

Press Release: June 21, 2012

2060 Strategic Water Supply Plan

Public meeting to be held Monday June 25, 2012 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at City Council Chambers, 201 W. Gray, Norman, Oklahoma

On June 25 at 7:00 pm, the City of Norman will be hosting the first in a series of public meetings to provide the public with information about the making of its 2060 Strategic Water Supply Plan (SWSP) and gather public input regarding key aspects of the plan.

The City of Norman is updating its plans for supplying long term water solutions to its customers. The SWSP builds on previous planning efforts discussing water demands, supply options, and infrastructure as well as significant new developments in water supply regulations, new technology and availability of water. Regulatory changes on drinking water quality affecting our local groundwater supplies, new limits on the amount of groundwater and Lake Thunderbird water Norman will be allowed to use, and evolving opportunities to increase water conservation and reuse in the community will also be discussed.

The City is evaluating a wide range of potential water supply sources and identifying those that will best meet the community's short and long-term needs. The long-term water supply "portfolio" for Norman will likely include a combination of existing sources and new sources. Sources that pass the initial screening criteria will be combined into portfolios for further evaluation in the second phase of the project.

Public input is being sought through meetings that will be held at key milestones throughout the development of the SWSP. An Ad Hoc committee has been appointed by City Council to help guide this planning process and enhance feedback and communications. The June 25 public meeting will include a presentation on the goals and drivers for water supply planning in Norman, a description of the local and regional supply sources under consideration, and a review of the criteria that will be used to evaluate and compare supply options. Meeting participants will have an opportunity to suggest additional supply options for potential consideration, and to provide feedback on the evaluation criteria and the relative importance of planning drivers. That input will be considered as the SWSP planning team moves forward with the screening evaluation. Preliminary results of the screening evaluation will be discussed at the second SWSP public meeting, tentatively scheduled for late summer 2012.