



Sustainability

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What is sustainability?

- Means many and different things to different people
- Some focus on global attributes/some very specific
- Term is evolving for federal and state efforts

Strategic Growth Council

- In September 2008 Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed SB 732, creating the Strategic Growth Council.
- The Council is a cabinet level committee that is tasked with providing sustainability by coordinating the activities of state agencies to:
 - improve air and water quality
 - protect natural resource and agriculture lands
 - increase the availability of affordable housing
 - improve the infrastructure system
 - promote public health
 - assist state and local entities in the planning of sustainable communities and meeting AB 32 goals

Strategic Growth Council

- The Council is composed of agency secretaries from Business Transportation and Housing, California Health and Human Services, California Environmental Protection Agency, and the California Natural Resources Agency; the director of the Governor's Office of Planning and Research; and public member Robert Fisher who was appointed by the Governor

State Definition

- With that large focus, and all those agencies, they have not yet been able to develop and agree to a definition of sustainability

State Water Board Resolutions

- Our first formal action: Resolution No. 2005-0006
- Adopted Sustainability as a core value
- Directed staff to include consideration of sustainability in all future policies, guidelines, and regulatory actions

Water Board Resolutions

- Refinement: Resolution No. 2008-0030
- Specifically calls out:
 - LID/stormwater management to restore hydrologic functions
 - Climate change strategies
 - Goals of AB 32, and Water-Energy Climate Action Team

Water Board Resolutions

- Directs staff to give priority to climate-related and LID projects
- Supports training on climate change and LID
- Directs staff to coordinate with partners with other government agencies, NGOs, and private to encourage sustainable activities

What have we done through \$s?

Incorporated sustainability throughout
Board assistance programs:

State Revolving Fund – ARRA

State Revolving Fund - Water Recycling

Stormwater

Integrated Regional Water Management

SRF-ARRA

- ARRA – American Recovery and Reinvestment Act – Economic Stimulus
- \$29 million to urban stormwater projects that install vegetation or basins to collect and infiltrate water
- Construction began 9/1/09 and will continue thru 6/30/12
- 341 green jobs created

SRF ARRA

- An example of good deeds:
- City of Selma's Stormwater Project – and LID project that more than pays for its O&M costs. The City will save \$500,000 in annual costs by not discharging stormwater – financially and ecologically sustainable

“Regular” Clean Water SRF

- Water Recycling funded for some time
- A key piece of our ongoing program
- Conservation measures are also now eligible for funding
 - Water meters
 - Plumbing fixture retrofits/replacement
 - Efficient landscape irrigation equipment
 - Public water conservation education

Stormwater \$s

- \$82 million for matching grants
- To reduce or prevent stormwater contamination of rivers, lakes and streams
- Eligible project types include: LID, and complying with TMDLs
- Eligible entities – local public agencies

Stormwater \$

- Preference to projects that lower carbon emissions or address climate change or part of urban greening/smart growth plan
- Bond program frozen in Feb. 2009 with State financial crisis. No start date at this time.

Integrated Regional Water Management

- Designed to provide sustainable water resource/water quality protection through integrated planning
- Brings previously independent and non-cooperative water groups together
- Larger scale discussion and prioritization of larger scope regional needs

Non \$ efforts

State Board Conservation

- Through Bay-Delta Strategic Workplan
- Adopted July 2008
 - Will consider mandating one or more BMPs
 - Identify 2 areas or suppliers, one urban, one ag, for waste and unreasonable use hearings
 - Complete the 20x2020 plan and identify additional Water Board actions needed

Statewide Water Conservation

- Gov's order for 20% conservation by 2020
- First element of plan for improving the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta
- 7 state agencies: Water Board, DWR, CEC, CPUC, CDPH, ARB, Calif. Bay-Delta Authority and USBR – with technical assistance by CUWCC

Statewide Conservation

- 20x2020 co-chairs are Barbara Evoy from State Board and Rick Soehren from DWR
- Preparing final document that lays out a plan to reduce statewide potable water consumption by 20% by 2020.
- Equates to reducing from 192 Gallons per capita per day (GPCD) to 154 GPCD
- Currently ranges from 90-570 BPCD (CUWCC data)

Statewide Conservation

- Conservation planning and implementation are required as a condition for funding for big projects (wastewater, water supply)
 - Needs water conservation plan or Urban Water Conservation Council MOU sign-up
 - New requirements for compliance with metered service requirements goes into effect Jan. 1, 2010

Other paths to sustainability

- LAFCO – reaching out to Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) to look for more regional sustainable water and waste water solutions.
- Their review can/should include the ability of the community to continue their landuse/growth patterns and their needs for infrastructure and O&M

Strategic Growth Council Efforts

- Charged with providing oversight and leadership
- Have grant funds at disposal (once bond freeze lifts)
- Providing funds for greening plans (which includes conservation of energy, water and improvement of air and water quality)(up to \$17.5 m)
- Providing funds for greening projects (up to \$70m)(ditto)

Strategic Growth Council efforts

- Providing funds local and regional sustainability planning (\$65 m) (ditto)
- May provide funds for demo projects for sustainable communities (ditto)

So do we know where we are?

- Or where we are heading?
- We've made a lot of progress philosophically and financially in the last few years
- A lot of attention is being placed on "what is sustainable"?
- Expect major refinement in next few years

Questions?

Discussion?





Sustainability in Regulations

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Reactive not Proactive

- Most of our regulatory actions are derived from the anti-degradation policy
- “...existing high quality will be maintained...”
- This minimizes the effects of discharges, but does not always have an additive effect on the environment – just reduces the burden.

Proactive not Reactive

- To be proactive have to change approach
 - Be more participatory in regulatory actions
 - Require actions beyond the minimums

“...include consideration of sustainability in all future policies, guidelines, and regulatory actions.”

Example: Construction Storm Water Permit

- Past permit focused on controlling soil during and immediately after construction
 - But for a development, this is only on average 2 years out of the next 30 or 40 years, or even longer
- New permit requires the placement of features that offset the addition of impervious surfaces

Example: Landscape Irrigation General Permit

- A lot of past permits for recycled water have requirements for the control of nutrients in the water to prevent groundwater degradation
- New General Permit has reporting features that now emphasize this nutrient content, and make sure irrigators incorporate this into their whole nutrient management plan

Example: Recycled Water Policy

- Could have just set limits on discharge of recycled water to protect groundwater
- Instead it recognizes the complexity of balancing the desire to recycling water, while minimizing its impacts
- Salt/Nutrient management plans allow for the development of this balance

Other Possibilities

- Limiting the volume of discharges
 - Do not have to permit the entire wastewater flow into the facility as a discharge
- More LID features into MS4s
 - Most municipal storm water permits have LID features now, but there is undoubtedly capacity for more
- Dedicated discharges to land conversion to resource
 - Some facilities have dedicated land discharge systems that are designed as disposal projects. In many cases, at little additional cost, those can be converted to make the wastewater a resources for someone nearby

Changing Mindset

- To be proactive we have to ask questions instead of just looking at what a discharger gives us as his preferred project
- Need to look broadly across that watershed and in the general vicinity for other opportunities
- Will have to be the conduit for communication between parties and help broker deals

Questions?

Discussion?

