportunities

- Have data and look at best practices - provide success metrics (i.e. Report Cards) to stay accountable.
- Actively engaging the community as new information comes out.
- Look at new groundwater framework (Healthy Soils Act) and how they relate w/ regard to inserting more nature into our cities. Will result in multiple positive outcomes.
- Assessment to examine how all of these systems have benefited the county collectively.
- Coupling funding sources & aligning funding with larger sustainability goals.
- Reach out and utilize community colleges & universities where there's opportunity to engage in interdisciplinary, community-based work.
- Education around waste management - how to best manage waste & connect to resources.

General Discussion

- Involve waste management in the conversation - waste management education.
- Engaging students in community education.
- Re-envisioning future flood risk mitigation and the relationship between developers.
- Drinking water quality in Disadvantaged Communities & impacts on everyday life.
- Prioritizing projects according to need. Providing technical assistance for Disadvantaged Communities.
- Coordinating communication between municipalities and communities.
- Broader outreach strategies, i.e. public education.
- Transparency w/ regard to water usage of industries/corporations.
- Using the term "intersectionality" appropriately. Standardizing language. "Preventing harm" is redundant when harm has already happened, perhaps "Prevent harm going forward".
- Bring most affected communities to the table.
- Making education accessible to people at all levels of education. Use accessible language. Use infographics.
- Be explicit on how things will get done. I.e. money, how we will coordinate separate systems and facilitate communication.
- More focus on issues of private water quality and overall watershed quality together.
- Raising standards by sharing international best practices.

- Clearly define terms. Use clear language and share clear goals and metrics.
- Use tangible examples when presenting definitions to the public. Visuals or demonstrations to illustrate these examples.
- Intersectionality was coined by a black woman when discussing black women’s health. The word should not be tokenized and its roots in equity and justice should be acknowledged.
- Watershed coordination, have a position charged with providing technical assistance.
- Connect water movement to the Depave LA movement.
- Ensure that policies are aligned with on-the-ground solutions and be clear/transparent with communities about expectations and implications of policies.
- Transparent use of funds.
- Watershed stakeholder groups need to drive and direct decision makers.
- Aspirational goal: personhood status of water. Water having its own rights.
- Standardize and define language between sectors (i.e. Public Health and Regional Planning).

Short-Term Priorities

- Prioritize communities that are already contaminated. Expedited track for clean water in these communities.
- Improve multi-sector collaboration.
- Update county hydrology manual to reflect the latest soil data.
- Authentic Community Engagement.
- Ensure Measure A includes community priorities and advocating if it does not.
- Data on the intersections between water issues and inequity in local communities.

Long-Term Priorities

- Gaining personhood rights of water - changing the way we view water, not viewing exploitatively.

Afternoon Breakout Activity on Themes:

Comments on 'Fostering a Healthy Relationship with the Environment'

Maximizing Conservation

- Incorporating natural systems and nature-based solutions into approach at multiple education levels (1 dot vote)
- Creating "ecologically significant areas" (ESAs) (1 dot vote)
- Promoting patch model for urban habitat supporting larger habitat areas (1 dot vote)
- Decentralize the ESA model to incorporate a network of small urban parks (5 dot votes)
- Augmenting ESAs with the urban ecology into networks
- Prioritize access to lands and waters of cultural and historical significance to local Native Nations (2 dot votes)
- Combine maximize conservation and natural environment; ecology in urban and natural areas
- Eliminate Homeowner Association rules for landscape requirements (i.e. turf)
- Prioritize habitat linkages
- LA River for recreation have pool, swimming
- Peri-urban agriculture and working lands
- Help small farms w/ water or reduce other fees so they can pay for the water more easily
- Invest in soil programs (3 dot votes)
- Leak detection
- Soil regeneration with compost & mulch projects (1 dot vote)
- community composting centers at school campuses
- Support and promote water and soil literacy (1 dot vote)

Outdoor Recreation

- Support community land stewardship as a viable trade and career (1 dot vote)
- Urban Agriculture (4 dot votes)
- Preserve existing gardens to do education on reducing water usage, keeping water rates low, including veg-low water usage as in shipping containers
- Fund programming/education that connects disconnected youth to nature and conservation (3 dot votes)
- Quality, culturally appropriate education (4 dot votes)
- Create incentives for native/plants edibles (1 dot vote)
- Renaming of public spaces with original Tongva names
- Programming at parks for youth and community members that encourages stewardship (1 dot vote)
- Community gardens and workshops
- Green and clean open spaces for all environmental justice (EJ) communities (parks, gardens, etc.)

