



Smart Management for  
Small Water Systems

# Resiliency Planning for Small Water Systems: How to Weather the Storm

Tuesday, February 13, 2018

*[www.efcnetwork.org](http://www.efcnetwork.org)*



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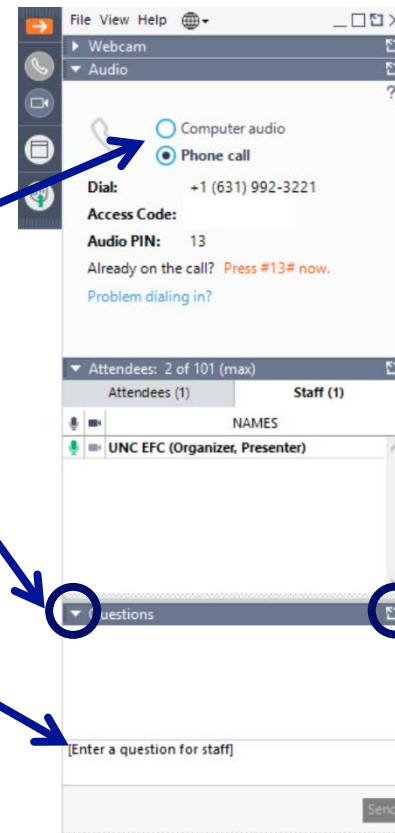
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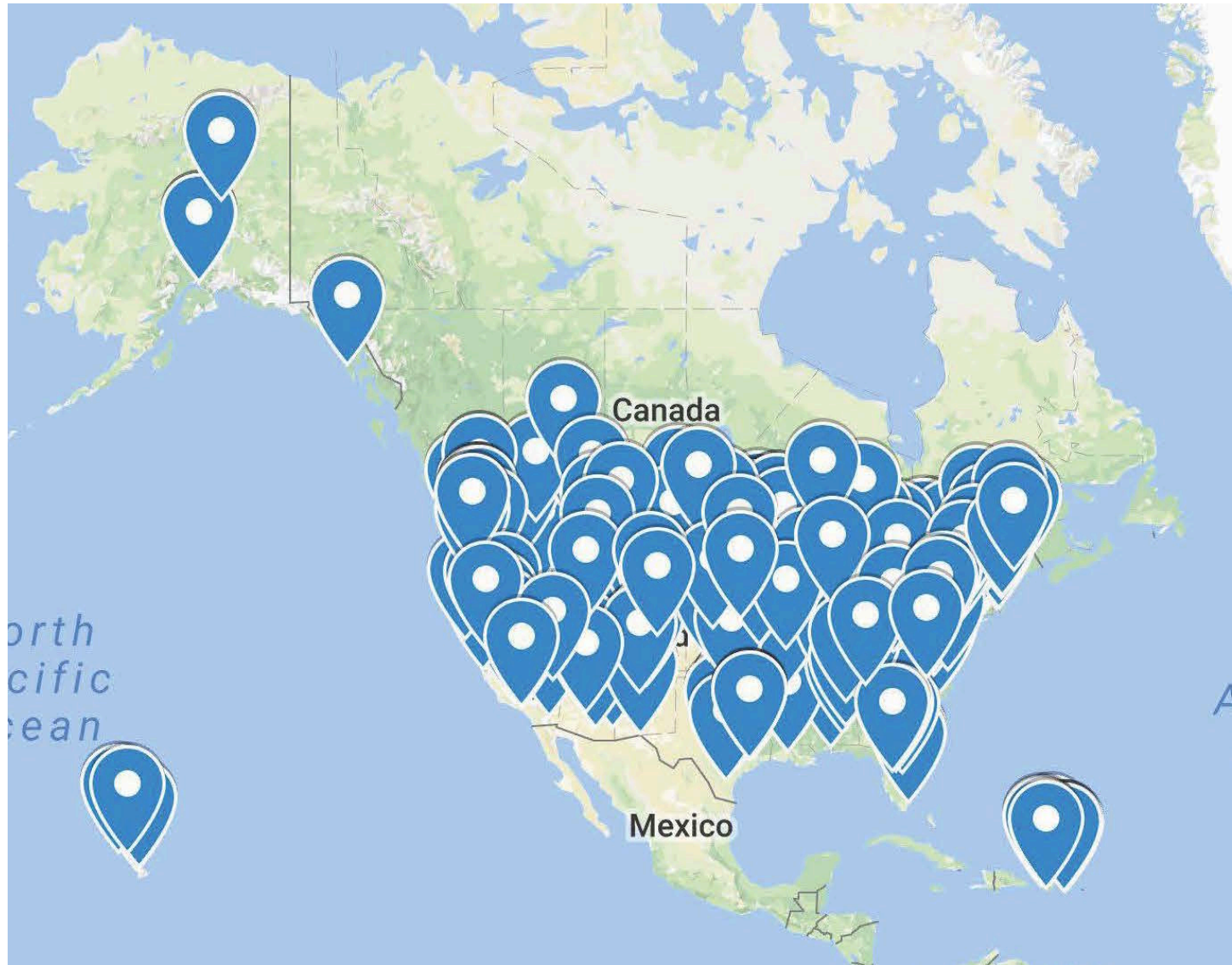
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# Registrants of this Webinar





## **About the Environmental Finance Center Network (EFCN)**

The Environmental Finance Center Network (EFCN) is a university-based organization creating innovative solutions to the difficult how-to-pay issues of environmental protection and improvement. The EFCN works with the public and private sectors to promote sustainable environmental solutions while bolstering efforts to manage costs.

## **The Smart Management for Small Water Systems Program**

This program is offered free of charge to all who are interested. The Program Team will conduct activities in every state, territory, and the Navajo Nation. All small drinking water systems are eligible to receive free training and technical assistance.

## **What We Offer**

Individualized technical assistance, workshops, small group support, webinars, eLearning, online tools & resources, blogs

# The Small Systems Program Team

- Environmental Finance Center at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- Environmental Finance Center at Wichita State University
- EFC West
- New England Environmental Finance Center at the University of Southern Maine
- Southwest Environmental Finance Center at the University of New Mexico
- Syracuse University Environmental Finance Center
- Environmental Finance Center at the University of Maryland
- American Water Works Association



SOUTHWEST  
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ENVIRONMENTAL  
FINANCE CENTER



American Water Works  
Association

# Areas of Expertise



Asset Management



Rate Setting and Fiscal Planning



Leadership Through Decision-making and Communication



Water Loss Reduction



Energy Management Planning



Accessing Infrastructure Financing Programs



Workforce Development



Water Conservation Finance and Management



Collaborating with Other Water Systems



Resiliency Planning




Managing Drought



# Small Systems Blog

Learn more about water finance and management through our Small Systems Blog! Blog posts feature lessons learned from our training and technical assistance, descriptions of available tools, and small systems “success stories.”  
[efcnetwork.org/small\\_systems\\_blog/](http://efcnetwork.org/small_systems_blog/)

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Blog




**Magdalena, New Mexico: A Success Story from the Smart Management for Small Water Systems Project**

Written by: Allison Perch Allison Perch is a Program Coordinator with the Environmental Finance Center at the University of North Carolina. What can a small town do when the financial health of its water system is at risk? This is the question that Stephanie Finch, the town clerk and treasurer for the ...



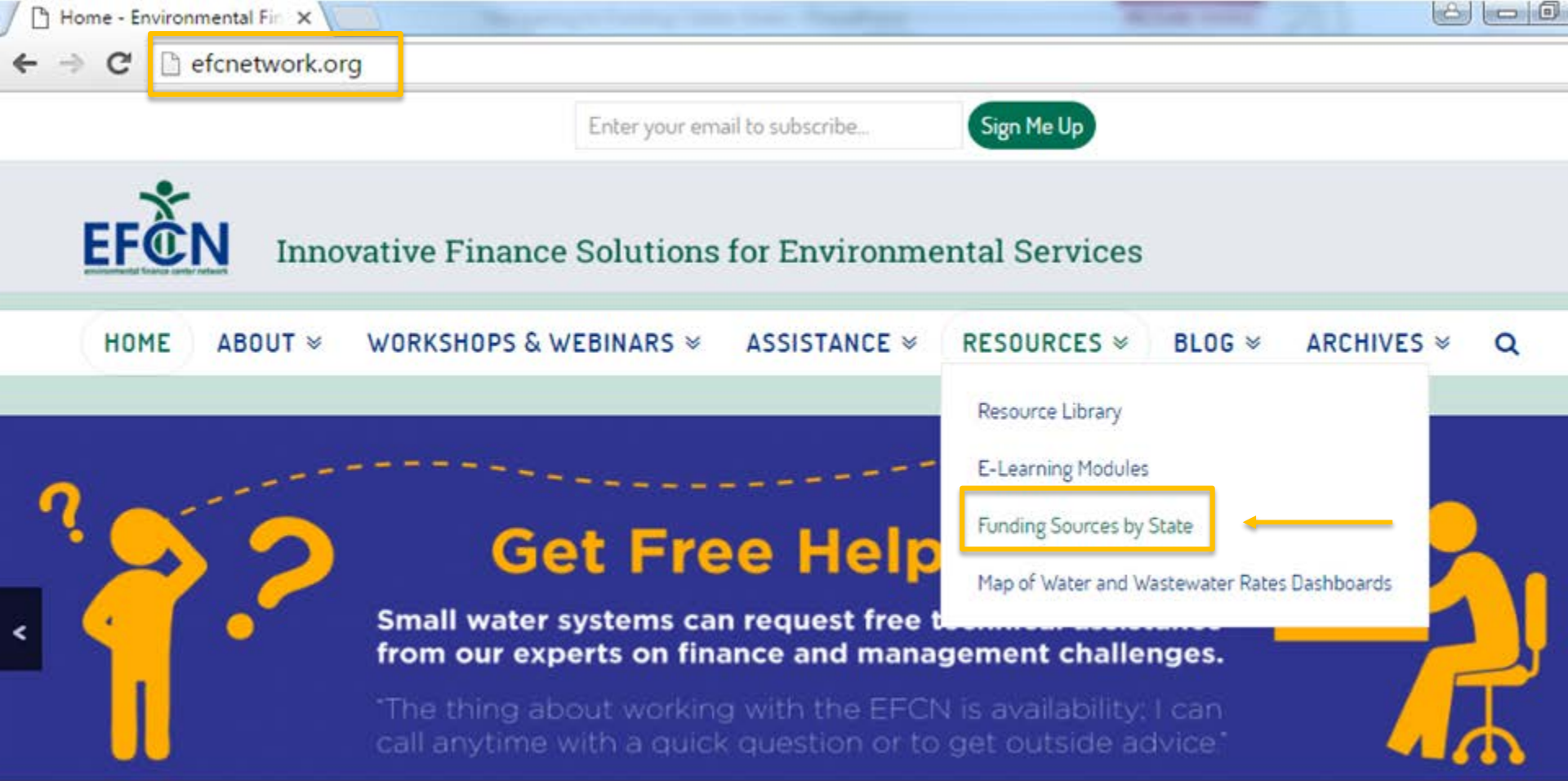
**The Virtuous Cycle: Internal Energy Revolving Funds for Small Water Systems**

Written by: David Tucker David Tucker is a Project Director with the Environmental Finance Center at the University of North Carolina. How can small (and large) water systems pay for energy efficiency and renewable energy, helping cut utility costs? As energy is often the largest variable expense in a water system's operating ...



