



Oregon's Kitchen Table – Mid-Coast Water Planning

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In late fall 2018, the Mid-Coast Water Planning Partnership (the Partnership), in collaboration with Oregon's Kitchen Table, conducted a public engagement process to gather input from people who work in, live in, own a business in, or often visit Oregon's Mid-Coast (from Cascade Head to Cape Perpetua) about their knowledge, values, and beliefs about water and the future of water in the region. The following executive summary provides an overview of the engagement process as well as high-level findings. The attached report contains three sections: 1) an analysis of results from the online and paper surveys (in English and Spanish); 2) the annotated survey results; and 3) themes heard in listening sessions with Spanish speaking residents of the Mid-Coast region.

ABOUT OREGON'S KITCHEN TABLE

Oregon's Kitchen Table (OKT) is a program of the National Policy Consensus Center in the College of Urban and Public Affairs, Hatfield School of Government, at Portland State University, and was created by a group of nonpartisan, nonprofit community organizations dedicated to helping Oregonians have a voice in public decision-making. OKT facilitates public consultations to allow Oregonians to weigh in on policy questions posed by elected officials and public managers. OKT has been used at the state, local, and regional levels to gather feedback from a wide variety of Oregonians using both our online surveying tool, to solicit input from thousands of participants, and in-person community gatherings of various sizes and formats. The process is not intended to be a scientific study; rather it is one way to allow the public to share ideas, beliefs, and values with decision-makers and other community members.

We are committed to reaching community members from all walks of life – particularly in communities that typically have not been well represented in public processes – to achieve deep engagement. We utilize translators and interpreters, as well as culturally specific outreach, to ensure that materials and online and in-person consultations are available for non-native English speakers and those who may have lower literacy levels.

ENGAGEMENT GOALS

The goals of this project were multi-fold: 1) to hear from as many people as possible who work in, live in, own a business in, or often visit the Mid-Coast (from Cascade Head to Cape Perpetua) about their personal and regional water knowledge and values; 2) to gauge what interests or concerns people hold most about the future of water in the region; and 3) to begin to introduce some of the tradeoffs as the Partnership prepares to weigh strategies and solutions. This engagement was also intended to lay some of the groundwork for future engagements that will introduce more specific policy choices.

Because this engagement is intended for the general public, it assumes that respondents bring different levels of knowledge and familiarity regarding water and water policy to it. It is our goal to ensure that those who may not have in-depth knowledge can also respond and share their beliefs and experiences.

The Partnership was particularly interested in hearing from Spanish-speaking community members and members of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians. OKT created several avenues for outreach and input, including an online survey in Spanish, a paper-based survey in Spanish that was distributed through multiple points-of-contact (community-based organizations, churches, and other venues), and in-person small group listening sessions for Spanish and Mam speakers. OKT also worked with the Siletz Tribal Council and staff to develop an input process. The Siletz Tribal Council sent a mailing out to every member's household and collected paper survey responses that were then provided to OKT.

PARTICIPATION

Nearly 680 people took part in the various engagement opportunities. Of those, 505 participants took the survey online and 112 submitted their responses via paper survey in English and Spanish. Fully 89 percent of participants indicated that they were English speakers, and 11 percent indicated they were Spanish speakers.¹ The Siletz Tribal member mailing secured thirty-eight participants. About sixty people participated in three different Spanish language listening sessions, with one of these sessions also including Mam speakers.

FINDINGS: COMMONLY HELD VALUES AND BELIEFS

Across all forms of engagement, the following commonly held values and beliefs emerged:

- The majority of participants listed health as the issue they think about either most or next to most. 43 percent of participants listed water as the issue they think about most or next to most, and 41 percent listed environment or ecology. The other issues lagged behind those three.

¹ Just under 9 percent of Lincoln County's residents identified themselves as Latino or Hispanic in the last US Census. That percentage includes speakers of all languages and is likely to be larger now.

