



Pure Water North City Phase 1 Construction Projects
Bay Park/Morena Working Group Meeting #1 Summary

City of San Diego North City Water Reclamation Plant
Wednesday, June 27, 2018, 4:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.

This document is not intended to capture verbatim comments from the meeting or function as meeting minutes. It is a summary of the questions posed by the Working Group members and the answers provided by City staff and consultants. The questions and answers are unattributed.

Working Group Members Present

Carol Baker, Resident
Kenneth Brooks, Resident
Roseline Feral, Law Office of Roseline D. Feral
Delana Hardacre, Clairemont Planning Group
Paul Kosen, Resident
Trey McDonald, USD Office of Sustainability

Working Group Members Absent

David Burpeau, Resident
Bernadette Butkiewicz, Resident
Rob Hutsel, San Diego River Park Foundation
Sidd Vivek, Mission Valley YMCA

Project Team Members Present

Amy Dorman, City of San Diego
Megan Drummy, Katz & Associates
Dylan Grise, Katz & Associates
Natalia Hentschel, Katz & Associates
Steve Lindsay, City of San Diego
Joe Long, AECOM
Sean McCarty, Consultant, City of San Diego
Alan Shapiro, AECOM

Other Attendees

Marc Schaefer, Council District 2

Welcome and Introduction

Amy Dorman welcomed the Bay Park/Morena Working Group (WG) to their first meeting with a brief overview of what to expect and thanked them for their commitment, participation and feedback. Natalia Hentschel then introduced her role as facilitator, emphasizing that the WG's mission and principles were carefully developed to ensure the best use of everyone's time, and went over the meeting's agenda and objectives. Members of the WG and the project team introduced themselves.

WG members received binders containing the Mission and Principles of Participation, WG member roster, contact information for their WG liaison, meeting schedule, ground rules, the meeting agenda, PowerPoint presentation, maps of the Morena alignment through Bay Park/Morena, the current construction contracts specifications, fact sheets on the Phase 1 Projects, and FAQs about the Morena Pump Station and Pipelines.

To view project and meeting materials, including new binder contents, visit the Pure Water San Diego website at www.purewatersd.org/Phase1.

Working Group Overview

N. Hentschel began the meeting by providing an overview of the WG's Mission, Principles of Participation, ground rules, binder materials, and the WG meeting schedule. She reminded the WG that these meetings are not about the project's alignment, but that their local voice is essential to mitigating issues related to the project, because they know things the project team does not know about their community. The following are comments or questions from the WG members:

WG Member: Are you going to keep time for public comment? What if someone wants to exceed their time? How would you handle it if someone wants to go long?

Facilitator: We have 15 minutes in the agenda set aside for public comment. If there are a number of people who are submitting speaker slips, we would limit their time to 2-3 minutes. We have a timer and cards that alert the speaker to how much time they have left.

WG Member: What can we share with our community from these meetings?

Facilitator: Everything. We welcome you to share whatever information you learn or receive in this group with your community.

Pure Water Program: North City Phase 1 Projects

A. Dorman provided a presentation on the Pure Water San Diego Program and Phase 1 Projects that included information on the City of San Diego's existing water supply system, water supply challenges, efforts to diversify water supply sources, the need and goals of the Pure Water Program, testing completed to date at the Pure Water Demonstration Facility, and the planned phasing and locations of the Pure Water facilities through 2035.

Additionally, the presentation provided an overview of other Phase 1 Projects, including the North City Water Reclamation Expansion, North City Pure Water Facility, North City Pure Water Pump Station and Pipeline, and the North City Renewable Energy project. The following are comments or questions from the WG members:

WG Member: Where does the water from the desalination process go?

Project Team: The desalination plant is operated by a private entity and the San Diego County Water Authority takes the treated water and brings it to their treated water supply system. The water goes to the Water Authority's aqueduct and they serve other agencies with that. The Water Authority is a wholesale provider that distributes water to various agencies.