**Smart Management for Small Water Systems Program Newsletter | Fall 2015**

View Full Issue The Environmental Finance Center Network has published the third issue in a series of quarterly newsletters. The Fall 2015 Program Newsletter announces



## Navigating to Funding Tables

Step 1: efcnnetwork.org

Step 2: Select "Funding Sources by State" under the Resources Tab



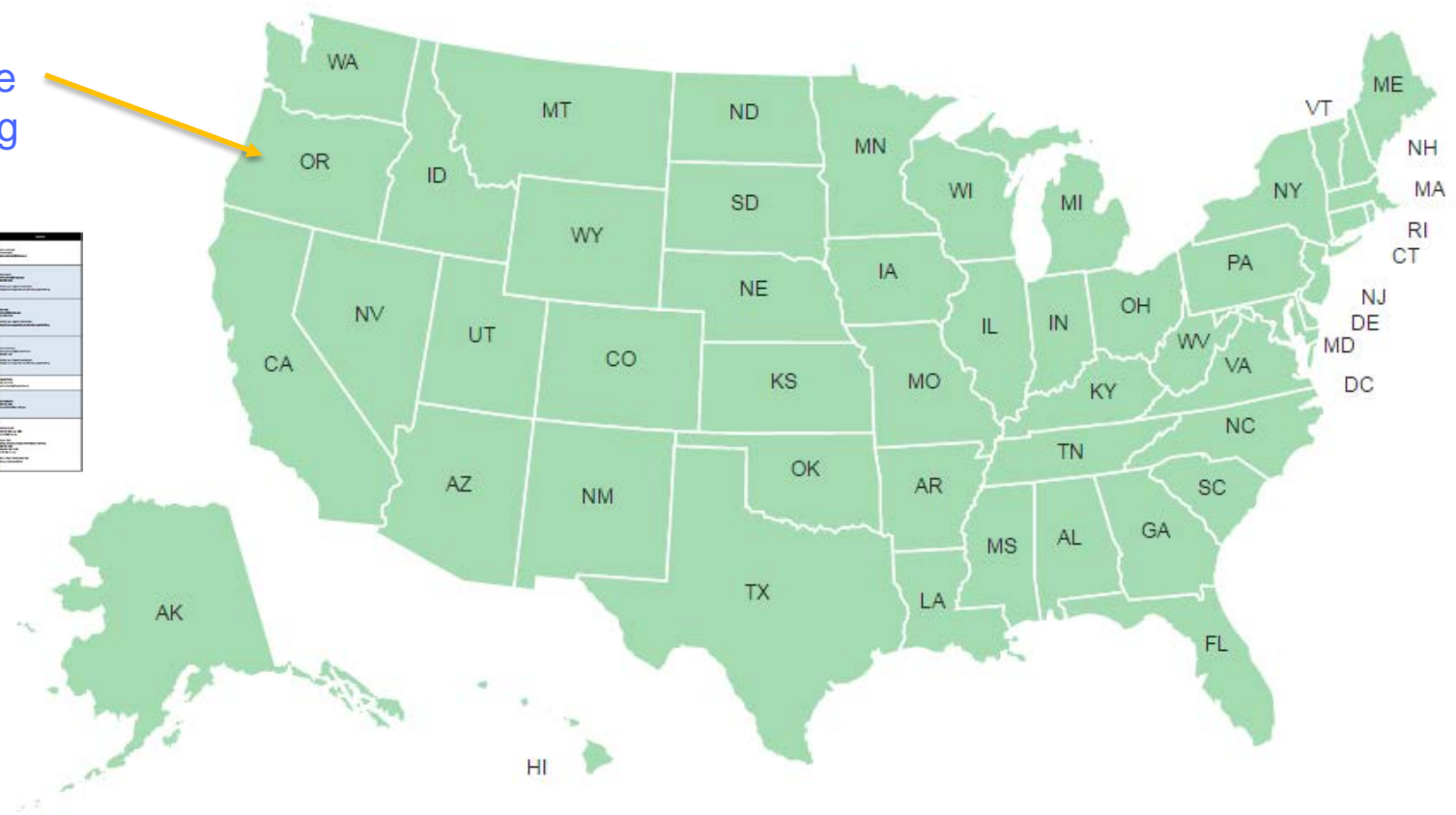
# Funding Sources by State

*Note: Some states may have additional resources listed below the map.*

Click on the map below to view funding sources for each state:

Click on an individual state to view funding table.

| State | Funding Source      | Amount        | Year | Notes               |
|-------|---------------------|---------------|------|---------------------|
| CA    | State of California | \$100,000,000 | 2015 | State of California |
| CA    | State of California | \$100,000,000 | 2015 | State of California |
| CA    | State of California | \$100,000,000 | 2015 | State of California |
| CA    | State of California | \$100,000,000 | 2015 | State of California |
| CA    | State of California | \$100,000,000 | 2015 | State of California |
| CA    | State of California | \$100,000,000 | 2015 | State of California |
| CA    | State of California | \$100,000,000 | 2015 | State of California |
| CA    | State of California | \$100,000,000 | 2015 | State of California |
| CA    | State of California | \$100,000,000 | 2015 | State of California |
| CA    | State of California | \$100,000,000 | 2015 | State of California |





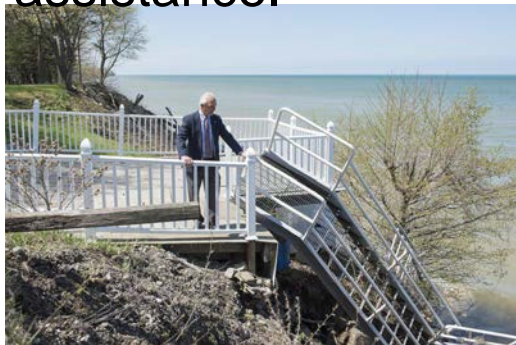
# Agenda

- Defining Resilience
- Trends in risks and threats for water systems
- Establishing a framework for planning ahead
- Implementing resilience strategies
- Resources and tools available to assist water system decision-makers



# What is resiliency?

A resilient community is one in which residents and institutions have the capacity to prepare for, respond to, and recover from events and trends with minimal outside assistance.



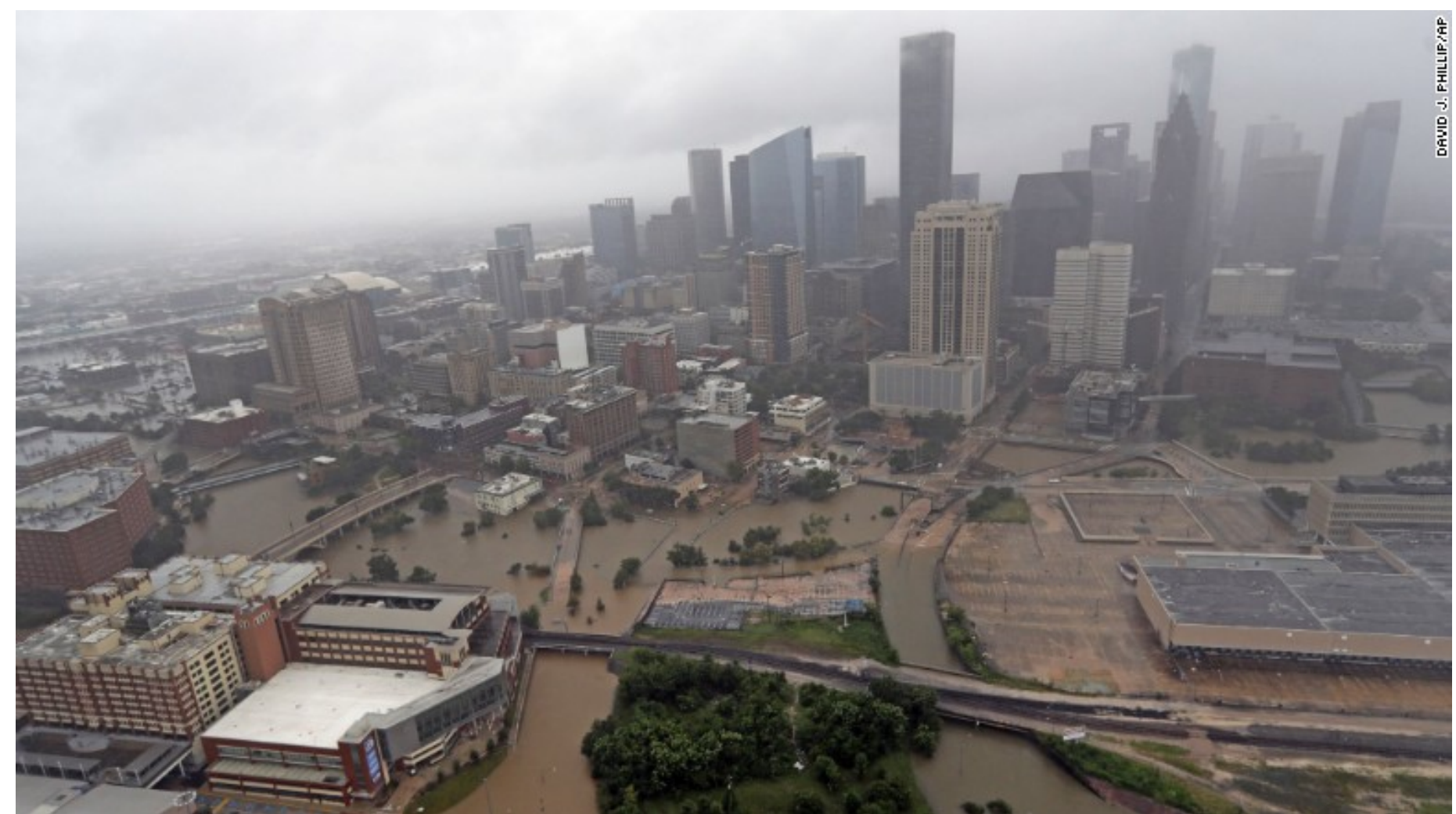


# Resiliency Considerations

Community resiliency can include:

- Municipal financial health
- Community financial health
  - Is your portfolio diversified? Consider:
    - community demographics
    - Commerce
    - relation to neighboring communities
- Environment:
  - water supply,
  - impacts from storms,
  - drought,
  - social, cultural, and economic changes
- Adaptation to ~~{Climate}~~ Change
- Social, cultural, and economic changes





**Sometimes we don't know we're not resilient**

# How, if and where do we rebuild?





# **Proactive Resiliency Planning vs. Reactive Disaster Response**



# Waiting is Costly



○ Katrina

○○

Oroville Dam

○○○

Flint

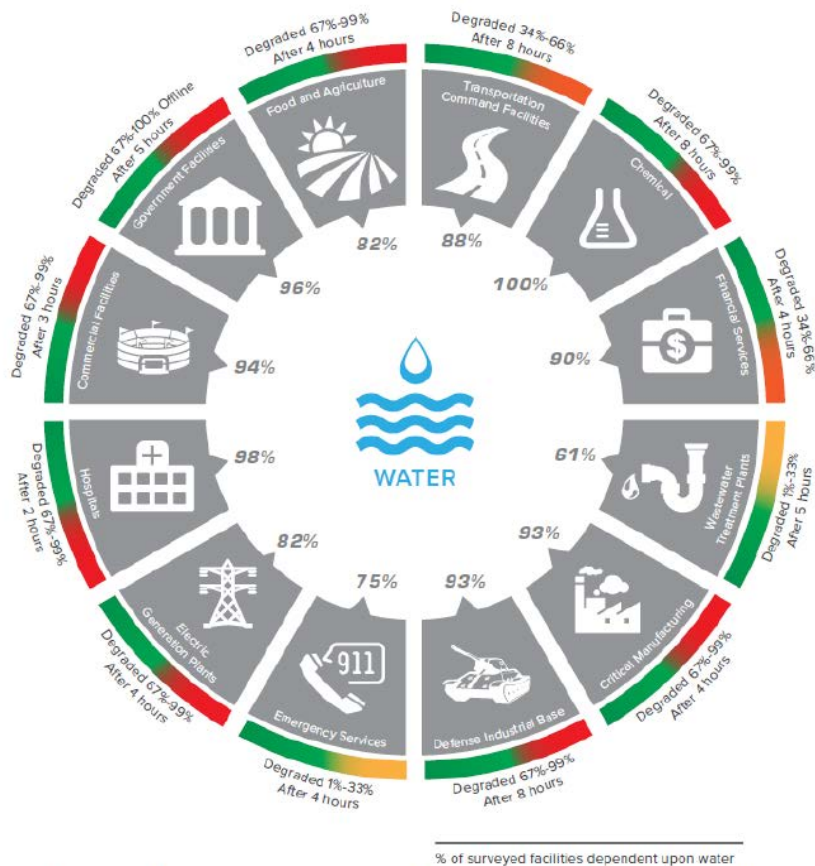
○○○

UCLA



# Impacts to Critical Infrastructure

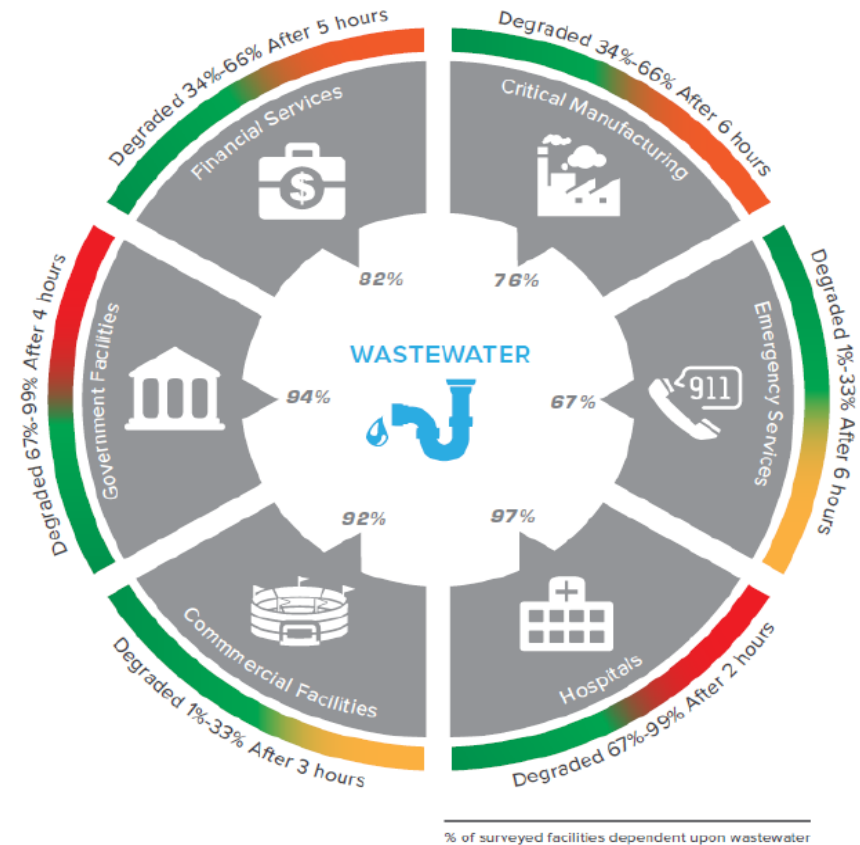
## LOSS OF WATER SERVICES



**Note:** This data represents a majority (60 percent or greater) dependence on water.

FIGURE 3.—Critical Infrastructure Dependent on Water and Potential Functional Degradation Following : Loss of Water Services (Courtesy of DHS and Argonne National Laboratory).

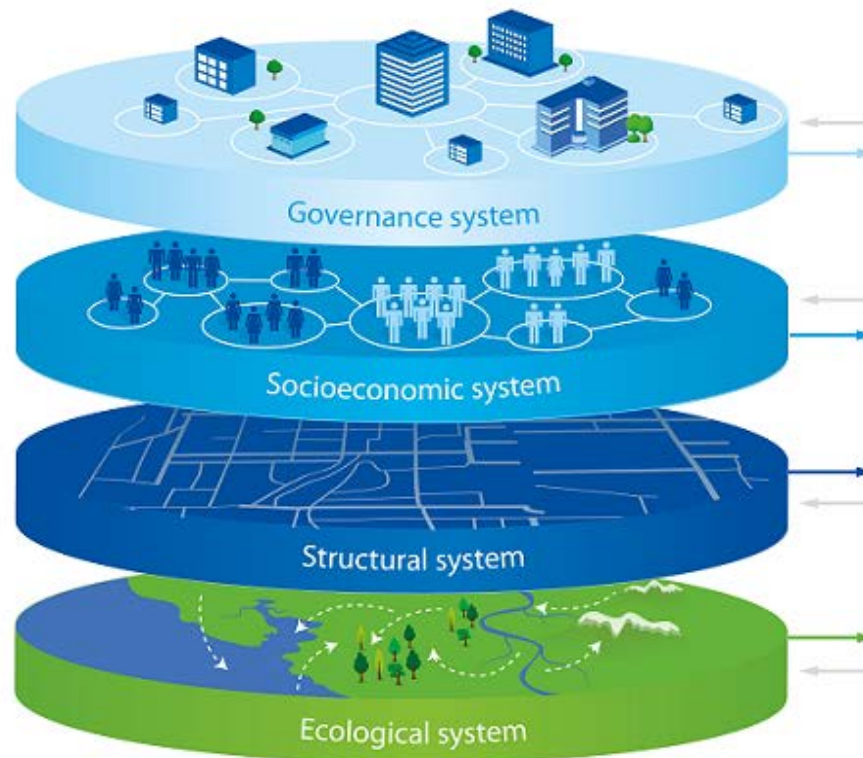
## LOSS OF WASTEWATER SERVICES



**Note:** This data represents a majority (60 percent or greater) dependence on wastewater services.

FIGURE 4.—Critical Infrastructure Dependent on Wastewater and Potential Functional Degradation Following a Loss of Wastewater Services (Courtesy of DHS and Argonne National Laboratory).

# Multi-layered Systems Mindset



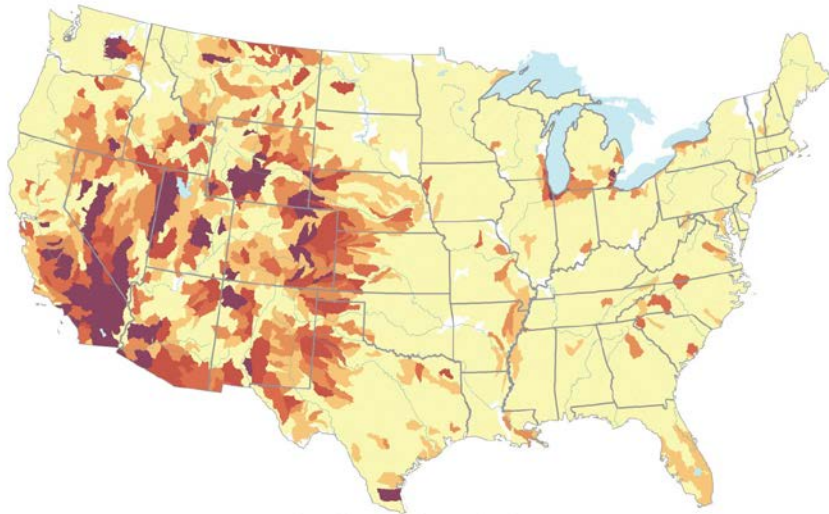
**The multi-layered systems mindset in DNV GL's Systems & Urban Resilience Framework (SURF) model.**

The model views urban areas as systems with a unique profiles of mutually interconnected ecological, structural, socioeconomic, and governance systems.