- Most participants get their water from either a city or a water district.
- Not surprisingly, 95 percent of participants use water for personal or home use (like drinking, cleaning, and more).
- 78 percent of participants indicated that they enjoy water “in a scenic way,” and 73 percent use it to grow food or plants. Far fewer participants reported that they use it for business or industrial use (13%).
- A majority (57 %) of participants say their water costs are about right. About a third of participants believe that their water costs too much (26%) or far too much (7%).
- The people who responded to the survey frequently think about water use across the region. Over forty percent think about water use most of the time, while 17 percent think of it all of the time. By contrast, less than 10 percent of respondents think about it rarely or never. Even so, the vast majority of respondents did not know about the Partnership before this survey.
- With 100 gallons of water to give to various uses, participants would give the most water (32.6 gallons) to residential water supply for year-round residents. Water for fish and wildlife was second with 23.7 gallons. Water for tourist lodging and tourist attractions came in last with 7.6 gallons.
- When asked about their concerns about being able to make sure there is water for people, business, and nature, the results were split across concern for household use, infrastructure, and fish and wildlife. Fully 28 percent of respondents reported that their primary concern is making sure there is enough safe water to drink and use for cleaning, while 23 percent reported their greatest concern was making sure that the region’s water structures (pipes, pumps, etc.) are in good condition to withstand time and a major event, like an earthquake or tsunami, and 22 percent said their greatest concern was making sure there is enough water to support fish and wildlife. Far fewer people (1%) are most concerned about having enough water to support business and industry. Likewise, very few (1%) feel the biggest concern is that the water be safe for recreation.
- When asked to evaluate ways to help ensure that there’s enough water for all needs, participants assigned points to various solutions. Again, there were a mix of answers. Watershed restoration or protection (protecting or improving the forests and lands the region’s water flows through) received the most points (19.8 points out of 100 possible points). Water storage systems (such as reservoirs) received 18.3 points, and conservation received 16 points. Sharing water between communities received the fewest points (7.2 points).

ANALYSIS

The OKT online consultation provided some background on current water conditions in the area (particularly around drought) and on what the Partnership’s work is. The consultation

asked a series of questions about water use and supply followed by a series of questions about tradeoffs around water planning and potential strategies. The survey also included a few demographic questions.

A total of 505 participants took the survey online (in Spanish and English) and 112 participants provided input on the same questions via paper surveys (also in Spanish and English). Survey invitations were sent through Partnership members, OKT, and a number of local partners. In addition, several local businesses and community groups circulated the survey. Local news outlets, including Spanish language radio, also publicized the effort. A number of area libraries and the Newport Public Works Desk at the City of Newport acted as paper survey pick-up and drop off locations as did a few churches and community-based organizations for Spanish paper surveys.

The raw data was processed and analyzed by OKT. The following analysis includes a summary of results and excerpted comments from open-ended questions. All responses to the open-ended questions will be provided to the Partnership as a separate file.

OVERVIEW OF RESULTS

KNOWLEDGE / AWARENESS

One set of questions gauged how participants used water and what people already knew about their own water. The majority of participants said that they get their water from either a city or a water district (57%) with the next largest group supplying their own water, either from a well or spring on their land or from a stream or river (14%). Only a very small number responded, “I don’t know” (less than 1%). Of note, participants rarely selected “I buy bottled water” as their only source of water; that option was more likely to be selected alongside another option (such as a water bill or included in rent).

There were similar responses from those who manage or own a business in the Mid-Coast with the majority selecting “I get a utility bill that includes water from a city or water district” (23%), and then next a combination of self-supplying through well/spring or stream/river (8%). A slightly higher percentage (5%) selected “I don’t know.”

While the questions did not ask participants about their knowledge of the water body source that supplies their water, a number of open-ended comments expressed a desire to know more about where exactly their water comes from.