- Easier/ more opportunities for K - 12 field trips to local open spaces
- Community-led watershed groups
- Traveling exhibits to raise awareness & educate communities (2 dot votes)

Economic Incentives

- Multi-sector collaboration (1 dot vote)
- Prioritization for local hiring. Stewardship and maintenance (1 dot vote)
- Equitable utility pricing (1 dot vote)
- Prioritizing bonds and resources for infill land use
- Collaborate with labor and provide union jobs (1 dot vote)
- Residential soil and storm water retrofits (3 dot votes)
- Clean up of brownfield and superfund sites and prioritize resources, service housing
- Paying into/ funding ecosystem services
- Funding for operations and maintenance (AKA stewardship) (2 dot votes)
- Wastewater reclamation and hyperion restoration (1 dot vote)
- Groundwater restoration in San Joaquin Valley
- Rebates for natural plants and residential water consumption
- Use Coastal Act as more than just for developers
- Communicate significance of individual actions (1 dot vote)
- Waste management
- Local compost initiatives (1 dot vote)
- Better promotion and education of camping spaces: Malibu and Leo Carrillo

Built Environment

- Better options for public transportation to and from green spaces
- Putting equity into building codes
- Unpave LA, including rivers and creeks (10 dot votes)
- Require grey wastewater to be used on site, as much rain held as possible
- Housing affordability to reduce unhealthy sprawl
- Restore, revitalize, and repurpose LA river: Wave pool (1 dot vote)
- Replace and update infrastructure
- Hold toxic facilities accountable, not just stationary but mobile (8 dot votes)
- Add requirements for % locally-indigenous plants and food for pollinators to landscape standards or ordinances
- Integrate nature into the built environment
- Standardize water testing (3 dot votes)
- Replace old and unused infrastructure w/ green space, such as parks and/or gardens (1 dot vote)
- Require more native green space in housing developments
- Trees/ green infrastructure

Natural Environment

- A robust equitable urban forest as key to health and resiliency
- Urban forests near freeway communities
- Signage/education about natural water systems throughout LA County. Being more intentional and present in communities
- Transform landscaping with native plants
- Native habitat restoration
- Daylight local streams (1 dot vote)
- Recognize the importance of remaining natural areas in providing ecosystem services related to water quality and quantity
- Open space and walking trails
- Increase biodiversity, connecting corridors between Malibu, Simi, LA Forest, and Ocean (2 dot votes)
- Public parks (2 dot votes)
- Increased access to parks (3 dot votes)
- Expand public parks
- More inner-city parks available
- Protect existing open/ green space
- Prioritizing rare and threatened species in urban systems - habitats at home
- Prioritize traditional geological knowledge and collaborate with these knowledge holders
- Building with natural environment as opposed to on top of it (1 dot vote)
- Utilizing natural waterways to create multi-benefits / use projects and trails that reconnect us to our waterways in positive and intentional ways (2 dot votes)
- Parks as healing spaces, incorporate wellness and fitness in new green spaces
- Un-build in floodplains (1 dot vote)
- Open space preservation
- Ecosystem health, Not just open space
- Remediate groundwater basins (2 dot votes)
- Invest in restoring habitats and ecosystems in low-income communities of color
- Healthy, equitable, climate appropriate tree canopy
- Prevent land grabbing from developers and promote publicly owned and developed land (2 dot votes)
- Recognize ocean and beaches as public park space
- Native plants and trees (3 dot votes)

Governance

- Representation on water boards (2 dot votes)
- Identify high health need communities (4 dot votes)
- Enforcing water as a human right (1 dot vote)
- Transparent and accessible language

- Increase community ownership via democratizing water system (2 dot votes)
- Consult with Native communities ensuring it is grassroots participants from these communities (2 dot votes)
- Appointment of tribal representatives to governance bodies (1 dot vote)
- Coordinating/ Consolidating water governance (10 dot votes)
- Report card of water companies' work and impact on communities
- Water neutrality ordinance - net zero water (4 dot votes)
- Ecosystem management as governance structure - breakdown of silos (2 dot votes)
- Enforce "Show Me Water" bill - SB 610 (AB 22) (3 dot votes)
- Ensure meaningful listening and incorporation of community interests in public projects
- Prioritize water options
- Water loading order
- Cumulative impacts being a deciding factor in old/new businesses/projects to protect EJ communities
- Create positions in government for science experts rather than relying on outside consultants (1 dot vote)
- Integrated planning coordinate among agencies
- Prioritize natural and social sciences in government employee classifications (2 dot votes)
- Collect data that is uniform/applies across for better informed decisions/prioritization
- Maintain labor engagement, conduct lobby visits as needed and hold legislators accountable (1 dot vote)
- Inclusive, consensus-based, bottom-up governance