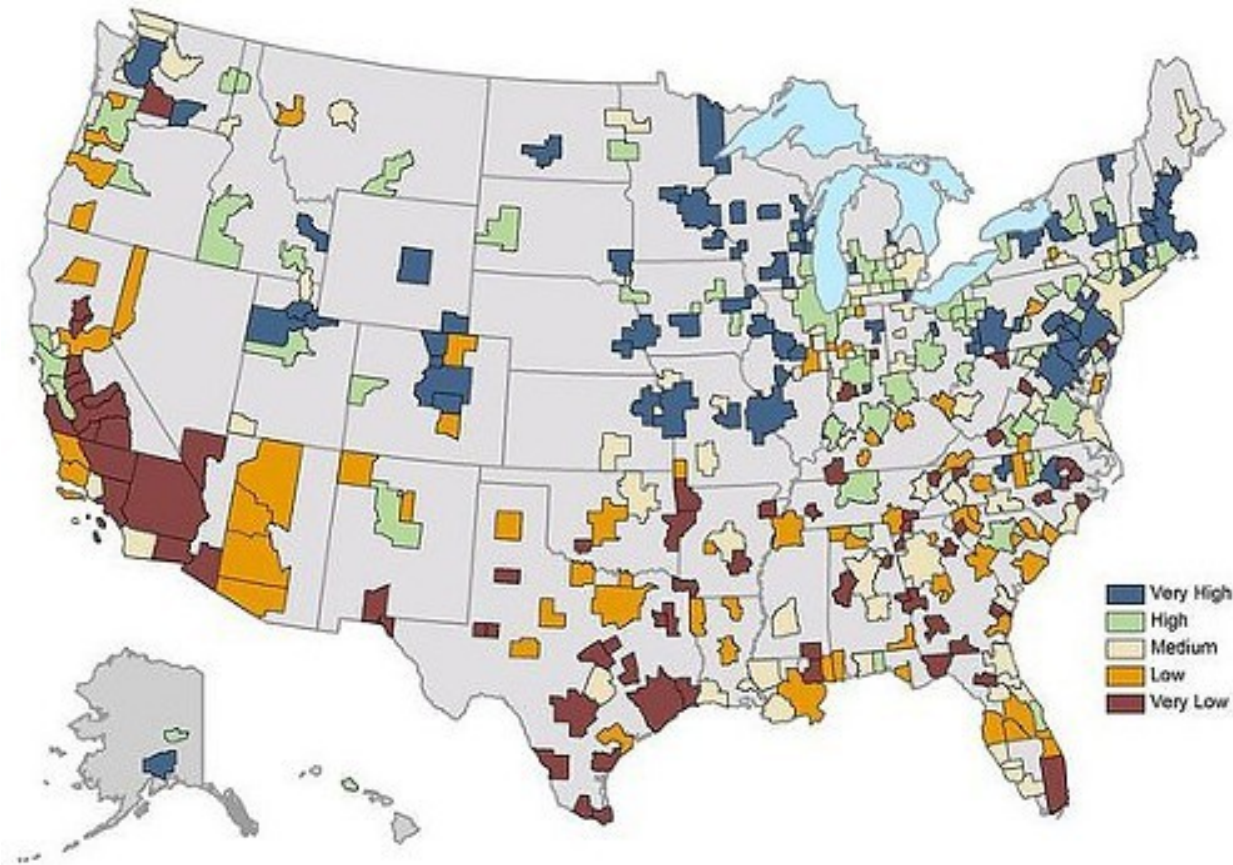




## Water Stress in the U.S.



# Who is Resilient?

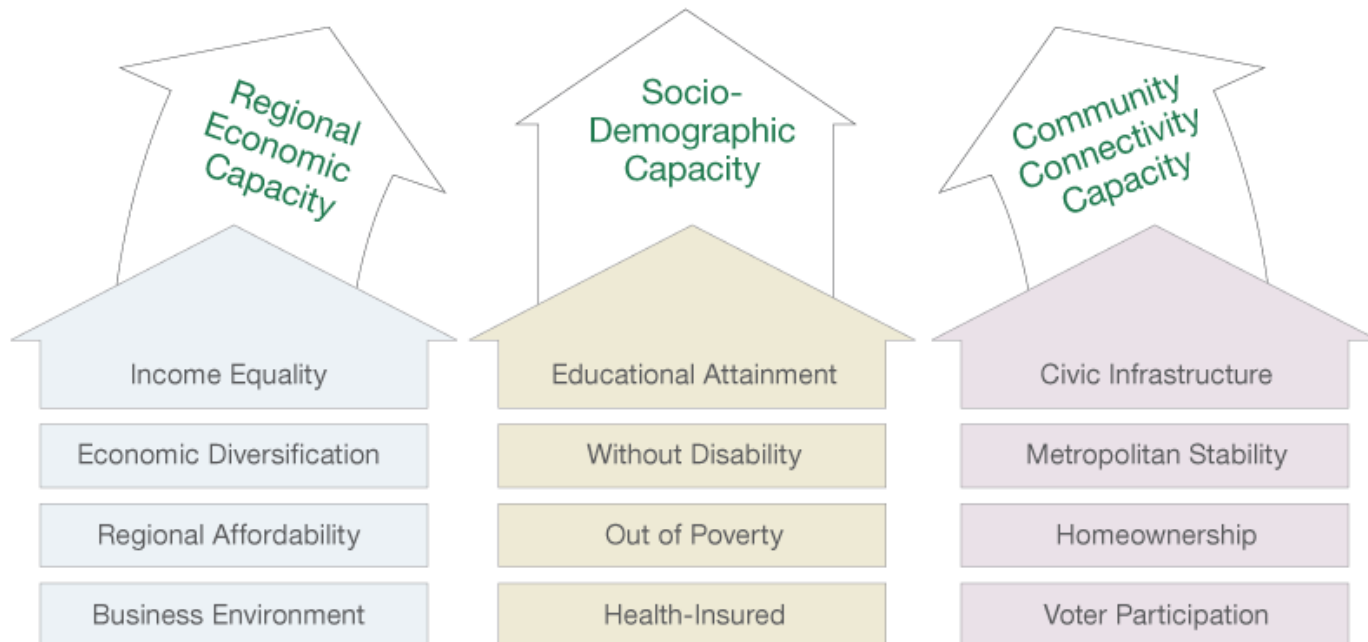




# By what measure...?

University of California Berkeley

Resilience Capacity Index (RCI)





**How can you become resilient?**

# The Hard Sell



# Planning for Resiliency

- ✓ Comprehensive Plans
- ✓ Zoning
- ✓ Asset Management Planning
- ✓ Capital

- ✓ Land-Use Planning

| RISK ASSESSMENT MATRIX  |                     |                 |                 |                   |
|-------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| SEVERITY<br>PROBABILITY | Catastrophic<br>(1) | Critical<br>(2) | Marginal<br>(3) | Negligible<br>(4) |
| Frequent<br>(A)         | High                | High            | Serious         | Medium            |
| Probable<br>(B)         | High                | High            | Serious         | Medium            |
| Occasional<br>(C)       | High                | Serious         | Medium          | Low               |
| Remote<br>(D)           | Serious             | Medium          | Medium          | Low               |
| Improbable<br>(E)       | Medium              | Medium          | Medium          | Low               |
| Eliminated<br>(F)       | Eliminated          |                 |                 |                   |



# Steps toward Resiliency



```
graph LR; A[Identify the Problem] --> B[Determine Vulnerabilities]; B --> C[Investigate Options]; C --> D[Evaluate Risks & Costs]; D --> E[Take Action];
```