We also asked participants about how familiar they are with the Partnership’s efforts, which helped gauge whether the engagement was reaching beyond those who were already familiar or involved in some way. The majority responded that they either knew nothing about the Partnership (44%) or very little about it (32%). Individual comments in the open-ended questions reflected both a desire to know more about the Partnership’s work as well as a concern about the region’s overall awareness about water issues.

INDIVIDUAL EXPERIENCES

Participants were then asked a set of questions about their values about and experiences with water. The first question asked, “As you think about the future, which of these do you think about the most?” Participants were asked to rank the issues from one to eight, with one being what they think about more and eight being what they think about the least. The top three issues for participants were: health (33% ranked as first), environment or ecology (22% ranked as first), and water (20% ranked as first). The majority of participants ranked entertainment last (72%) followed by jobs or a secure retirement as seventh out of eight (24%). Housing, safety, and education fell in the middle.

When asked directly “How much do you think about how you or others in the region use water,” most participants selected either “often” (43%) or “sometimes” (30%). Less than 1 percent selected “never.”

Participants also selected from among a set of potential ways they use or interact with water. While participants were able to select multiple options, the top four uses were, in descending order: 1. for personal or home use (like drinking, cleaning and more); 2. to enjoy in a scenic way (like taking photos, going on a picnic, and looking at the water); 3. to grow food and plants; and 4. to enjoy or protect wildlife and nature (such as bird watching or fish restoration).

When asked how people felt about the cost of their water, a majority stated they believe that their water costs are about right (57%) with 26 percent stating they think it costs too much. Many fewer people believe that their water either costs far too much (7%) or far too little (2%). Commenters did express concerns about the costs of water, whether it was a question of why it costs what it does or a concern that people living with low incomes may be hurt by future increases in water rates, even if someone supported raising those rates to either compensate for solutions or encourage conservation.

ALLOCATION

Participants were asked to imagine that they had 100 gallons of water and to allocate those gallons across six options. They could choose to use all 100 gallons in one place or spread it out any way they wanted. Participants allocated the most water for residential water supply for year-round residents (32.6 gallons). Water for fish and wildlife came in second with 23.7 gallons, and farming was third with 17.3 gallons. Less water was allocated for recreation, industry or business, and tourist lodgings and attractions.

FUTURE OF WATER IN THE REGION

Participants were asked to select one from a series of statements about their top priorities for balancing water needs. The highest percentage of participants (28%) said that their first priority is making sure there is enough safe water to drink and use for cleaning. Not far behind, 22 percent of participants’ top priority was making sure there is enough water to support fish and wildlife, and another 22 percent most wanted to ensure that the region’s water structures (pipes, pumps, etc.) are in good condition to withstand time and a major event, like an earthquake or tsunami. Seventeen percent felt that storage of water for future use was the first priority. Water safety for recreation was top priority for just 1 percent of participants. And, likewise, 1 percent reported caring most about water to support business and industry.

STRATEGIES TO ENSURE ADEQUATE WATER

Participants were asked to imagine that they had 100 points to allocate amongst strategies to ensure adequate water. The results were spread across several strategies. Participants assigned nearly 20 of those 100 points to watershed restoration or protection (protecting or improving the forests and lands that the region’s water flows through). Water storage systems (such as reservoirs) received just over 18 points, and programs that conserve water received 16 points. The lowest rated strategy was sharing water between communities at just over 7 points.

DESIRE FOR KNOWLEDGE ABOUT WATER

Participants were asked what additional information they’d like about water in the region. Several participants expressed an interest in knowing where their water comes from, how it is currently being used, and how the quantity fluctuates over time. Others wanted to know how water quality is being managed in light of current logging practices, roadside spraying, farming practices, and run off from residential areas. A couple of participants were interested in knowing about desalination as an option for producing drinking water from sea water. Several people wanted to know about water storage methods, including home water catchment systems. Some wanted to know about the current state of water infrastructure and how to plan for safe water in an emergency. One person expressed interest in knowing about how climate change is affecting water quantity.