Prioritized Goals

- Reducing/Eliminating carbon costs of transportation (1 dot vote)
- Eliminate fossil fuels (7 dot votes)
- Paradigm shift that values environment - personhood rights (12 dot votes)
- Advancing a watershed management approach (2 dot votes)
- Disaster Preparedness and Resilience (climate adaptation) (3 dot votes)
- Reverse order of goals (make sure Goal 3 lead 2 and 4) (1 dot vote)
- Restore communities affected by LA aqueducts - reparations (1 dot vote)
- Switch from extractive to regenerative (6 dot votes)
- Transforming food system - so they don't run out of water (3 dot votes)
- Building soil health (9 dot votes)
- Reword Goal #5 work with, collaborative with Native and Environmental Justice communities (11 dot votes)
- Adding governance as 6th goal
- Reword Goal #3, prioritizing natural systems and green infrastructure to achieve water and climate resilience, strike 'enhance water infrastructure' (2 dot votes)

- Water and nature literate LA (2 dot votes)

Prioritized Strategies

- Ensuring affordable water (11 dot votes)
- Unpave and then mulch (12 dot votes)
- Invest in parcel-based retrofits and target low-income communities (12 dot votes)
- Incentivizing rent & green roof tech (2 dot votes)
- Funding Native EJ communities with Clean Water Act fines (3 dot votes)
- Rezone industrial zones to green zones (5 dot votes)
- Investment in parks and greenspaces (11 dot votes)
- “Unincorporated Area Industrial Zone” (incentives that are now underutilized) (6 dot votes)
- Increase percent cover of vegetation (6 dot votes)
- Develop floodplain buyback program (12 dot votes)
- Support “green accessory dwelling units (ADUs)” (more housing!) (1 dot vote)
- Ban invasive plants (Restrict California Invasive Plant Council plants)
- Creative comprehensive list (demonstration gardens, Native plants @ county facilities, leadership) (2 dot votes)
- Incentive local nurseries to sell local, native-owned plants and trees (2 dot votes)
- Resilience hubs -expand to County, pre-disaster (4 dot votes)

Bike Rack

- Changing tone of report (personhood)
- Understanding how compost can retain water (4 dot votes)
- Mandatory food growth/production curriculum (2 dot votes)
- Utilizing Southern California Edison and LADWP easements (8 dot votes)

Comments on ‘Cultivating a Just Economy’

Local Business

- Industrial Accountability as source of revenue (ex: Agricultural toxics) - enforce fines and distribute \$\$ to impacted communities (3 dot votes)
- Incentivize performance standards (2 dot votes)
- Diverse small business and co-op incubation
- Rebates from water districts for economic development for CBOs through water efficiency (1 dot vote)
- Move from an extractive economy to a rejuvenative economy (1 dot vote)
- Micro-lending and access to capital (1 dot vote)
- Invest in maintenance-driven regenerative economy over extractive economy

- Ban on water bottles and companies that take water from communities (2 dot votes)
- Public-private partnerships (1 dot vote)
- Supporting and legitimizing street vendors (commercial kitchen incubators)
- Healthy manufacturing, removing workplace hazards
- County procurement favors diverse and small biz & NGOs
- Alternative business structures (Co-ops)
- Co-funding mechanisms for wastewater
- Charge new development & flippers for upgrades in infrastructure/efficiency (5 dot votes)
- Incentives for business to capture and reuse storm water

