



FOSTERING RESILIENCE: WORLD CAFÉ DEBRIEF NOTES

CHALLENGES: What is your community's biggest challenge managing water?

- The more I **save** the more I have to **pay**
- Capital funding vs. user funding
- Financing money - Prop 218
- Conservation --> out of compliance for wastewater treatment
- Conservation: Changing the way our systems operate
- Fragmented supplies, utilities, and oversight
- Recognizing diversity because, "One size does not fit all"
- Institutional inertia and fear of change
- Lack of leadership
- Communication: across silos (water, land, etc.)
- Educating: public and water leaders
- Building partnerships across industries (agricultural/environmental/urban)
- Climate change – bigger storms, droughts, more uncertainty.
- Limited water resources
- Future supply and economic development
- Aging infrastructure

OPPORTUNITIES: What are the best opportunities for improving you community's water resilience?

- Political will as an opportunity – we have the attention of decision makers.
- Flexibility: decentralizing our water supply/infrastructure
- Look at "Portfolio Approach" Local --> Regional perspectives
- Newer technologies and innovations
 - Potable reuse - overcoming public perception is a challenge
 - AMI/smart Meters
 - Water loss tools
- **More** flexible financing
- Water as a commodity, rate incentives to conserve while maintaining fixed costs.
- Water offset fees: incentivize retrofits too
- Leverage private capital/investment
- Budget-based trades
- Water energy nexus
- Green infrastructure - clean storm water *and* build supply
- Water use efficiency standards – new and retrofits
- Upper watershed restoration

**COLLABORATION: Where has collaboration been a transformative experience for you?
What lessons can be applied to water management?**

- Working across industries and building partnerships to solve **mutual** problems.
- Partnerships with environmental groups, other utilities
- Combining conservation and economic development
- Learning from CCA (community choice aggregation) energy programs – Cross-city collaboration