Excerpted Comments

Cantos galones se usan dia a dia. y Que opciones abria para aquellas personas que la desperdician (el agua). *Rough translation:* How many gallons are used every day and what options are open for those people who waste water?

I'd love to have some information on home water catchment systems. I'd really like to use as much rainwater/repurposed water for my home as possible.

Se puede quitar la sal del mar para usar como agua para beber? *Rough translation:* Can you remove salt from the sea to use as water to drink?

What are the actual conditions of the pipes and infrastructure that our water districts use? What is needed to be repaired, upgraded, or replaced to meet current standards? How much would that cost?

How contaminated is the Siletz River before it arrives at Siletz, and how “safe” / “clean” is it to be stored for a couple of years in a tank?

KNOWLEDGE OF CURRENT EFFORTS

Participants were asked how much they know about the Mid-Coast Water Planning Partnership's efforts? The majority of participants knew a little (32%) or didn't know about it at all (44%).

ADDITIONAL CONCERNS

Finally, participants were invited to share any additional concerns or thoughts about their water or water in the region. Several people were concerned there is a lack of awareness about water uses, demand, shortages, and other related issues. They suggest outreach for residents and tourists regarding conservation and priorities for ensuring water quantity. Several expressed concerns about water quality, particularly in the Siletz River. Some were concerned about population growth and the impact on water supply. Several expressed concerns about the impact of forestry practices on water quality. Several expressed an interest in water storage options and impacts. One participant said that water shut-downs affect their business, and there are costs to the business and community. One participant was concerned about increasing costs for water users.

EXCERPTED COMMENTS

Water conservation and storage is going to be critical for current and future generations. Wildlife and recreation is the top economic driver on the Oregon Central Coast by locals and tourists. People pick Oregon for our forests, ocean, wildlife, ecosystem, recreation, livability, and healthy environment.

I think people in the area could really benefit from some water education, showing what sources there are, what are the competing priorities, how things have changed over time and finally some strategies to manage our water better.

I see new residential building is ongoing and our population is increasing. It doesn't make sense that there are limits to how many people our water system will satisfy and no limits to the residential building.

I would like to see this topic move forward in a way that does not target one industry or another such as forestry and operations on the land. The cleanest and purest water comes from our forests including industrial forest. There are laws currently in place protecting those waters and I would hate to see this group targeting specific industries trying to find a scapegoat to their water crisis.

MAKE-UP OF PARTICIPANTS

Participants provided the following demographic information:

- Of all participants, 75 percent live in the Mid-Coast or Lincoln County area. Fully 40 percent work in the area. Another 25 percent of participants have retired to the area.

- Of the participants, 22 percent get their water from Newport, 14 percent from Lincoln City, 13 percent from Seal Rock, 12 percent from outside the city. The rest of the participants get their water from other cities in the region.
- The largest age category of respondents was more than 61 years old (47%). That was followed by 46 to 60 year olds (25%) and 36 to 45 year olds at 15 percent. Only one percent of respondents were 18 to 25 year olds.
- Nearly 90 percent of participants prefer to get their information in English, and 11 percent prefer Spanish.

CONCLUSION

The results of this engagement provide a sense of the values and beliefs held by those who participated at this particular time around the issue of water in the Mid-Coast. They also reveal some of the different individual experiences that people have faced regarding their water uses and concerns.

Across the different forms of engagement, some areas of agreement do emerge. A majority of people want to ensure enough water for residents. Many people think that industrial needs and recreation needs for water are less important than residential water use. They are interested in watershed restoration, storage, and conservation as means to ensure enough water for multiple uses. There is a strong sense that for the sake of conservation, there needs to be more education.

Because participants showed a high level of interest in the future of water on the mid-coast but were largely unfamiliar with the Partnership's work, there is a good deal of room for the Partnership to share its work with the residents of the Mid-Coast.