Jobs

- Local Hire (2 dot votes)
- Capture jobs and water investment data over time (1 dot vote)
- Representative hiring
- Nature-based climate stewards as valued job (4 dot votes)
- Hire and train local people to repair water pipes and apply sustainable landscape practices (1 dot vote)
- Invest in genuine partnerships between workers and residents
- Training and support to go from construction to contractor
- Apprenticeship opportunities in blue economy
- Paid high school internships in green/blue fields (1 dot vote)
- Local Hire and training for at-risk youth (5 dot votes)
- Water-loading prioritization cost, jobs, climate, etc. (2 dot votes)
- Climate refugee, asylee integration and green jobs training
- Work trails along river (2 dot votes)
- Training for jobs leveraging nature-based priorities: land management, soil building, water management, agriculture (6 dot votes)
- Job Standards
- Union jobs (1 dot vote)
- Living wages (1 dot vote)
- Healthy environments for workers (1 dot vote)
- Market-based approaches (Cap and Trade, credit trading, impact investing) (1 dot vote)
- Permanent, full-time union jobs with benefits (Public sector operations and maintenance jobs) (2 dot votes)
- More public landscaping jobs to beautify urban parks with native plants (1 dot vote)
- Access to appropriate training facilities to ensure workplace readiness
- Creating pathway for certification for "green" - aka (watershed approach) landscapers

Public Sector

- Ability to raise revenues (without 2/3rds vote requirements) (1 dot vote)

- Public bank or funds to finance projects (1 dot vote)
- Progressive Taxation
- Comprehensive transit and transportation solutions
- Sustainable funding streams (1 dot vote)
- Capital infrastructure projects with multiple benefits (1 dot vote)

NGO

- More government grants
- Create funding for Civic engagement/ leadership programs in disadvantaged communities
- Contracts for smaller NGOs

Education

- Education and sustainability integrated at K - 12 (4 dot votes)
- Educational program to address water issues to communities and private sectors

Household

- Create free/affordable resources so the general public can learn about conservation practices
- CAL Fresh electronic benefits transfer (EBT) Supplement for water in high need areas or during high need times (2 dot votes)
- Create region-wide pools of funds to upgrade water delivery systems and improves quality
- County must ensure industry and other sources of pollution are held accountable to all current policies
- Parcel relative water pricing and ensure equity
- Residential retrofits to address water quality & efficiency (4 dot votes)
- Analyze neighborhood change using LA County's Chief Executive Office's Enterprise Linkage Project
- Address infrastructure amenities effect on rent
- Anti-displacement/gentrification plans that have real teeth (7 dot votes)
- Housing preservation
- Regulating landowners (passing down costs)
- Opportunity zones
- Incentives for retrofits in disadvantaged communities
- Rent Control/ Just Cause (2 dot votes)
- Efficient appliances
- Bill reduction for low-income
- More composting hubs for food scraps
- Home purchasing support (1 dot vote)
- Better enforcement on repairs for renters
- Premise plumbing incentives for water quality to protect renters (2 dot votes)

Community

- Linguistic access/culturally relevant outreach and education (1 dot vote)
- Educate within communities, sponsor community recruitment for jobs (1 dot vote)
- Resources now to address pollution burden
- Transparent Accessible Data
- Water literacy, education, and capacity building (4 dot votes)
- Swim curriculum in schools
- Native rights
- Engaging folks who have higher socioeconomic status in the conversation about equity
- Bringing affluent and disadvantaged communities together over core issues
- Joint Powers Authorities not accountable to communities (Funding)
- Poor water quality hotspot identification
- Subsidize water for community gardens

Distributive Equity

- Prioritize contaminated communities (10 dot votes)
- Technical assistance for disadvantaged communities
- Ensure all schools have sufficient clean free water
- Land value capture
- Democratized governance structures that shift power
- Transition to community-based assets/capital
- Ensure affluent communities cannot opt out of conservation
- Community land trust (3 dot votes)
- Involve labor unions (1 dot vote)
- Coordinate watershed systems (2 dot votes)
- Just transition to oil-free economy
- Support local co-op businesses
- Address injustice in affluent communities
- Tie cap-and-trade \$'s back to communities with high numbers of businesses buying credits to continue polluting (1 dot votes)

Resource Management

- Prop 218 reform/peel
- More affordable land for urban agriculture (1 dot vote)
- Water rights (governance) - groundwater common pool resource (4 dot votes)
- Flood plain buy-back (4 dot votes)
- LA River Revitalization (3 dot votes)
- Invest in soil management