WG Member: Does the Mission Valley trunk line currently go to Point Loma?

Project Team: Yes, the wastewater is conveyed to the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Overview of the Morena Pipeline Alignment

Joe Long provided an overview of the Morena pipeline alignment with particular focus on the Bay Park/Morena section of the alignment. He went over the 11 construction topics that will be discussed with the WG over the course of three/four meetings and encouraged the members to keep the list of topics in mind as the presentation progressed. The topics include project coordination to address potential disruptions, street restoration, air quality/odor/noise, staging areas and parking, environmental monitoring, traffic control and signage, specific stakeholder access needs, outreach/communication and notifications, work restrictions and construction phasing, working days and hours, and construction monitoring. J. Long then highlighted the two construction topics that would be discussed later in the evening: 1) coordination between projects and 2) street restoration. The following are comments or questions from the WG members:

WG Member: What are the two areas that are part of the potable water system?

Project Team: They are the Kearny Mesa system and the Alvarado 2nd pipeline. There is a conveyance point in between them, giving the City an opportunity to loop those two systems together.

WG Member: What is the safety plan if there is an interruption in one part so it won't interrupt the other?

Project Team: There is a water system that distributes water to the residents and to the public. There is also a transmission system that brings water into the Pacific Beach area. To provide a safeguard in case there is a shutdown or an issue with either one of them we have the ability to transport water into the system from one to the other. The City has a robust water system but this is one of the last links that the City wants to add as part of this project.

WG Member: Do the blue lines [shown on the alignment map PowerPoint Slide] currently exist? Are those pipelines part of the new construction?

Project Team: One of them does exist. There is an existing 16-inch cast iron pipeline that has a transmission and a distribution line. There will also be a new 36-inch transmission main that will have no service connections; it will just move the water. This is part of the new construction for the Phase 1 Morena project. The City took a lot of time and a lot of effort to bundle these projects together and have just one construction project.

WG Member: So, this project was initiated when there was that Morena Boulevard water emergency a while back?

Project Team: The water main break accelerated repairing portions of the broken waterline. We had already planned this work and were in the middle of design. Then the break happened and we also transitioned into repair. Almost all the breaks we are getting now are with the cast iron pipes and we have a plan in place to replace them. We are moving along well in completing those replacements.

WG Member: What are the orange dots on the [alignment slides] map?

Project Team: Those are the air vac release valves. Because of the topography, the pipe has been sloped up and down to give it the ability to release air. When the water surface in the pipe wants to drop down and an air bubble starts to form it lets air into the pipe so we don't add any stresses to the pipe, and when the pressure starts to go back up it will purge that air back out of the pipeline. Then it goes through an activated carbon canister system before it is released into the environment, and any liquids that have to come out are redirected into the sewer system. It is a closed system.

WG Member: What about smells and fumes?

Project Team: That is what the activated carbon system is for. They absorb any odors, and the system runs on a constant pressure system that is primarily there to let air into the pipe and back out of the pipe in case there is a shutdown or slowdown of the whole system.

WG Member: What about the water hammering effect?

Project Team: The hammering effect has been addressed as part of the design. Since the system runs at a constant pressure there will not be any hammering. To safeguard both the system and the pumping units we put flywheels on all of the pumps themselves. In the case of a shutdown, the pumps would rotate to a slow stop as the water pressure is pushing back on them so there is no excessive pressure on them and then it just shuts down.

WG Member: So, what about the change in elevation—when you have a sideview of the pipeline it goes up and down. What is the effect of that?

Project Team: The pumps impart energy into the wastewater that is placed at the discharge site of the pump. The energy reduces along the alignment due to friction and varies along the pipeline based on the elevation of the pipe at that point. The only differentials you will see as it moves up and down is the pressure in the system, but it never opens up and never stops. The velocity in the pipe is always the same. Again, the only time there could be a hammering effect is if there was a shutdown, and that will not occur because of the designed flywheels.

