

## PUBLIC FORUM NOTES: SEPTEMBER 26, 2017

The goal of the forum was for Santa Fe and the EPA team to engage the public through a facilitated discussion to gain input on long-term stormwater planning priorities and vision.

To begin the forum, EPA presented background information on the long-term stormwater planning effort and the city presented some of the challenges the Santa Fe stormwater program faces. The bulk of the forum was a facilitated discussion designed to generate conversation and input to inform plan vision and development. The group was asked to consider some specific questions (presented below), as well as provide any other input they felt was vital for inclusion in the planning process or the plan itself. The text below is a summary of the topics discussed and conveyed by the public.

- What do you see as water-related challenges in Santa Fe that you think need to be addressed?
  - Water needs to be treated more as a resource and a life-blood
    - Integrated resource for community and environment
    - “Water is life”
  - Water harvesting is only permitted from roof drainage—runoff from landscapes and impervious surfaces cannot be harvested
    - Desire for increased clean water capture and infiltration
  - New Mexico’s / Rio Grande Compact only allows for retaining stormwater and infiltrating up to 96 hours before it is required to be released. City code requires water to infiltrate within 24 hours
    - How can the city maximize the volume infiltrated to replenish Santa Fe’s water table?
  - Acequias need to be mapped and protected
  - Groundwater and stormwater are not separate
    - Need to be protected and treated as a critical resource
  - Erosion, pollution, and trash from upland areas cause problems for downslope/downstream parts of the community
    - Need to responsibly manage runoff from the top down
    - Create a holistic approach to stormwater management
    - Universal trash and pollution control efforts needed
  - Several participants echoed their support for clean water programs
  - Improve damaged and eroded arroyos, particularly those impacting private property
  - BMPs should be mandatory for new development, not just retrofits
- How do you see yourself participating in the city’s efforts moving forward?
  - Would participate if the city provides programs and resources that make it easy for community involvement and assistance



Photo 1. Public forum participants.

- Potential community engagement
  - Art (e.g., painting catchment systems), tree planting, potential job creation
- How has the city's current stormwater management process affected you?
  - City work impacting private properties (e.g., drainage projects, stormwater maintenance)
    - Drainage deficiencies and lack of maintenance can impact private property—how will the city fix these issues? Will they be fixed at no cost/disruption to the residents?
  - Need for city-led outreach and education on the stormwater program as well as available and preferred design and development practices
    - Resources for homeowners
- What would you like to see incorporated in a long-term stormwater plan for Santa Fe?
  - Leverage Santa Fe's Living River ordinance
  - City purchase and use of large parcels of land for revitalization and urban forestry
  - Scientific documentation to demonstrate bioremediation
    - City needs to be a leader
    - Monitor environmental data/ track performance/report results (e.g., performance metrics related to green infrastructure effectiveness)
    - Opportunities for citizen science and data gathering
  - Mandatory requirements for new developments
  - Increased and enhanced public education and outreach
    - Building practices, designs, and techniques
  - Work with youth in the community (i.e. job and volunteer opportunities)
  - Incorporate trails
  - Eliminate "grandfathering" of outdated and undesirable practices
  - Include financial incentive programs
    - Motivation for parcel-based green infrastructure
    - Water Conservation has had success
  - Consider catastrophic flood hazard scenarios
  - Stormwater risk analysis map is needed
    - Identify problem areas—pollution, trash, etc.
  - Historical and ongoing analysis of hydrogeology and main tributary systems—coupled with impacts from anthropogenic activities
  - Desire for incorporating carbon sequestration
  - Explore the resurrection of a regional planning committee for working with Santa Fe County
    - The city and the county are connected in many ways, including through the new NPDES MS4 permit
- Additional comments and ideas conveyed by the public
  - "How long is the plan?" –should be able to last in perpetuity
  - Focus on high visibility projects—serve as educational tools
  - Educational workshops to provide training
  - Community landscape—e.g. rail yard, try out techniques to be used as a demo
  - Potential use of tree-tracking software
  - Remove asphalt and concrete as a part of an initiative to work with communities to create pocket parks

- Promote private-parcel level stewardship
  - Example: One participant described their use of woodchips inoculated with microorganisms to “grow topsoil”
- Parcel-based experimentation to share with community
- Change Management
  - How will the city incorporate and manage changes to its operations?

**Proposed Draft Goals for Santa Fe Long-term Stormwater Plan:**

- Incorporate stormwater and green infrastructure into new development and redevelopment policies for public and private projects
- Effectively plan, construct, and maintain stormwater assets over the long term to enhance opportunities to incorporate stormwater into city projects seamlessly.
- Generate reliable funding dedicated to city’s stormwater program alongside an incentive program.
- Align stormwater efforts and projects with the city’s broader sustainability goals.
- Structure and organize the city’s stormwater program in an effective manner to achieve efficiencies across relevant departments/divisions.
- Create a successful program for stormwater program education, outreach, and training for the general public and city staff and decision-makers.