Identify the Problem

Determine Vulnerabilities

Investigate Options

Evaluate Risks & Costs

Take Action

# 4 Rs of Resiliency

Redundancy

Robust

Resources

Rapid Response







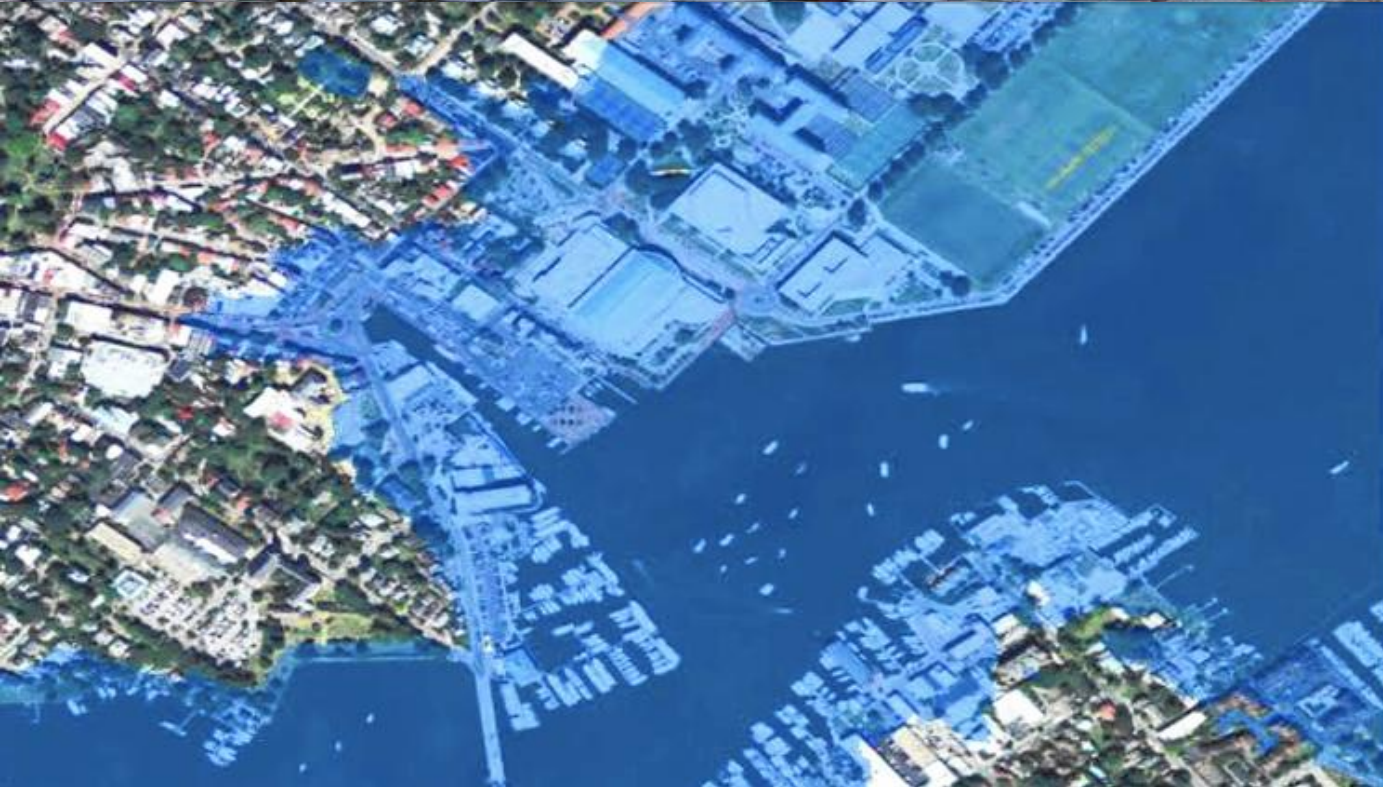
# Community Experience Snapshots







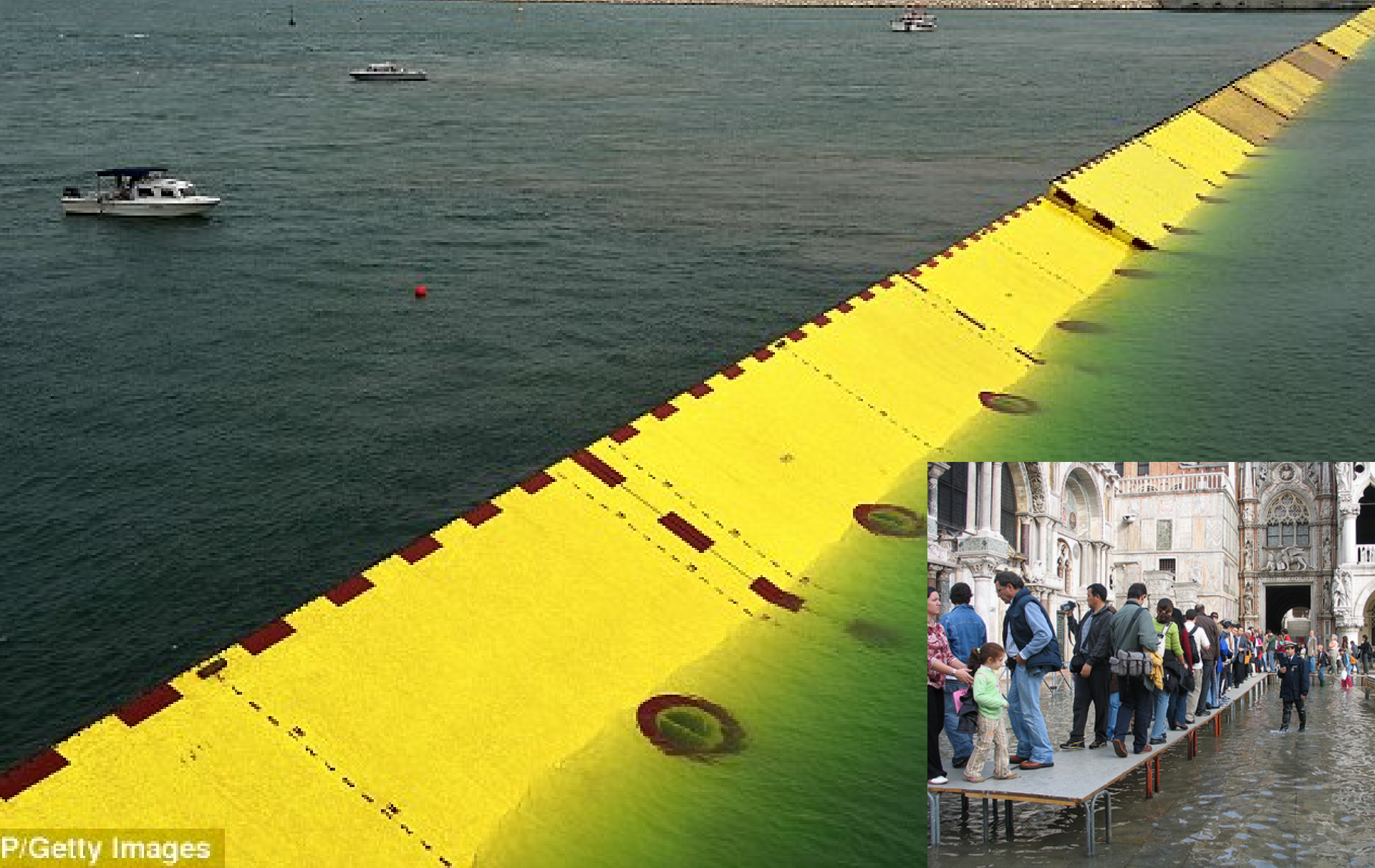
# Annapolis, MD



40 tidal flooding events  
per year, when there  
used to be very few



# Venice Italy: Today





2011: Lourdes Hospital, Binghamton



# What building resiliency looks like: Binghamton-Johnson City Joint STP Case Study





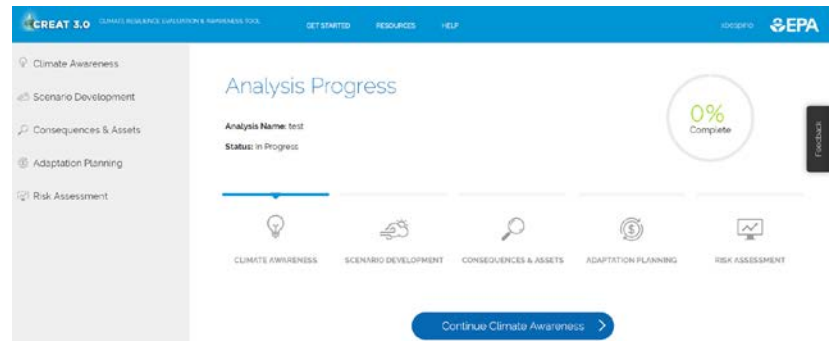






# Climate Resilience Evaluation and Awareness Tool (CREAT)

- Risk assessment tool
- Helps utilities in adapting to extreme weather events through a better understanding of current and future climate conditions.





## **BJCJSTP's existing measures to protect the plant from high flow events:**

- Sand bags as temporary flood barriers
- System performance models
- Weather forecast monitoring
- Emergency Response Plan for flooding events

## Potential Adaptive Measures for Binghamton-Johnson City Joint Sewage Treatment Plant

| ADAPTIVE MEASURE                  | DESCRIPTION   | ESTIMATED COST             |
|-----------------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| Back-up generators                | Three (3) back-up generators and diesel storage tanks to provide power for the entire plant and related processes during future power outages.  | \$50,000 - \$150,000       |
| Alternate wastewater capabilities | Develop redundant treatment processes. Development or replacement could include entire facility or just critical portions to support operations when damage or loss occurs.   | \$3,000,000 - \$10,000,000 |
| Hydrologic barrier                | Develop hydrologic barriers to counter flooding. Manipulating natural landscapes to absorb or redirect flooding is often more aesthetic than building structures. Construction and design must consider projected flood magnitudes and local hydrography.   | \$750,000 - \$1,250,000    |
| Flood wall                        | Construct a flood wall for protection against high flow events. Construction and design is 1.5 feet of freeboard above the 2011 storm event level.  | \$1,750,000 - \$4,000,000  |
| Submersible pumps                 | Install submersible pumps that will not be significantly impacted by flood waters entering the plant.   | \$1,500,000 - \$3,000,000  |
| Raise electrical equipment        | Raise electrical equipment above the 2011 flood level.  | \$50,000 - \$100,000       |
| Raise VFDs                        | Raise the Variable Frequency Drives (VFDs) at least one foot above the 2011 flood level.  | \$50,000 - \$100,000       |
| Flood risk management plan        | Develop phased, adaptive risk management plan for urban flood risks and treatment requirements that will prioritize the ability to limit or prevent damage to the facility during floods. Integrating observations, process models and decision frameworks provides a powerful suite of tools to anticipate potential flood scenarios and deal with flood damage. | \$7,500 - \$10,000         |
| Water tight doors                 | Install water tight doors at critical infiltration points to mitigate impacts of flood waters on plant and equipment.   | \$200,000 - \$500,000      |
| Permeable pavement                | Install permeable pavement at the facility to allow for infiltration of stormwater through the pavement surface reducing runoff (and localized flooding). Could be constructed from porous asphalt, porous concrete, and interlocking pavers.   | \$100,000 - \$350,000      |
| Flood models                      | Build integrated flood models for catchments and urban drainage. Beyond many current hydrologic and flood models, these new models should ensure that changing climate conditions can be accommodated in models and that these models include topographic information (GIS) and risk assessment components.   | \$35,000 - \$75,000        |
| Quick disassembly pumps           | Retrofit existing pumps to make it easier to disassemble them and remove them in advance of a flooding event. Costs include the retrofitting and the cost to remove them for one event.   | \$50,000 - \$100,000       |



# Significant Risks to Consider



Aging Infrastructure

Infiltration and Inflow (I/I)  
Issues

Changing Regulations

Population Growth/  
Development

Structural Concerns – Site  
flooding



# Consider these components in vulnerability assessment

- Distribution systems including pipes and constructed conveyances
- Physical barriers
- Water collection, pretreatment, and treatment facilities
- Use, storage, and handling of various chemicals
- Storage and distribution facilities
- Electronic, computer or other automated or cyber systems