Prioritized Goals

- Reframe narrative history of "unjust economy," social justice watershed education (11 dot votes)
- Democratize water governance structure, recognize water as a human right (40 dot votes)
- Transformative, not just redistributive (7 dot votes)
- Consolidate fragmented water education (5 dot votes)
- Prioritize our vision through metrics (1 dot vote)
- Government accountability and inclusive transparency (2 dot votes)
- Resident and worker solidarity (2 dot votes)
- Maximize benefits per dollar invested (3 dot votes)
- Goal #2 & 5, Prioritize projects which enhance water infrastructure while providing significant meaningful job opportunities for local community members and which 'result' in more liveable built environments - better health outcomes locally (10 dot votes)

Prioritized Strategies

- Popular re-education of decision-makers, with an equity focus (18 dot votes)
- Prioritize funds to low-income communities, budgeting (24 dot votes)
- Develop metrics to meet equity goals (8 dot votes)
- Prioritize local/legacy/small businesses (2 dot votes)
- Penalize frequent rule breakers (6 dot votes)
- Metrics to prioritize projects that align with vision (10 dot votes)
- Purchasing land (2 dot votes)
- "Greening up" incentives for small businesses (6 dot votes)
- Redefine and measure co-benefits (4 dot votes)
- Maximize opportunities for urban agriculture (2 dot votes)
- Integrating climate refugees/asylees (3 dot votes)
- Involving CBOs in Goals #1 and 2
- Consolidate water agencies and redistribute power (3 dot votes)
- Technical assistance to wasteful businesses
- Siting water capture projects should not be solely driven by data, rather community input

Bike Rack

- Watershed education that integrates social justice (1 dot vote)
- Popular education (9 dot votes)
- Re-education of decision makers (6 dot votes)
- Just transition
- Reduce work commutes (2 dot votes)

Comments on ‘Nurturing Healthy Communities’

Prevent Harm

- Stop adding fluoride into water
- Greenhouse gas emissions (1 dot vote)
- Clean air (3 dot votes)
- Groundwater Quality (1 dot vote)
- Soil Quality (5 dot votes)
- Reduce/Ban Toxic facilities (5 dot votes)
- Waste management (1 dot vote)
- Emergency planning
- Safeguarding for water shortages
- Connection to reproductive justice (cleaning, hair products)
- Prevent expansion, new development of toxic facilities
- Regulate Toxic Facilities (2 dot votes)
- Hold polluters accountable, need oversight (2 dot votes)
- Storm water capture (6 dot votes)
- Ban companies that take water rights away from communities and contaminate water (1 dot vote)
- Address past and current harms (1 dot vote)
- Drinking water quality (8 dot votes)
- Drinking Water quality of supplied water (source, treatment, distribution) (1 dot vote)
- Drinking water quality of tap water (customer side impact on water quality)
- Invest in healthy Soil (1 dot vote)

Promote Health

- School campuses ‘multi-objective’ projects and education
- Coastal access through school programs - Science field trips (1 dot vote)
- Establish that water is a human right (2 dot votes)
- Equitable urban forest (Goals 2-5) (1 dot vote)
- Access to water recreation on hot days
- Mandatory swim curriculum (1 dot vote)
- Educate on switching to more environmentally safe cleaning products (1 dot vote)
- Access to public parks (4 dot votes)
- Programming in parks and open spaces
- Prioritizing green streets and spaces (1 dot vote)
- Educating people that beach and ocean are public park space (1 dot vote)
- Connect existing open space networks (pedestrian & bike) (5 dot votes)
- Multi-beneficial green infrastructure to make streets safe, walkable, and cool (4 dot votes)

- Healthy tree canopy (3 dot votes)
- Biodiversity (4 dot votes)
- Natural school campuses across County - connection with nature
- Urban agriculture
- Protect pollinators
- Create community centers on empty commercial zone parking lots
- Address issues that are occurring now, and cannot be prevented anymore
- Year round access to public pools

Access to Economic Opportunity/ Economic Resilience

- Prioritize discriminated communities where car pollution is a major issue (1 dot vote)
- Prioritize funding (2 dot votes)
- Decriminalize recycling and street vending (2 dot votes)
- Affordable space to grow healthy food (1 dot vote)
- Better coordination with funding
- Free bus passes for youth going to green spaces
- Invest in upgrading premise plumbing with development tax on new/ refurbished housing (1 dot vote)
- Avoid regressive taxing
- Youth to adult hands-on training to build/ create expertise in green industry (2 dot votes)
- Erase community/ neighborhood divides by reconnecting through natural spaces
- Water agency rebates to CBOs