APPENDIX

Section 1: MID-COAST WATER PLANNING PARTNERSHIP ANNOTATED SURVEY

INTRODUCTION

Water and water supply affect all aspects of life in our region. Communities along the Mid-Coast are working together to plan for the future of water in our region. The Mid-Coast includes the area from Cascade Head to Cape Perpetua. This type of water planning is going on across Oregon, and as part of that planning, we're asking for your thoughts and ideas.

Today, water shortages and droughts are an issue in our region. Partners are now working together to understand and manage the supply of quality water that can meet all of our needs. As part of this process, we ask you to help by filling out this survey through Oregon's Kitchen Table to share about your values and hopes for water in our region. *The members of the Mid-Coast Water Planning Partnership will use your input to help them balance water needs in our area.*

Your voice counts!

So please fill out this survey if you live in, work in, or often visit the Lincoln County area. This survey should take you less than 10 minutes to fill out. This survey will be open until November 30, 2018. Your participation is voluntary.

BACKGROUND

What is the Mid-Coast Water Planning Partnership?

It is a group made up of people with many different water interests. It has started to work together to balance a number of different water needs and factors on the Mid-Coast from Cascade Head to Cape Perpetua.

Don't we have plenty of water on the Coast?

Most of our water falls as rain during the winter and most of that water is not stored for very long. During the summer, when there is little rain, the Mid-Coast faces water shortages and droughts like other places in Oregon. In 2018, Lincoln County was in a severe drought for most of the summer.

What are the questions the Partnership is asking as it plans?

- What can we do to increase the amount of water available to use when we need it most?
- How can we best balance factors like timing, amount, and location of water to meet all the diverse kinds of needs? Needs include water for homes, fish and wildlife, business and industry, farming, and recreation.
- How are we getting people, the environment, and our systems ready to respond to major events like drought, flooding or earthquakes? These events could impact the how much quality water there is and how available it is.

How can I help?

Fill out this short survey that will share your values about the long-term future of water in our region!

Will my answers on this survey be private?

Yes. All answers will be private (confidential). They will not be tied to your name or contact information, if you choose to share those. You can read about Oregon’s Kitchen Table’s Privacy Policy here: <https://www.oregonskitchentable.org/privacy-policy>. If you have any questions, email Oregon’s Kitchen Table at info@oregonskitchentable.org.

How will the Partnership use the results of this survey?

The Mid-Coast Water Planning Partnership, city and county governments, and others working on water issues in the region will get a report based on your answers and the answers of others. It will help inform decisions they make to provide enough water for water users and improve water for fish, wildlife, and our environment. The report will also be posted on Oregon’s Kitchen Table’s website.

QUESTIONS

1. As you think about the future, which of these do you think about the most? Please rate which of these you think about the most. Start with 1 being the one you think about the most out of all of these. Number all the way down to 8, with 8 being the one you think about the least. Only use each number one time.

RESPONSE CATEGORY	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8
Water	20%	23%	18%	13%	11%	7%	5%	2%
Health	33%	21%	20%	13%	6%	5%	2%	<1%
Education	4%	6%	9%	16%	17%	20%	20%	6%
Environment or ecology	23%	19%	18%	12%	10%	9%	5%	3%
Safety	4%	7%	10%	16%	19%	18%	16%	6%
Housing	5%	9%	14%	13%	17%	21%	16%	4%
Jobs or a secure retirement	11%	13%	9%	11%	12%	13%	23%	5%
Entertainment (food, music, etc.)	1%	1%	1%	4%	5%	6%	10%	70%
N=	598	598	598	598	598	598	598	598

2. Which of these describes how you use water in the region? Check all that apply.



RESPONSE CATEGORY	N=611
For recreation (like swimming, surfing and more)	54%
For business or industrial use	13%
For personal or home use (like drinking, cleaning and more)	95%
For commercial fishing (or fishing for work)	6%
For recreational fishing (or fishing for fun)	37%
To relax	52%
To grow food and plants	73%
To go boating	33%
To enjoy or protect wildlife and nature (such as bird watching or fish restoration)	67%
My business or work relies on water to function	21%
To enjoy water in a cultural or spiritual way	40%
To enjoy in a scenic way (like taking photos, going on a picnic, and looking at the water)	78%
Other _____	2%

3. Where does the drinking water in your home come from? In other words, who supplies your water to you? Check all that apply.