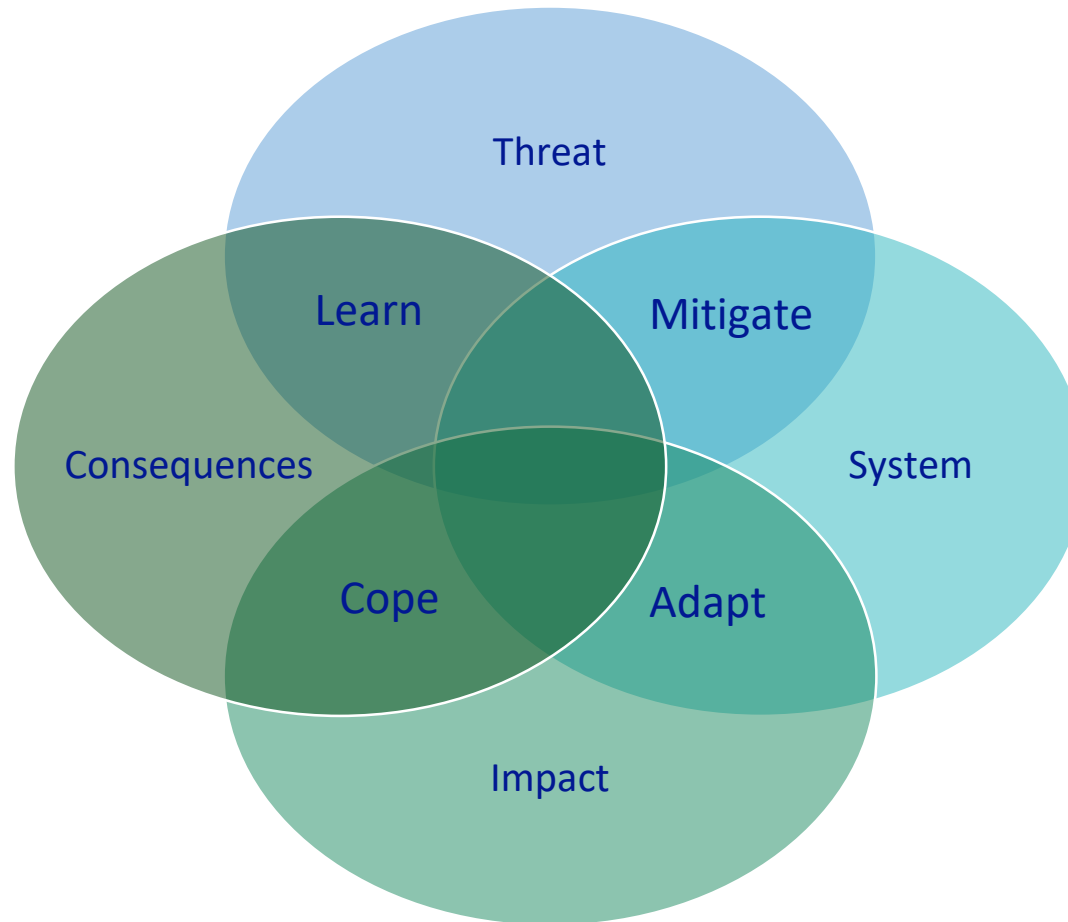


# **Frameworks and resources for planning ahead**

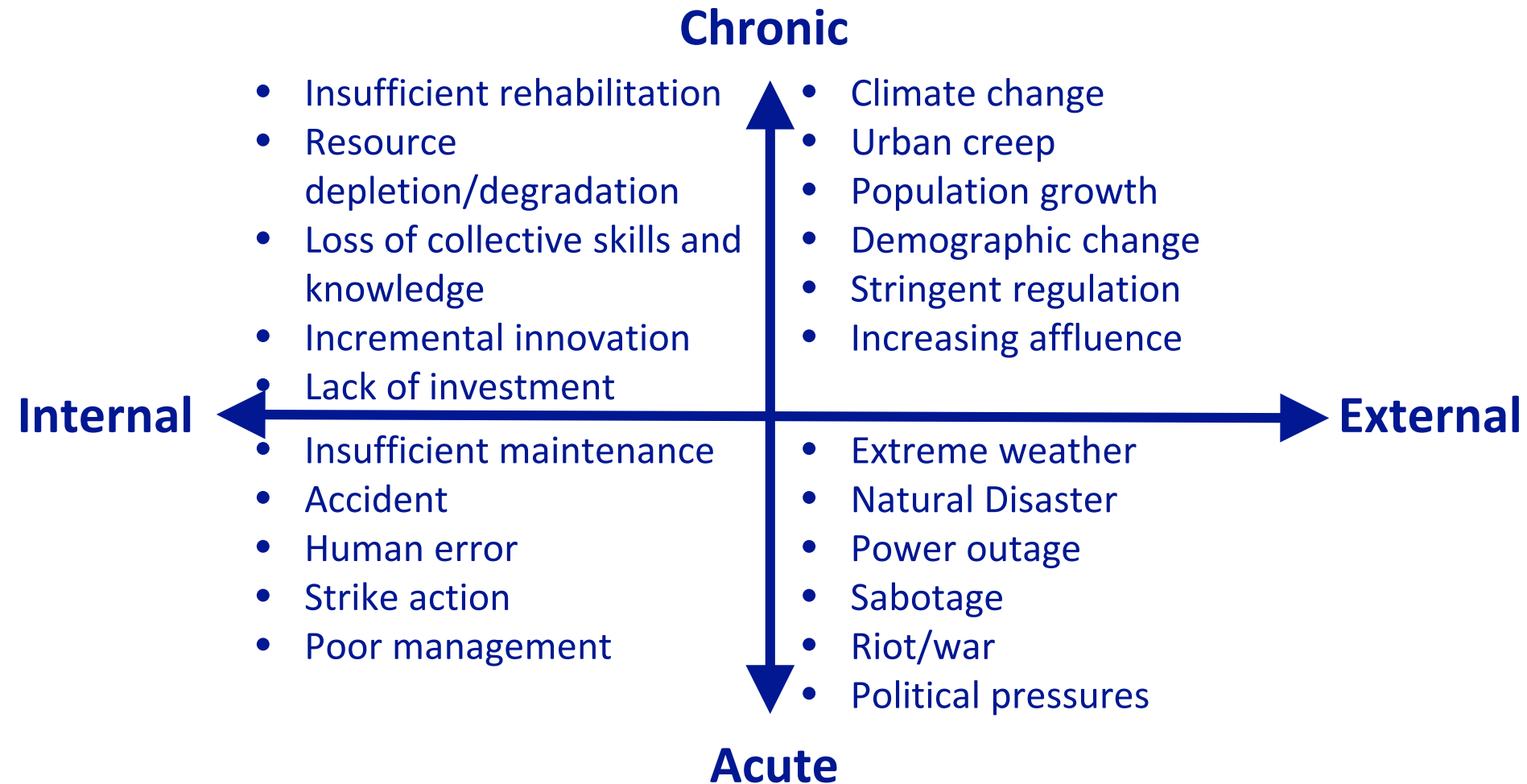
# U.S. Small Water Utility Builds Flood Resilience – US Climate Resilience Toolkit



