



City of Santa Barbara
Public Works Department

Memorandum

DATE: May 21, 2020

TO: Water Commission

FROM: Joshua Haggmark, Water Resources Manager

SUBJECT: One Water Santa Barbara Status Update

One Water Santa Barbara is a City initiative that places an equal value on all of the City's water supplies - seawater, surface water, groundwater, recycled water, wastewater, and storm water. *One Water Santa Barbara* takes an integrated systems approach to considering our collective water resources when developing solutions for better managing our finite water supplies.

One Water Santa Barbara encompasses an approach that all water has value, and all water should be managed in a sustainable, inclusive, and integrated way. The goal of *One Water Santa Barbara* extends beyond water. Santa Barbara has a deep history of environmental stewardship and sustainability, and has placed significant value on its natural resources. *One Water Santa Barbara* takes a holistic approach to Water Resources' projects and policies to ensure water supply reliability and sustainability, while promoting energy independence, climate resilience, environmental protection, and community priorities.

Over the past year, Water Resources conducted a staff-driven process to create a roadmap for implementing the *One Water Santa Barbara* program. Water Resources also kicked-off a division-wide effort, which includes participation from managers, supervisors, and over one-hundred staff representing each work group: Water Distribution, Wastewater Collection, Wastewater Treatment, Water Supply, Water Treatment, and the Laboratory. The City's Sustainability Committee staff was also represented in foundational *One Water Santa Barbara* planning meetings, which included:

- Reviewing the roadmap for moving forward.
- Developing the vision and guiding principles.
- Identifying projects, programs, and initiatives already underway that satisfy or fulfill the *One Water Santa Barbara* approach, such as Water Vision, which is encompassed within the *One Water Santa Barbara* umbrella.
- Holding individual meetings with Water Resources work groups to discuss the *One Water Santa Barbara* initiative, and clearly define the vision and guiding principles.

- Vision

One Water Santa Barbara is an integrated approach to managing water by aligning with our community goals, balancing interests, and optimizing resources.
- Guiding Principles
 1. Increase coordination, cooperation, and awareness of our water resources with City departments, partners, and stakeholders.
 2. Balance environmental, economic, and societal goals by implementing fiscally responsible and equitable projects and programs that provide multiple benefits.
 3. Enhance our community's quality of life by monitoring and maintaining reliable water systems.
 4. Improve local water supply reliability by diversifying our supply portfolio and using water efficiently.
 5. Increase climate resilience by planning for climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies.
 6. Enhance community awareness and advocacy for sustainable water through active engagement, building trust and high regard, public outreach, and education.
 7. Create and maintain a *One Water Santa Barbara* framework that is adaptive, reflects best practices, and is underpinned by sound metrics.

Armed with staff input on the roadmap for a path forward, along with clear vision and guiding principles, and a shared understanding of *One Water Santa Barbara's* role in our City, we can work on further developing and implementing *One Water Santa Barbara*.

Next steps include:

- Furthering a *One Water Santa Barbara* culture by breaking down silos and creating a shared understanding of Water Resources' collective role and contributions within the City.
- Developing collaborative partnerships and understandings important to moving the *One Water Santa Barbara* ideology forward.
- Developing a mindset throughout the City and community that all water has value.
- Focusing on projects and programs which promote the value of water, energy generation, climate resilience, environmental protection, and community priorities.
- Integrating existing planning and development plans (such as Water Vision Santa Barbara, the Strategic Energy Plan, Water Distribution Infrastructure Plan, Climate Action Plan, and the Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan).

Carrying out the *One Water Santa Barbara* roadmap will continue to rely on staff input and participation, along with input from the Water Commission. Laying out implementation steps and tactics will help keep the momentum to making *One Water Santa Barbara* a commonly understood vision throughout the City and community.