Facilitator: There are frequently asked questions in your binder that address these questions and others that are similar to it. It is clear that there are a lot of questions about operational safety, but we would like to table that for now and return to it at a later time.

WG Member: Is the blue line [on the map] the safety valve line?

Project Team: The light blue shows the line that runs parallel to the Pure Water facilities all the way out to Balboa. The light blue and dark blue lines ultimately make a connection into the Balboa system.

WG Member: Will both projects [water distribution lines and Pure Water pipelines] happen at the same time? There will clearly be an impact to Morena Boulevard.

Project Team: Yes, they will be done together and they will both be done by the same contractor. There will not be multiple contractors. To help expedite the Morena project, it was divided into multiple construction packages so there are different contractors for different segments of the pipeline and for different communities.

WG Member: Why is the City accelerating the project? Is it already delayed?

Project Team: We are accelerating it to meet a 2021 completion date so we can stay on schedule with the overall Phase 1 project. It was planned this way and is not delayed. We split the packages in order to ensure there would not be any delays.

WG Member: Why the change of material for the pipes?

Project Team: Once we get into Clairemont we have gone up the hill and are then in a low-pressure zone there, so we can switch to a pipe material that does not need to withstand such high pressure. This is a more economical option and uses a pipe material that is used in many water systems. It is the right material for the job the pipe needs to do. This pipe material is consistently chosen and approved by the State.

WG Member: What are the cost savings for changing to this different pipe material? Is it in the millions?

Project Team: Yes.

WG Member: There is going to be additional development before 2035 in Clairemont and Bay Park—won't the water demands change?

Project Team: Not on these water distribution pipelines. A planning assessment was completed based on the 2050 water demand projections that were developed based on SANDAG's research.

WG Member: The area has long been earmarked for major construction for residential development in Linda Vista and Morena. Has your construction planning and timing reconciled with the projected number of units that are going in?

Facilitator: Project coordination is one of the items that is on our agenda for this meeting. After that presentation we will go back and answer these questions.

Contract Documents

Sean McCarty provided an overview of the construction contract documents that the City uses to determine the specifications and guidelines that the contractors are required to follow during construction. These documents include the Public Works Construction "Greenbook," which is used by over 200 cities/counties/agencies, and the Public Works Construction "Whitebook," which includes the City of San Diego's supplemental guidelines to the "Greenbook." Additionally, there are project-specific contract requirements and conditions detailed in the Site Development Permit approved by City Council, the City's Supplementary Special Provisions and project plan drawings. S. McCarty reviewed the Construction Contracts Specifications document provided to all Working Group members in the WG binders. This document details the minimum construction specifications related to issues such as noise, schedule restrictions, construction phasing, work days and times, dust control, air quality, odor, work zone details and staging, traffic control, road restoration, spill prevention, fire protection, biological resources, tree removal, cultural resources, and time lapse cameras. The following are comments or questions from the WG members:

WG Member: About the disruptions—right now we are only talking about the Pure Water and the water distribution pipelines. But at the same time you are digging up the streets, wouldn't this be a great time to be doing all the sewers too? Are there any sewer lines that need replacing?

Project Team: This goes right along with the project coordination we have been talking about. We have been coordinating with SANDAG, first monthly when we started and now on a quarterly basis. We provide updates on our schedule and talk to them to see how their project is progressing. We also monitor all Capital Improvement Projects that are coming out of the City of San Diego and all sewer line replacements. A lot of the sewer work was taken care of ahead of the start of the SANDAG Mid-Coast project. There are sewer line replacements that have occurred and gas line replacements that have occurred. The Tecolote crossing has been designed but not built. These projects will take place prior to the Morena project.