RESPONSE CATEGORY	N=606
I get a utility bill that includes water from either a city or a water district.	66%
My water comes from a well or spring on my land.	14%
I buy bottled water.	12%
My water is paid for through my rent or housing.	8%
I supply my own water from a stream or a river.	2%
I don't know.	1%
Other _____	2%
I don't live in Lincoln County or the Mid-Coast, but I use the water there when I visit.	10%

**4. If you own or manage a business in the Lincoln County area, where does the water your business uses come from?
Check all that apply.**

RESPONSE CATEGORY	N=434
I get a utility bill that includes water for my business from either a city or a water district.	24%
The water my business uses comes from a well or spring on my land in the Mid-Coast or Lincoln County area.	5%
I buy bottled water.	5%
My water is paid for through my business's rent	7%
I supply my own water from a stream or a river.	3%
I don't know.	5%
Other _____	4%
I don't own, manage or work in a business in the Lincoln County area.	53%

5. How reasonable do you think the cost of your water is?

RESPONSE CATEGORY	N=546
Costs Far Too Much	7%
Costs too much	26%
About right	57%
Costs too little	8%
Costs far too little	2%

6. How much do you think about how you or others in our region use water?

RESPONSE CATEGORY	N=607
All the time	17%
Often	43%
Sometimes	30%
Rarely	9%
Never	<1%

7. **Now imagine you have 100 gallons of water to use in the region. Please tell us where you'd use it.** You can choose to use all 100 gallons in one place. Or you can choose to spread it out in any way you want. Your water use has to add up to 100 gallons. Make sure you only use whole numbers (for example, 10) and not numbers with decimals (for example, 10.5).

RESPONSE CATEGORY	N=590
Residential water supply for year-round residents	32.6
Water for farming	17.3
Water for fish and wildlife	23.7
Water for recreation	7.7
Water for industry or business	11.0
Water for tourist lodging and tourist attractions	7.6

8. **The Mid-Coast Water Planning Partnership was formed because of concerns about being able to make sure there is water for people, business and nature. What is your top priority to address these concerns?** Please choose the statement that you agree with the *most*, even if you agree with many or all of them.

RESPONSE CATEGORY	N=558
I want to make sure there is enough water to support fish and wildlife.	22%
I want to make sure that our water structures (pipes, pumps, etc.) are in good condition to withstand both time and a major event, like an earthquake or tsunami.	23%
I want our water to be safe to play or recreate in.	1%
I want to make sure there is enough safe water to drink and use for cleaning.	28%
I want to make sure we have enough water stored in case we need it in the future.	17%
I want to make sure that there is enough water to support business and industry.	1%
I think we have enough water for all of our needs now and in the future.	5%
I want to make sure we have enough water for people on septic systems or wells (or people who self-supply their water).	3%

9. Now imagine you have 100 points to use for ways to help make sure there's enough water for all needs. You can choose to use all 100 points in one place. Or you can choose to spread it out any way you want. Your points have to add up to 100. Make sure you only use whole numbers (for example, 10) and not numbers with decimals (for example, 10.5).

RESPONSE CATEGORY	N=591
Water storage systems (such as reservoirs)	18.3
Share water between communities	7.2
Develop new sources of water (such as reusing water, removing salt from seawater, or using water from different streams)	14.5
Programs that conserve water	16.0
Update or replace aging pipes and other parts of the water system	14.5
Watershed restoration or protection (Protecting or improving the forests and lands our water flows through)	19.8
Prepare for major events (like earthquakes, tsunamis, and more)	9.7

10. What information about your water or water in the region would you most like to learn more about?

Responses provided to the Partnership and available from OKT upon request.