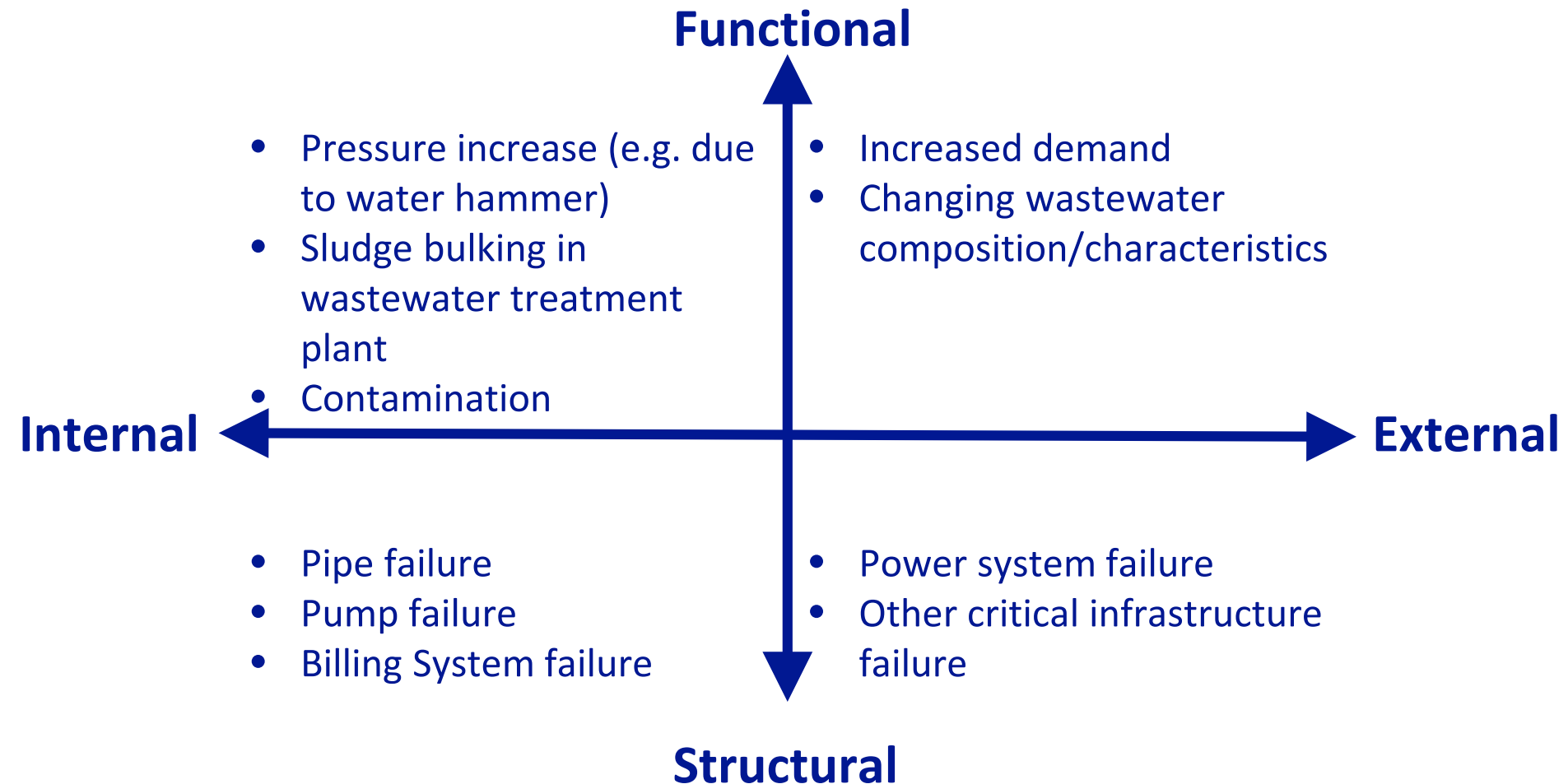
# Safe and SuRe Approach



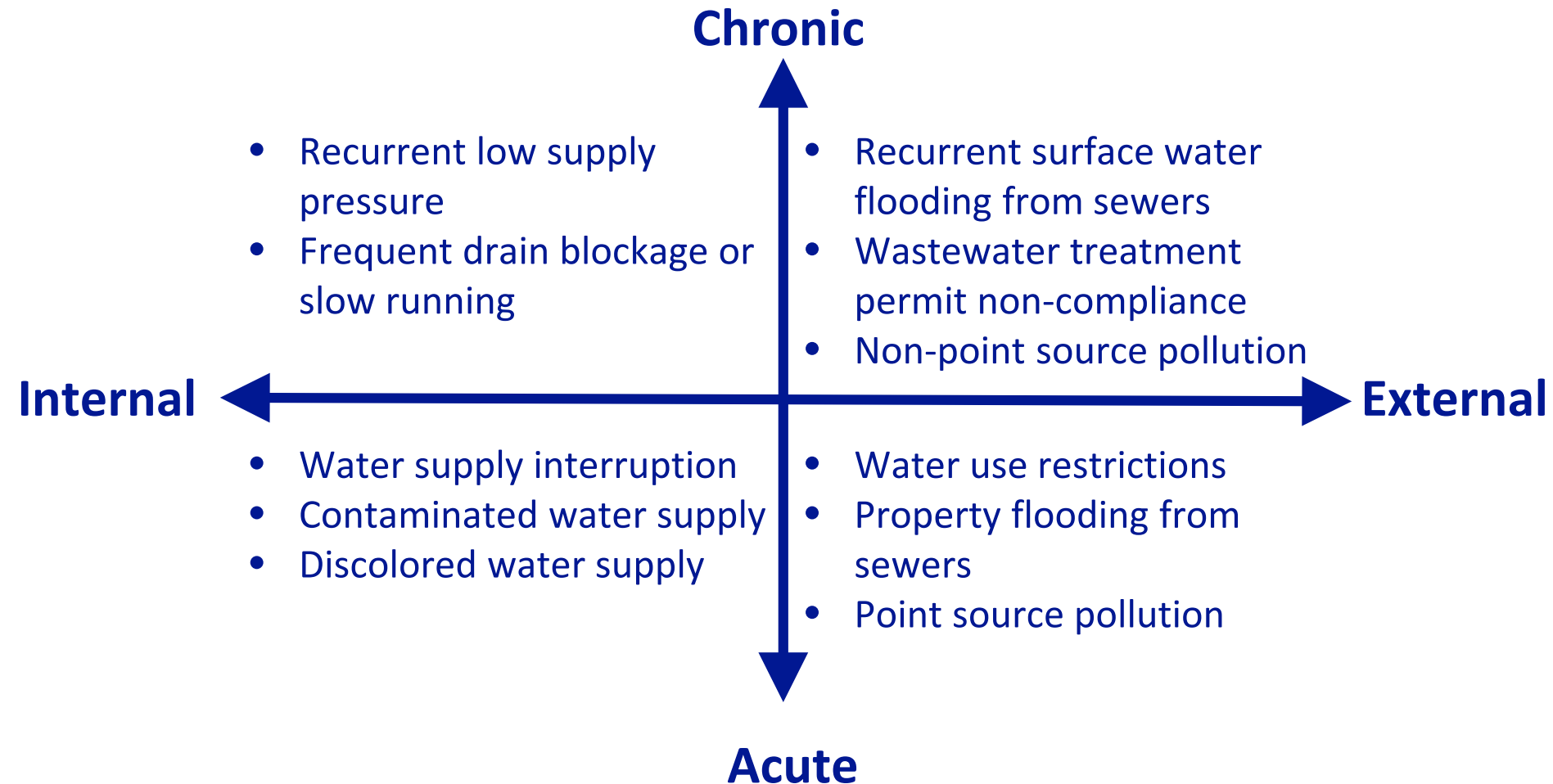
# Threat Categorization



# System Impacts

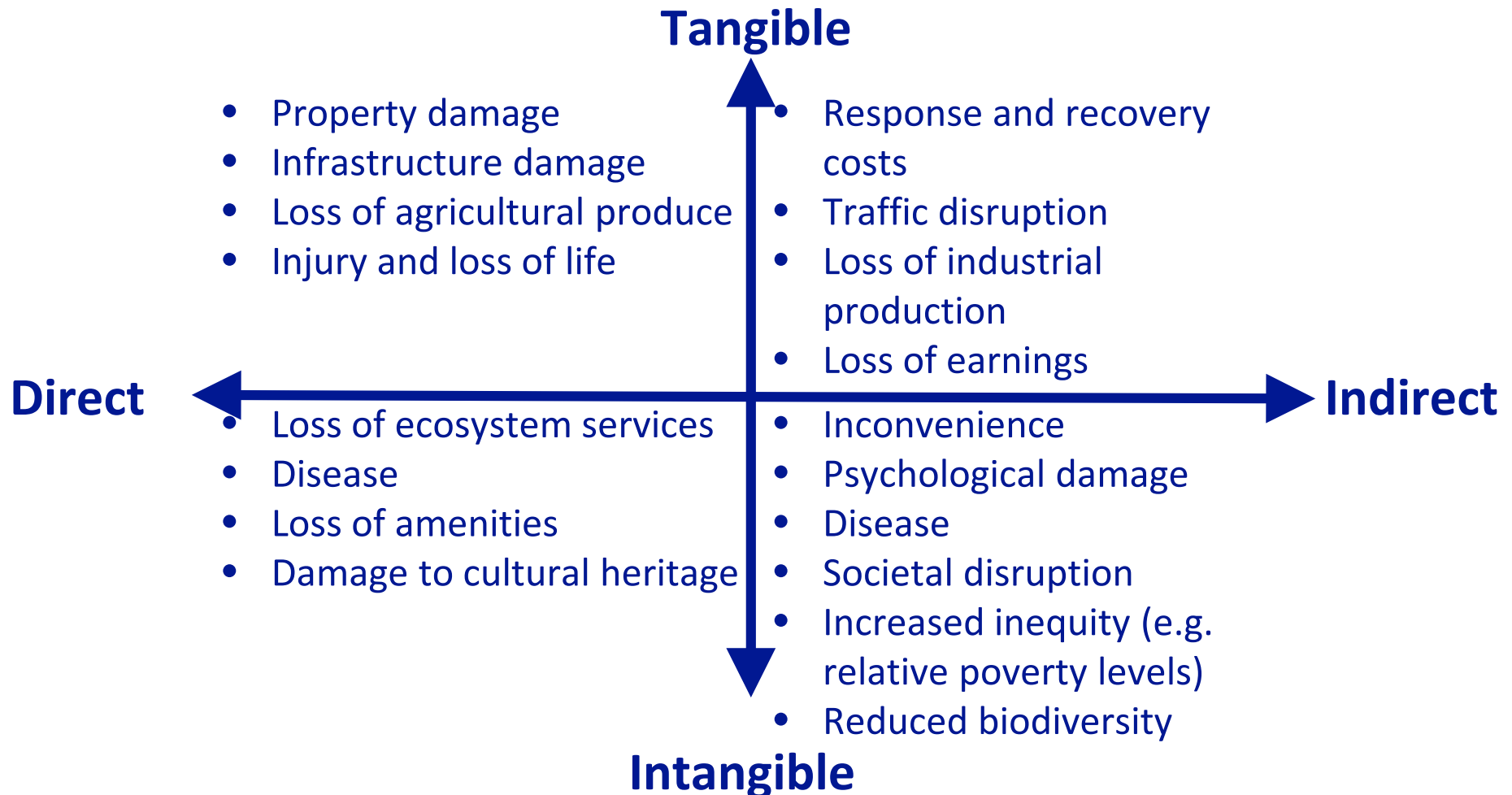


# Service Impacts

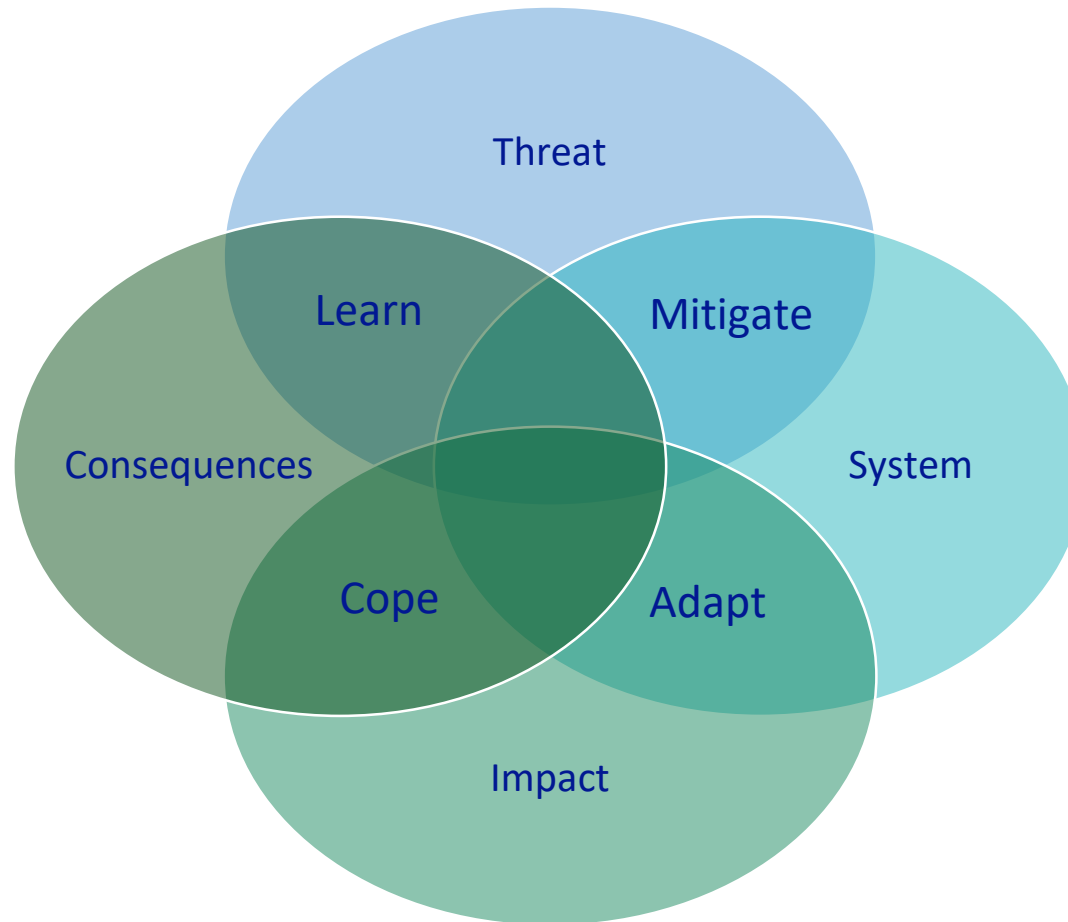




# Consequences



# Interventions to Consider





# Example of Mitigation

| Quadrant         | Threat                      | Action  |
|------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| Internal-chronic | Insufficient rehabilitation | Accelerate asset replacement strategy         |
| Internal- acute  | Accidents                   | Develop safety culture                        |
| External-chronic | Urban creep                 | Enforce planning controls                     |
| External- acute  | Extreme weather             | Reduce greenhouse gas emissions of operations |



# Example of Adaptation

| Quadrant             | Threat               | Action  |
|----------------------|----------------------|---|
| Internal-functional  | Sludge bulking       | Operational modifications   |
| Internal- structural | Pump failure         | Provision backup pumps  |
| External-functional  | Increased demand     | Promotion of water saving technologies and use of reclaimed water                 |
| External- structural | Changing regulations | Provision of additional treatment/new technologies, for example nutrient recovery |





# Example of Coping

| Quadrant             | Threat                | Action                      |
|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Direct- tangible     | Property damage       | Temporarily relocate        |
| Direct- intangible   | Spread of disease     | Boil water                  |
| Indirect- tangible   | Response and recovery | Purchase building insurance |
| Indirect- intangible | Reduced biodiversity  | Re-introduce species        |



# **Ideas for Implementing Resilience Strategies**

# Flooding Impacts



- Regional interconnections
- Alternative power supplies
- Monitor and inspect infrastructure
- Elevate or flood-proof assets
- Join a mutual aid network

# Changes in Seasonal Runoff

- Monitor
- Incorporate predictions of snowpack and runoff changes into models
- Update drought contingency plans
- Diversify water supplies
- Increase storage capacity
- Establish regional interconnections





# Increased Runoff



- Green infrastructure
- Distributed systems
- Invest in watershed management
- Model potential stormwater impacts to your service area
- Monitor runoff, vegetation and land use changes

# Stressed Sewer Systems



- Green infrastructure
- Acquire and manage existing ecosystems
- Reduce infiltration and inflow by managing assets
- Increase capacity or capabilities of wastewater treatment system and facilities
- Model potential stormwater impacts to your service area



# Community and Economic Impacts



- Collaborate Discuss adaptation options with local businesses
- Communicate adaptation activities and plans to customers
- Become marketers
- Raise rates in an affordable and responsible way



# **Other Resources for Planning**



# Adaptation Strategies Guide for Water Utilities

| GROUP                     |   | DW | WW |
|---------------------------|---|----|----|
| Drought                   | Reduced groundwater recharge                  | 💧  |    |
|                           | Lower lake & reservoir levels                 | 💧  |    |
|                           | Changes in seasonal runoff & loss of snowpack | 💧💧 |    |
| Water Quality Degradation | Low flow conditions & altered water quality   |    | 💧💧 |
|                           | Saltwater intrusion into aquifers             | 💧  |    |
|                           | Altered surface water quality                 | 💧  | 💧  |
| Floods                    | High flow events & flooding                   | 💧💧 | 💧💧 |
|                           | Flooding from coastal storm surges            | 💧💧 | 💧💧 |
| Ecosystem Changes         | Loss of coastal landforms / wetlands          | 💧💧 | 💧💧 |
|                           | Increased fire risk & altered vegetation      | 💧  | 💧  |
| Service Demand & Use      | Volume & temperature challenges               | 💧💧 | 💧💧 |
|                           | Changes in agricultural water demand          | 💧  |    |
|                           | Changes in energy sector needs                | 💧  |    |
|                           | Changes in energy needs of utilities          | 💧💧 | 💧💧 |



## HIGH FLOW EVENTS AND FLOODING (DW)

[Return to Introduction](#)

Intense precipitation events may occur more frequently, concentrating the annual total rainfall into episodes that may challenge current infrastructure for water management and flood control. When these protections fail, inundation may disrupt service and damage infrastructure such as treatment plants, intake facilities and water conveyance and distribution systems. Episodic peak flows into reservoirs will strain the capacity of these systems. Furthermore, inflow will be of lesser quality due to soil erosion and contaminants from overland flows, leading to treatment challenges and degraded conditions in reservoirs.