We have written down this question to discuss with City management to see if there is a recent assessment of the quality of the sewers in the area and to see if there are any planned projects. We just finished a comprehensive videoing of all the sewer lines in the area and that did not make the five-year Capital Improvement Plan. We will doublecheck to find out what the conditions of the sewers are and will let you know. When we do the resurfacing with an overlay there is a moratorium for five years so we would not come back during that time to address the sewers.

Coordination Between Projects and Street Restoration

S. McCarty provided an overview of the way the City coordinates on projects to avoid disruptions. He shared how the City monitors Capital Improvement Projects monthly to identify potential conflicts with other upcoming projects and how the City coordinates with agencies/companies outside of the City to notify them of the three to five-year roadwork moratorium. Curb-to-curb pavement restoration will be provided along the alignment and existing pedestrian curb ramps along the alignment will be upgraded to meet ADA standards. The following are comments or questions from the WG members:

WG Member: What is the SANDAG project you are referring to?

Project Team: There are several projects. In particular, the Mid-Coast Corridor. We are talking about the San Diego River doubletracking and the bridge doubletracking on Morena. After the Pure Water project is completed there will also be the doubletracking at Rose Canyon.

WG Member: Have you gotten updates on the transit-oriented development located where the Toys R Us is?

Project Team: No. We received initial plans about the trolley station and some initial sketches but we have not seen more than that.

WG Member: Can I make a comment about the Sunday hours on Morena?

Facilitator: That is something that will be a discussion topic at a future meeting and that would be the best time to share your comment.

WG Member: How much overlay/how many inches of asphalt are part of the street restoration?

Project Team: It could vary. Typically, if the road needs to be overlaid we would do a two-inch grind plus a two-inch overlay to restore it to its original elevation. If there are any alligator cracks or where the subgrade is bad, we would first dig those out and then continue on with our repaving.

WG Member: This is better than in the rest of the community. There are alligator cracks that keep coming back and get bigger and bigger.

Project Team: We repave after our group jobs and there are big paving contracts that are managed by a different section. We walk each street—we have what is called an Overall Condition Index (OCI) and every block and every street is included. Some are older and the street has deteriorated. Anything less than a 70 on that scale would get an overlay. A large job could make a street fall below that and then it would not a slurry seal it would be a full overlay. They check the index to see what to do.

WG Member: Can you provide a brief definition of what a road moratorium means?

Project Team: A moratorium means that the City cannot dig up that road again during that time period. There cannot be any trenching. No work can be done by other agencies as well including SANDAG, SDG&E and all the other utilities.

WG Member: Why is there a moratorium? What happens if something happens in between or if there is some kind of emergency?

Project Team: Every time you cut into a road you significantly damage the asphalt. That is the reasoning. When we repave a road and then someone else comes through and does a project, the lifespan of the road is reduced. This is a self-imposed restriction. There are exceptions in the case of an emergency. You need a waiver to break the moratorium and can only get one in an extreme case.

WG Member: What if there is proven negligence in the way the work was originally completed?

Project Team: Defects and repairs are not included in the moratorium.

WG Member: When the streets are resurfaced, will they have the same layout? What about incorporating items from the Climate Action Plan? Will there be more cycling and pedestrian access?

Project Team: That is one of reasons we are watching the development of the Morena Corridor Specific Plan. Before we restripe what is there we will see if there is anything in the community plan that addresses bike lanes or other updates. The plan has to go through the EIR process. We are letting the process play out. We would rather wait and do the striping after a plan is in place.

WG Member: I have heard no empathy for the amount of disruption that will take place, and while I know the disruption cannot be avoided, we haven't talked about what will be left on Morena Boulevard other than a single lane each way.

Facilitator: I think we need to distinguish between your concerns about the Morena Corridor Plan and your concerns about the Pure Water/Morena project. To clarify, what we meant by

coordination is that the Pure Water team is working to coordinate with other City teams and utilities about the other projects that are taking place in this timeframe. As part of this working group we are discussing topics related to the construction of the Pure Water project.