Governance

- Jemez principles
- Bottom-up governance, inclusive agency
- More representative hiring/appointments
- Governance based on natural resource boundaries (watersheds)
- Democratize governance
- Oversight committee (1 dot vote)
- Tribal consultation (3 dot votes)

Built Environment

- Requiring water testing by land lords or commercial properties
- More green roofs, walls
- Shade structures and street trees
- Enforce water conservation at places like Pepperdine (3 dot votes)
- Build w/ climate appropriate design and construction techniques; also landscaping
- Combat displacement
- Resilience to high heat (2 dot votes)

- Repurpose LA River for recreation (2 dot votes)
- Nature-based infrastructure like permeability (6 dot votes)
- Infill development (1 dot vote)
- See all rivers and streams as more than flood risks and storm drains
- Increase total acres of open space throughout county (2 dot votes)
- Un-build in high risk/ high resource potential areas to protect losses (1 dot vote)
- Require storm water infiltration in new buildings
- Rivers, streams, and wetlands as most impactful local water supply and treatment, GHG sinks, air quality, habitat, etc.
- Safe streets, crime deterrent solar lights, reflective surfaces

Housing

- Affordability of water
- Additional water meter facilitation to landlords, independent water bills to tenants from DWP, municipalities
- Efficient appliances
- Rent Control and just cause (1 dot vote)

Outreach

- Bring in community to talk about how they recycle water (1 dot vote)
- Implement popular education methods (1 dot vote)
- Engage with students (3 dot votes)
- Provide traveling exhibits to educate about Healthy Communities (1 dot vote)
- Social capital for kids through ocean and pool play
- Identify partners with and pay local CBOs who have mobilization & engagement track record
- Language access (4 dot votes)
- Integrate climate refugees
- Better and more available data (4 dot votes)
- Community awareness (1 dot votes)

Prioritized Goals

- Ecosystem governance (4 dot votes)
- Increase acreage of natural lands throughout County (6 dot votes)
- Empower residents to engage in water policy and regulation (10 dot votes)
- A sponge County (use nature to clean and infiltrate water) (5 dot votes)
- Water Goal #1 (8 dot votes)
- Water Goal #2 (15 dot votes)
- Water Goal #3 (31 dot votes)
- Water Goal #4 (23 dot votes)

- Water Goal #5 (30 dot votes)

Prioritized Strategies

- Change landscape standards and ordinances to better support pollinators, soil health, etc. not just water use reduction (4 dot votes)
- Increase accessibility of open space, equitable distribution of new parks (17 dot votes)
- Invest in broad public education initiative on water (includes cultural competent messaging) (10 dot votes)
- County should be a leader in clean air and technology (2 dot votes)
- Improve water governance - consolidate small, poorly managed water district (6 dot votes)
- Data for all (7 dot votes)
- Prioritize nature-based projects (18 dot votes)
- Equitable floodplain buyback (or reclamation) (4 dot votes)
- Pressure authorities (County and Local Agency Formation Commission) to consolidate failing agencies (2 dot votes)
- Facilitate multi-sector collaboration and cross-agency work on water (7 dot votes)
- Regional rather than federal management of our waterways (1 dot vote)
- Support dense, widely distributed, and affordable housing
- Invest in capacity building for water community engagement by local CBOs (8 dot votes)
- Value small water capture projects like pocket parks, and not just large regional projects (8 dot votes)
- Prioritize water sources with lowest GHGs (7 dot votes)
- Set standards through local and county policy, procurement for job quality and access (1 dot vote)
- Change state laws around taxes/ funding streams (3 dot votes)
- Support water neutral policies (2 dot votes)
- Community engagement (short and long term) (10 dot votes)
- Request popular vote for state water projects
- Goal #1: Transition to landscapes that need less water, can thrive in warmer weather, and can withstand potential floods. (1 dot vote)
- Goal #2: Improve resiliency of the water supply in the face of changing climate and increased climate risks through monitoring, equitable emergency plans, trained response teams, and more. (3 dot votes)
- Goal #3: Ensure that multi-benefit water projects and remediation efforts are prioritized in disadvantaged communities (2 dot votes)
- Goal #3: Invest in protection of floodplains/wetlands and other natural buffers to flooding (1 dot vote)
- Goal #4: Invest in multi-benefit water infrastructure to increase local supplies, management of flooding, improve water quality, and provide additional community benefits. (2 dot votes)
- Goal #4: Develop a policy framework for addressing drinking water quality issues that originate from on-site plumbing issues. (1 dot vote)