### CLIMATE INFORMATION

- Since 1991, the amount of rain falling in very heavy precipitation events has been above average across most of the United States (USGCRP 2014). This observed trend has been greatest in the Northeast, Midwest and Great Plains – projections for these regions indicate that 30% more precipitation will fall in very heavy rain events relative to the 1901-1960 average (Karl et al. 2009).
- Heavy downpours are increasing nationally, with especially large increases in the Midwest and Northeast (Kunkel et al. 2012, USGCRP 2014). Precipitation intensity (e.g., precipitation per rainy day) is projected to continue to increase by mid-century for most of the U.S. This change is expected even for regions that are projected to experience decreases in mean annual precipitation, such as the Southwest (Kunkel et al. 2012, Wehner 2013, USGCRP 2014).
- The increasing intensity of precipitation events can be expected to lead to more flooding and high flow events in rivers. For example, by the end of the century, New York City is projected to experience almost twice as many days of extreme precipitation that cause flood damage (Ntelekos et al. 2010). For the U.S. overall, a recent assessment of flood risks found that the odds of experiencing a 100-year flood are expected to double by 2030 (USGCRP 2014).
- The intensity, frequency and duration of North Atlantic hurricanes has increased in recent decades, and the intensity of these storms is likely to increase in this century (USGCRP 2014).

Click to left of name to check off options for consideration; \$'s (\$-\$\$\$) indicate relative costs  
Click name of any option to review more information in the Glossary

**ADAPTATION OPTIONS**  
**No Regrets options** - actions that would provide benefits to the utility under current climate conditions as well as any future changes in climate. For more information on No Regrets options, see Page 11 in the Introduction.  
 Click on the or icon to review the relevant Sustainability Brief.

| ✓ | PLANNING  | COST        |
|---|---|-------------|
|   | Integrate flood management and modeling into land use planning.   | \$          |
|   | Develop models to understand potential water quality changes (e.g., increased turbidity) and costs of resultant changes in treatment.                             | \$          |
|   | Expand current resources by developing regional water connections to allow for water trading in times of service disruption or shortage.                          | \$\$-\$\$\$ |
|   | Plan for alternative power supplies to support operations in case of loss of power.   | \$          |
|   | Adopt insurance mechanisms and other financial instruments, such as catastrophe bonds, to protect against financial losses associated with infrastructure losses. | \$          |
|   | Conduct training for personnel in climate change impacts and adaptation.  | \$          |
|   | Ensure that emergency response plans deal with flooding contingencies and include stakeholder engagement and communication.                                       | \$          |
|   | Establish mutual aid agreements with neighboring utilities.   | \$          |

ADAPTATION STRATEGIES GUIDE FOR WATER UTILITIES

Continued on page 2

# Asset Management Resources



## Taking Stock of Your Water System A Simple Asset Inventory for Very Small Drinking Water Systems



## Reference Guide for Asset Management Tools

*Asset Management Plan Components  
and Implementation Tools for  
Small and Medium Sized Drinking  
Water and Wastewater Systems*

May 2014



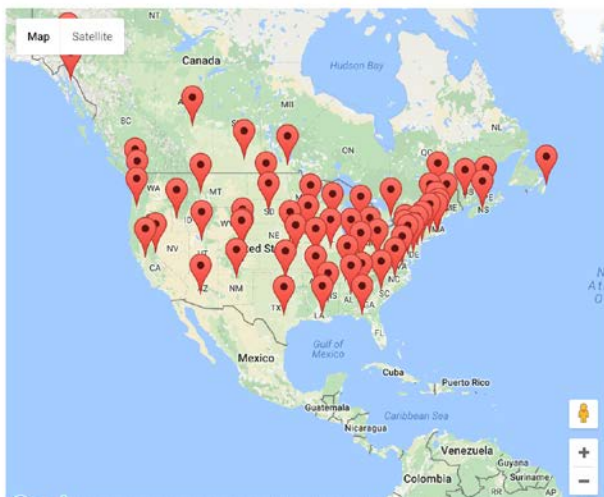
# Information Sharing to Support Resilience

## Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (WARN)



A Water and Wastewater Agency Response Network is a network of utilities helping other utilities to respond to and recover from emergencies. The purpose of a WARN is to provide a method whereby water/wastewater utilities that have sustained or anticipate damages from natural or human-caused incidents can provide and receive emergency aid and assistance in the form of personnel, equipment, materials and other associated services as necessary from other water/wastewater utilities.

Click a pin to view contact information for the local WARN representative, with a link to more information about that state and region. You can also view current [Situation Reports](#).



## Water Information Sharing and Analysis Center (WaterISAC)





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**Thank you for participating in today's  
webinar!**

*[www.efcnetwork.org](http://www.efcnetwork.org)*

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