WG Member: I am curious about the use of eminent domain to take property on the inland side of Morena Blvd. Where does taking property occur in your list of topics? With the work on Morena, I don't see it returning to two lanes. This is evidence that the City will build no matter what. I am concerned about traffic congestion issues. I don't believe there is sufficient project coordination. There is too much acceptance of fragmentation for project management. I don't think the City is committed to coordination. It is understood that you want coordination for construction, but quarterly monitoring and coordination with SANDAG is not enough.

Project Team: Everything is within the right of way, so there is no eminent domain. We are putting the pipes right under the current streets.

Facilitator: Thank you for your feedback. We have noted it and will bring it forward for consideration.

WG Member: My comment is about traffic—I understand that this is all going to be disruptive. However, where we live, there is only one way in and out of our community. It is already one lane both ways on Morena. When you talk about this, it is going to hugely impact us, and I am concerned about it. When traffic is bad on the freeway, people use Morena. I would like to tell others how we can mitigate it.

Facilitator: So far we have provided an overview of the construction topics we will be addressing in future meetings. Traffic is one of our construction topics that we will discuss in a future meeting.

WG Member: There are new townhouses being built without accommodation for the size of the streets or the construction. To me this is another example of there not being coordination. Traffic congestion is also a public safety issue. I am thinking of specific things I see based on living here. I am hoping there will be no Sunday work on any of these streets. We need peace and quiet to add to public safety.

Project Team: The typical work hours do not include Sundays. We are trying to do most of the work at night so as not to interrupt businesses though there are also residents, so it is a balancing act.

WG Member: The goal of this particular group as I understand it is to look at the Pure Water project and weigh in on topics related to that, even though [the project team] said they have been tracking what is going on with other projects in the Morena Corridor. Can we rely on [the project team] as a point of contact for the Morena plan?

Project Team: We are happy to provide the contact information for the Morena Corridor Plan project manager and check in with them more often.

WG Member: On the point of working at night—I am concerned about noise. In Overlook Heights the trolley and train are only a mile away and at night it sounds like they are right next door. At night the sound really travels. I know you have a hard time balancing all of it.

Facilitator: We appreciate your comments. We are going to discuss work schedule and construction phasing at our next meeting where we will present detailed information and explain how the different topics fit together. Reading through the bid specifications matrix handout in your binder will assist you in being prepared to discuss the topics at the next meetings.

WG Member: Are we going to discuss in future meetings how communities will be affected by the equipment and staging that will be part of construction? That is a particular concern for Overlook Heights.

Project Team: Yes. We will give our best estimates for those, but it is also dependent on how the contractor decides to approach it.

WG Member: What is the timeline and duration for this project?

Project Team: April 2019 is when the construction work is estimated to go out to bid. We anticipate a notice to proceed with construction in November 2019. There will be a period of ordering materials and some pre-construction activities including potholing. The construction is anticipated to begin in early 2020. These dates are our best estimates as of today.

WG Member: How far along will the trolley be when you begin construction?

Project Team: The answer for this has kept changing when we meet with SANDAG on a monthly basis. That is part of why we have switched to quarterly meetings as they better determine what their schedule will be going forward. Our pipelines can be built in segments, so it can be adjusted based on what we hear about their schedule. By doing it that way we do not lose any time.

WG Member: Will this be similar to what is happening at Mission Bay and Grand Avenue? Where construction activity has started but there is no activity during the day?

Project Team: They have to work there when the students are not in school. There are special requirements and permitting the City is waiting on for that particular project.

Council Rep: There is a natural spring on McGraw Street off Morena that has caused the road to deteriorate. Something to keep in mind as part of this project.

A: Noted, thank you.

Public Comment

No members of the public attended the meeting so there was no public comment period.

Next Steps

N. Hentschel closed the meeting by briefly reviewing the topics for next time and reminding WG members that the next meeting will take place on Thursday, July 19 at the South Clairemont Recreation Center.