



WATER RESOURCES UPDATES

For CBPC Meeting (1/18/13)

Water Resources Infrastructure: How to Frame the Issues

COMMON POINTS RAISED

- **Infrastructure Panel Discussion (November 16, 2012 - CBPC Meeting)**
 - High & Higher costs – rates rising & debt service impacts
 - Meeting new regulations/environmental objectives – existing infrastructure (O&M and capital) often deferred/reduced
 - Benefits gained appear disproportionate with costs
 - Economy and other competing funding resource issues
 - Many efforts to improve/advance – but still high costs – Need for flexibility/options/integration
 - Importance of electrical grid
 - Human resources/work force issues
 - Rebranding/reuse options (wastewater & stormwater management)

- **Extreme Weather/Climate Events Workshop (December 17, 2012)**
 - Strong coordination (internal & regionally) – though some gaps still noted
 - Vulnerabilities
 - Electrical grid critical – Generators can't address all problems/time-limited
 - Employees (fatigue, continuity of operations, payroll, cross-training, etc.)
 - Climatological Data
 - Critical, need as much localized information as possible
 - NOAA data much better now/more reliable
 - Costs – WSSC example of Preparation/Planning for Sandy (\$500,000) versus Responding to Derecho (\$75,000)
 - Addressing these extreme events doesn't directly address flooding or environmental/water quality issues

From both discussions, a commonality is there are the competing needs between meeting short-term permit requirements and keeping up with the day-to-day tasks, versus planning & spending for system improvements (i.e., new pipes, purchase of costly generators) that will help systems survive more severe weather. Increasingly, more staff time and costs are going into fixing immediate emergencies (main breaks, or hurricane preparations), but that takes away from the day-to-day operations.



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ACTION ITEMS

- **Infrastructure Event – Workshop & Webinar**
 - Proposed for early April (date TBD)
 - Focus is on local elected officials/decision-makers
 - Will address existing infrastructure issues/challenges as well as responding to extreme events
- **Regional Cost Information:**
 - COG will convene a focus group of WRTC/local staff to help guide gathering cost information and guide development of cost survey
 - COG will reissue and update the results of the previous COG Cost Survey
 - Cost survey will address: wastewater/stormwater/drinking water, capital/O&M, meeting local water quality & Bay/TMDL requirements
 - Note that EPA's *Benefits & Costs Analysis of Bay TMDL* effort are currently stalled

CEEPC Goals

- Based on comments received on the CEEPC Action Plan, staff has made recommended revisions to the Action Plan that will be reviewed by CEEPC on January 23rd.
- **Suggested revisions** that may be of interest to the CBPC/WRTC are the following:
 - #22 - ~~50~~30% of local governments and /or wastewater utilities implement a rainwater capture/reuse or wastewater reuse project.
 - #49 - ~~75~~50% of jurisdictions have a green roof located on government property.
 - #50 - ~~50~~35% of jurisdictions adopt a tree canopy/forest cover goal.
 - #51 - 50% of jurisdictions adopt a green streets policy.
- Also, CEEPC membership solicitation made to WRTC