



What is a PESTLE Analysis and why do one?

PESTLE analysis is a collaborative process for identifying and grouping issues, risks, success factors, etc. that are important to the successful implementation of some types of programs. In the case of Joliet, the program of interest is the City's Strategic Plan for Alternative Water Source Implementation.

The letters in the term PESTLE represent six categories (**P**olitical; **E**conomic; **S**ocial; **T**echnical; **L**egislative/Legal; **E**nvironmental) that cover a cross section of circumstances that can impact a program. PESTLE analysis is typically conducted in a workshop setting with a group of individuals/stakeholders selected for their ability to provide a broad and varied perspective on the project. The process includes three major steps:

- Step 1: Individual participants are asked to create lists of issues, risks, or success factors for each of the six categories that have the potential to significantly impact the program. The lists created by each individual are combined to generate a large list of items for each category in the analysis.
- Step 2: Small teams are created to review, group, and consolidate the lists of issues for each category. For example, one small team would be asked to review the overall list of issues under the Economic category and group/consolidate items to create an issues short list for that category. At the end of Step 2, the overall team has a short-list of issues for each of the six categories in the analysis.
- Step 3: In Step 3, participants discuss the issues and then individually review and rank them from the full set of short-list issues. The individual rankings are combined to generate a master list of the issues that the group believes are most critical to program success.

The PESTLE analysis to be performed in support of Joliet's Alternative Water Source Program will involve representatives from across the City of Joliet including staff and two members of the City Council. Output from the analysis will then be reviewed with the full City Council in a special workshop to get consensus on issues of critical importance to the City and confirm that program priorities are aligned with the strategic plan. Outputs from the analysis will also help to frame the City's anticipated governance approach and plans for overall program oversight and outreach.

General descriptions of the types of issues and risks that are considered under each category of the analysis are summarized below.

Political

Items that fall under the Political heading include those that relate to interactions with elected officials or political organizations that may have an interest or decision-making role in program implementation.

- What are the political considerations that must be addressed to support the successful development and implementation of the project?
- What aspects of the project must be clearly presented to elected officials in Joliet and other areas affected by the project to secure political support?
- Will intergovernmental agreements requiring the political support of other communities be required to implement the program?



Economic

Economic factors that warrant consideration will likely relate to the cost and affordability of the program, both in the short-term and long-term.

- What is required to balance the costs and benefits of the project and meet the economic objectives of the City and its rate payers?
- What metrics should be used to evaluate and compare the short-term and long-term costs of the alternatives being considered?
- What actions are required to make sure that the selected option is economically sustainable over the long-term?

Social

Large programs have the potential for impacts on communities beyond those directly associated with construction and operations. The Social category in the analysis provides a vehicle for capturing these items.

- How will the potential social impacts of the program on the Joliet community be identified and addressed?
- Are there efforts that can be undertaken to confirm that costs and benefits associated with the program are being effectively communicated and equitably assigned across the community?
- What opportunities exist for creating supplemental benefits to the community through efforts to promote engagement of local residents and businesses?

Technical

Technical challenges and opportunities associated with the development and implementation of large infrastructure projects often relate to the design and operation of the proposed system.

- How can technical advancements be incorporated into the program to confirm that Joliet is developing a reliable, high quality, and cost-effective alternative water source?
- What type of treatment process should be adopted to provide treated water that meets the near-term and long-term expectations of Joliet?
- How can the proposed program be structured to allow for consideration of future technological advancements?

Legislative/Legal

Legislative and legal concerns relate to the framework of laws, agreements, and regulations that can impact plans for overall program implementation and operation.

- Are there legislative actions required to support implementation of the proposed program?
- What type of legal agreements will need to be prepared and executed to create a long-term structure for the reliable, cost-effective delivery of water to Joliet?



- Do current laws provide Joliet with the framework needed to secure the water rights, easements and right-of-way, and intergovernmental agreements needed for the program?

Environmental

Priorities and concerns related to the Environment have the potential to play a key role in defining the feasibility, cost, and schedule for implementation of major infrastructure programs. Environmental items may include concerns related to both the benefits and impacts of project elements.

- What will the environmental benefits and/or impacts of the program be in Joliet and in areas outside of Joliet?
- What measures will have to be incorporated into the project to avoid, mitigate, or offset environmental impacts and secure required permits?
- Will the project be supported or challenged by environmental groups external to the City of Joliet?

Summary

The PESTLE process provides a well-defined structure for identifying and grouping priorities, issues, and challenges in each of the categories described above. Engagement of a broad cross section of program participants and stakeholders creates a format that helps to generate conclusions that represent the consensus of the community. The priority groupings produced through the process will serve to guide the program team as it works to implement the City's Strategic Plan for development of an alternative water source.