



2002 Clean Water Summit Comprehensive Planning Track

Summary of Panel Discussion:

- I. Chuck Bras outlined the format of the afternoon session and gave a brief presentation on the Comprehensive Planning Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). He reviewed the 6 specific action items developed and progress to-date towards the achievement of those action items. He also reviewed the four goals of the Comprehensive Planning TAC as described in the focused assessment. He stated that the purpose of the panel discussion is to determine the TAC priorities and direction for the coming year.
- II. Chuck then opened the floor to questions of the four (4) speakers from the audience. This question and answer period brought forth many issues and determined some areas to focus on in the upcoming year.
 - The first question brought up communication issues between Land Use Agencies and Water Agencies. John Robertus, San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board, gave the example of using landscaping as a BMP during the construction process as opposed to after construction has been completed, as is the current practice. This points out the miscommunication between planning and water regulators. Simple measures when taken at the right time can prevent problems later. Bruce Posthumus, San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board, commented that simply focusing on water quality is not going to meet the overall objectives of watershed planning, including habitat, recreation, as well as drinking water. Keith Pezzoli, UCSD, made the comment that we need to interject more science into our planning practices.
 - John Robertus stated that currently, the main focus of the Regional Board is TMDL development under the Basin Plan.
 - Keith Pezzoli was asked about funding for his research programs and he replied that so far, the funding has come from grants, but he is hoping to get the maquiladoras to pay for future research, trying to appeal to the sense of community health that these companies claim to have.
 - John Robertus brought up the issue of assimilative capacity of the waters and the fact that most people believe 'that the water is there to dilute and therefore dispose of pollutants from the region'. Only through education can we hope to make a paradigm shift in and dispel this belief. Bruce Posthumus emphasized the need for science and a realization of the interconnections between 'land and water, aquatic systems and terrestrial systems.'

- In response to a question, John Robertus pointed out that agricultural operations are the next group of dischargers on the regulatory horizon.
 - John Robertus then commented that only by working together, can engineers, biologists, and planners hope to accomplish water quality objectives.
 - Chuck then asked a final question of the panelists. He inquired of the panelists whether they thought that water could ever be the limiting factor on population for San Diego County? Dana Frieauf, San Diego County Water Authority, gave the perspective of her organization. Her comment was that the Water Authority is not in the business of dictating where growth is going to happen. John Robertus stated that economics will most likely be the limiting factor in determining growth, referring to the high price of housing as well as the high price of water and sewer services in the future. Bruce Posthumus said that quality of life would have a major determining factor in what happens at the community level in watersheds, as people realize that they will have to give up some amenities to live in a sustainable community. Keith Pezzoli commented on the idea of ecological footprints, that in order for an individual to exist and enjoy certain comforts, he or she will displace a certain amount of land elsewhere in the world. This idea ties in with the overall carrying capacity of the San Diego Region and ultimately with the carrying capacity of the world.
- III. Conclusions/Recommendations: The group felt that the following directions should be pursued to identify new action items.
- We must identify the interconnections between different topic areas across political boundaries, including ecology, hydrology, and biology.
 - To assure effectiveness we need to continue to characterize the relationship of watershed planning to other types of planning, including land use, growth management and habitat protection.