11. How much do you know about the Mid-Coast Water Planning Partnership's efforts?

RESPONSE CATEGORY	N=611
I know a whole lot about it	6%
I know some about it	17%
I know a little about it	32%
I don't know about it at all	44%

12. Are there any other concerns or thoughts you have about your water or water in the region that you'd like to share with us?

Responses provided to the Partnership and available from OKT upon request.

ABOUT YOU

- 13. Do you live, work, or own or manage a business in the Mid-Coast? That is, from Cascade Head to Cape Perpetua. This includes Lincoln County and some parts of Tillamook, Polk, Benton, and Lane Counties. Check all that apply.**

RESPONSE CATEGORY	N=605
I live in the Mid-Coast or Lincoln County area.	75%
I work in the Mid-Coast or Lincoln County area.	40%
I own or manage a business in the Mid-Coast or Lincoln County area.	17%
I own a home in the Mid-Coast or Lincoln County area, but my main residence is somewhere else.	14%
I visit the Mid-Coast or Lincoln County area but live or work elsewhere.	9%
I'm retired in the Mid-Coast or Lincoln County area.	25%
Other _____	4%

- 14. Please check the box next to the community where you get your water. Check just one.**

RESPONSE CATEGORY	N=598
Lincoln City	14%
Depoe Bay	3%
Newport	22%
Siletz	5%
Yachats	9%
Toledo	4%
Waldport	4%
Seal Rock	13%
Kernville-Gleneden-Lincoln Beach	2%
Otter Rock	1%
Otter Crest	1%
Land outside of a city in the county (not incorporated)	12%
Other (please describe) _____	9%

- 15. What is your age?**

RESPONSE CATEGORY	N=610
Under 18 years old	2%
18 to 25 years old	1%
26 to 35 years old	10%
36 to 45 years old	15%
46 to 60 years old	25%
More than 61 years old	47%

16. What language do you prefer to get information in?

RESPONSE CATEGORY	N=605
English	89%
Spanish	11%
Other	<1%

SECTION 2: OUTREACH TO SPANISH SPEAKING COMMUNITY

OUTREACH

Outreach efforts to the Spanish speaking community included three in-person listening sessions, a radio interview in Spanish and drop boxes for paper surveys and written comments at key places where people gathered.

In addition, one of the three Spanish language listening sessions also included Mam speakers. Overall, about sixty people participated, with ages ranging from teenagers to those over sixty years old. Two sessions were held in Newport and one was held in Lincoln City.

OKT facilitator Andrea Cano provided facilitation and worked with two local community organizers on outreach efforts.

SPANISH LISTENING SESSIONS

LINCOLN CITY SESSION

When asked to offer one word or phrase that comes to mind when they hear the word “water,” participants offered the following:

bathing	health	life	refreshing
cleaning	hope	nature	thirst
food	hot	ocean	tranquility
happiness	hydrating	peace	washing

Participants offered the following observations about water usage:

- Hotels and businesses waste a lot of water, what would it mean for them or us not to water our plants and grass?
- Maybe in our water bills we should have water conservation information, and make the connection that saving water saves money.
- Concerns expressed about access to water during a natural disaster, where do we go?
- Concern about water contamination and sewage issues during a tsunami.
- Can firefighters use ocean water to extinguish fires?
- Some shared their experiences living in Mexico where water was rationed or only available on certain days of the week, or arrived via tanks or bottles and how they made do with what they had. They described small water tanks each home had for rain water or well water.
- Many volunteered to be part of a municipal advisory group about how to live with little water, shifts in consumption and lifestyle, recycle water



Participants offered the following observations about consequences of a lack of rain or emerging drought conditions:

- Lots of trees have been cut down and no reforestation has led to barren and dry land especially along Highway 101.
- We need trees to “hold the water.”
- Where I live I used to count about thirty to forty pine trees, but construction has eliminated them and also ruined vegetation.
- In comparison with other years, we are getting much less rain.
- October rains didn’t stop, this year we have had much less.
- I fear the growing use of synthetic lawns and especially fake grass on athletic fields that can leach chemicals into the ground, and in surrounding areas where nothing can grow. On the other hand fake grass is less maintenance and less water.
- Concern for widespread use of Round-Up, especially to control blackberry bushes.
- Pesticide risks for people, plants, and pets.