- Goal #6: Create financing mechanisms to repair water infrastructure in smaller districts and ensure rates are kept affordable. (1 dot vote)
- Goal #5: Invest in educating a diverse and inclusive workforce to implement a more sustainable water system. (2 dot votes)

Bike Rack

- Improve quality of mulch and compost (12 dot votes)
- Carbon sequestration accounting (5 dot votes)
- Support community-based forestry (9 dot votes)
- Incentivize residential resilience retrofits (8 dot votes)
- Ensure engagement with homeowners that don't feel effects of droughts/ high water use (5 dot votes)

Post-Workshop Written Comments:

Commenter A:

I would like the goals to be shifted to be aspirational – this could be done by actually identifying specific (i.e., numeric) targets (though I often see measurable targets as Objectives rather than Goals) or even in some narrative form that points you towards specific targets. For example, “Reduce water use” could instead be “Ensuring LA County becomes a global leader in per capita water usage”; “Advance water self-sufficiency” could be “Achieve water self-sufficiency for the LA region by DATE” with SMART Objectives that outline targets for specific import reductions, creation of local supplies, etc. ; “Reduce water-related impacts on, and increase benefits to, disadvantaged communities” could be “Ensure ALL communities throughout LA County have access to safe, clean & healthy drinking and surface waters, and NO communities are negatively impacted by poor water management” ; “Protect and improve water quality” could be, “Ensure all Rivers, Creeks and Coastal Waters throughout LA County are fishable, swimmable and drinkable”

Commenter B:

Water literacy and education are economic activities too. Our 2011 report included an economic impacts analysis of ‘water conservation campaigns’, and any teaching, organizing or other awareness raising work with a budget can be measured in terms of added jobs local and sales. As I recall, this category of ‘water use efficiency’ had the highest percentage of impacts that remain local.

Los Angeles Co. office of sustainability (or some other entity) needs to gather and save the water investment project data, including their detailed construction and O&M budgets. This would allow for further analysis of their economic impacts, going forward. If LA Co. becomes a national leader in sustainable water planning, such data and analysis will really help tell the story of what we all accomplish.

Many participants Thursday talked about governance issues and gentrification / displacement. I don’t have much to say about governance, but with regard to measuring gentrification / displacement, the Los Angeles Co. CEO’s office has a wealth of longitudinal data about working poor residents, in its “Enterprise Linkage Project”. One heretofore unrealized use of this data is to identify changes of residence as investments are made across the county. I bring this up because communities’ concerns about gentrification can only be addressed by having clear measures of where and when gentrification is occurring.

Appendix A: “Water and People” Workshop Attendee List by Organization

- Amigos de Los Rios
- API Forward Movement
- Arid Lands Institute
- Arroyo Seco Foundation
- Bike San Gabriel Valley
- California Conservation Corps
- California Water Foundation
- Center for Biological Diversity
- City of Los Angeles
- City Project
- Climate Resolve
- Council for Watershed Health
- Council of Mexican Federations
- Economic Roundtable
- EJ Coalition for Water
- Environmental Defense Fund
- First 5 LA
- Food & Water Watch
- Friends of the LA River
- From Lot to Spot
- Good Food LA (LA Food Policy Council)
- Grades of Green
- Grant Housing and EDC
- Heal the Bay
- Hunger Action LA
- LA Alliance for a New Economy (LAANE)
- LA City/County Native American Indian Commission
- LA Community Garden Council
- LA Waterkeeper
- Leonardo diCaprio Foundation
- Milken Institute
- Mujeres de la Tierra
- National Forest Foundation
- Natural Resources Defense Council
- Nature Conservancy



- Nature for All
- North East Trees
- Physicians for Social Responsibility-LA
- Prevention Institute
- Proyecto Pastoral (Promesa Boyle Heights)
- River Project
- Sacred Places Institute for Indigenous Peoples
- SEIU 721
- Social Eco Education
- Social Justice Learning Institute
- Southern California Watershed Alliance
- Surf Bus Foundation
- Surfrider Foundation
- Sustainable Law Group
- The Wilderness Society
- Theodore Payne Foundation
- Tree People
- Trust for Public Land
- Union de Vecinos
- William C. Velasquez Institute
- Women Organizing Resources Knowledge and Services

Public Agency Representatives

- LA County Department of Public Works
- LA County Parks
- LA County Regional Planning