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10.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The WPPDC water supply planning group recognizes that preparation of a successful plan will be more likely with active participation of the general public, local governments (i.e., county boards of supervisors and city and town councils) as well as regional stakeholders. Regional stakeholders include but are not limited to, elected officials, planning commissioners, Economic Development Authorities, Industrial Development Authorities, and local well drillers. In an effort to involve these parties, WPPDC conducted two workshops during the planning process. Each workshop was advertised in a paper of general circulation and posted on the WPPDC website. In addition, the WPPDC mailed individual invitations to many of the stakeholders in the region. Each workshop is discussed in more detail below. Documentation from each workshop is presented in Appendix F.

10.1 Workshop 1

The first stakeholder workshop was conducted on February 21, 2008. The purpose of the first workshop was to educate the general public and regional stakeholders on the requirements of the regulation and the benefits of participating in a Regional Water Supply Plan. In addition, the workshop was set up with five workstations presenting the data collection efforts to date. Workstation one included handouts and materials regarding the regulatory requirements of the Plan; workstation two presented maps showing water source data collected for both the public and private community water systems in the region; workstation three presented maps showing future growth area in the region along with the population and household density; workstation four presented drafts of the demand projections (one from a rural jurisdiction and one from an urban jurisdiction); and workstation five presented a map showing existing regional cooperation between localities in the region. During the workshop, planning commissioners and elected officials as well as general public were given an opportunity to provide input into projections for growth and development and regional stakeholders provided input on areas where water supply is stressed by planned growth as well as providing possible solutions to those water supply issues.

10.2 Workshop 2

The second stakeholder workshop was conducted on October 29, 2009. The purpose of the second workshop was to educate the general public and regional stakeholders on the requirements of the regulation and the benefits of participating in a Regional Water Supply Plan, present existing and future water demands in the planning region, and present future water needs in the planning region and potential water supply alternatives. In addition, five workstations were set up with handouts and materials regarding the regulatory requirements of the Plan as well as draft maps, demand projections, and sections of the Plan. During the workshop, planning commissioners and elected officials as well as general public were given an opportunity to provide input on the content of the Regional Water Supply Plan.