The group weighed in about priorities to ensure there is water to meet all needs. Programs for water conservation and emergency preparation for natural disasters were their primary issues. These were followed sequentially by developing new water sources, protecting or improving forests and land where water flows, building water reservoirs and, finally, updating or replacing water systems and pipes.

The group also agreed what they and the community at large most needed to know was how to survive a tsunami or earthquake, and how best to stock water now. They also wanted to know how to recycle water (as they did in their home countries). They advocated more education for their children about water usage and conservation.

When asked how to best divide 100 gallons of water among various uses they suggested allocating water to the following uses:

- Water for year-round residents (mentioned the most)
- Water for agriculture (mentioned second most)
- Water for fish and wildlife (including pets) (mentioned third most)
- Water for recreation
- Water for business, industry
- Water for tourism, hotels (This was the lowest ranked option, though restaurants and hotels were advocated for because of many of their livelihoods)

Water users mentioned that not included in the survey were hospitals and clinics and schools, which ranked high as well.

NEWPORT SESSION 1

At the first Newport listening session, participants offered the following comments:

- One word or feeling that comes to mind when you hear water in Lincoln County?
 - ocean
 - if there is not rain we will not have a job. (Meaning that their job depends on the climate, if it doesn't rain, there will not be produce to harvest.)
- How much do you think about water?
 - our entire life.
- What kinds of things do you use water for? What activities do you engage in around water?
 - showers
 - cleaning
- Where do you get water from? Do you think the cost of water is reasonable for you? Why or why not?
 - potable water
 - rivers
- What worries or assures you most about your water or water in our region currently?
 - If it doesn't rain, water will be very expensive, and we will have to pay more!
- What do you want the Partnership to think about as they start to develop solutions for our water to make sure we have enough to meet all our different needs?
 - Be more careful about how we spend water

NEWPORT SESSION 2

At the second Newport listening session, participants offered the following comments:

- One word or feeling that comes to mind when you hear water in Lincoln County?
 - thirsty
 - life
 - green basic needs
 - cooking
 - something wet
 - ocean
- How much do you think about water?
 - plants,
 - health
 - agriculture
 - restaurants



- What kinds of things do you use water for? What activities do you engage in around water?
 - cleaning
 - bathrooms
 - recreation
 - carwashes
 - firefighters training
 - construction companies
 - golf lands
- Where do you get water from? Do you think the cost of water is reasonable for you? Why or why not?
 - reserved water
 - rivers, potable.
 - Strongly agree that water is reasonable, because the way we spend the water as of now makes the water look very reasonable, compared to what we should be paying, based on how we waste it!
- What worries or assures you most about your water or water in our region currently?
 - If water was to be shut out, in several occasions, people would be more careful and conscious about how to use it, people will be more aware, take care of it, or plan for it!
- What do you want the Partnership to think about as they start to develop solutions for our water to make sure we have enough to meet all our different needs?
 - Classes on how to use water properly.
 - Fix leaking issues at work immediately (meaning managers be more responsible). GP Industry restrictions (local mill company).
 - Provide more inspection on water usage to all industries (restaurants, hotels, etc.) on the water bill.
 - Make more education to the public about not wasting water on cleaning/washing their pets (meaning not very frequently).

EXCERPTED COMMENTS

We suffer from water in our own countries as children so that we know how to take care of it!

We try to teach our kids, by telling stories about how we used to get water from far away in order to fulfill our basic needs!

We were used to getting water on our own (meaning getting it from rivers, or fountains). Water was never provided to us by the government!