



**WEATHERING  
CHANGE**



ANTIOCH UNIVERSITY NEW ENGLAND  
**Center for Climate Preparedness  
and Community Resilience**



**Strengthen communities to prepare, respond and recover  
in the face of climate impacts and other disruptions  
through collaborative, innovative solutions.**

[communityresilience-center.org](https://communityresilience-center.org)

Dr. Abigail Abrash Walton  
Co-Director CCPCR

# Local Solutions for Strong Communities

... a series of online courses focused on the fundamentals of climate change resilience.

- Engage in each course for 4 weeks
- Enroll for graduate credit or audit the course
- Increase your skill set in climate resilience for better outcomes
- Discover solutions to local issues you face on the job or in your community.
- Register for one course or the whole series.

<http://www.communityresilience-center.org/climate-change-resilience-series/>



# Climate Change Resilience

... a series of online courses focused on the fundamentals of climate change resilience.

Join us for the next online course in this series

## **Climate Impacts: Communication, Facilitation, and Stakeholder Capacity Building**

**November 10 – December 14, 2019**

**<http://www.communityresilience-center.org/climate-impacts/>**



Instructor: Dr. Christa Daniels



# Local Solutions for Strong Communities



**Save the Date!**  
**2020 Local Solutions Eastern  
Climate Preparedness Conference**

**May 11-12, 2020 • Portland, Maine**

<http://www.communityresilience-center.org/conferences/2020-local-solutions-eastern-climate-preparedness-conference/>



# Film and Panel Discussion on Climate Change

...a powerful, intimate story that looks at a worsening global threat through the lens of Chesapeake Bay's most vulnerable county

## High Tide in Dorchester

**November 8 @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm**

**Antioch University New England campus – 40 Avon Street, Keene NH**

<https://www.antioch.edu/new-england/event/high-tide-in-dorchester-film-and-panel-discussion-on-climate-change/>

**This event is co-sponsored by Antioch University New England's Center for Climate Preparedness and Community Resilience and The League of Conservation Voters.**

**ANTIOCH UNIVERSITY NEW ENGLAND**  
**Center for Climate Preparedness  
and Community Resilience**





**Meet the challenges of a changing climate by finding information and tools to help you understand and address your climate risks.**

[toolkit.climate.gov](https://toolkit.climate.gov)

Dr. Ned Gardiner,  
Engagement Manager

# Logistics



If you have a question, please write it in the Q&A section (not Chat) and select to All Panelists, so we can see the questions.



If you are having technical difficulty, please use Chat and send to Host, so we can address the issue with you directly.



The presentation will be recorded and posted to the Antioch website within a week [www.communityresilience-center.org](http://www.communityresilience-center.org)





# U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit

[Steps to Resilience](#)[Case Studies](#)[Tools](#)[Expertise](#)[Regions](#)[Topics](#)

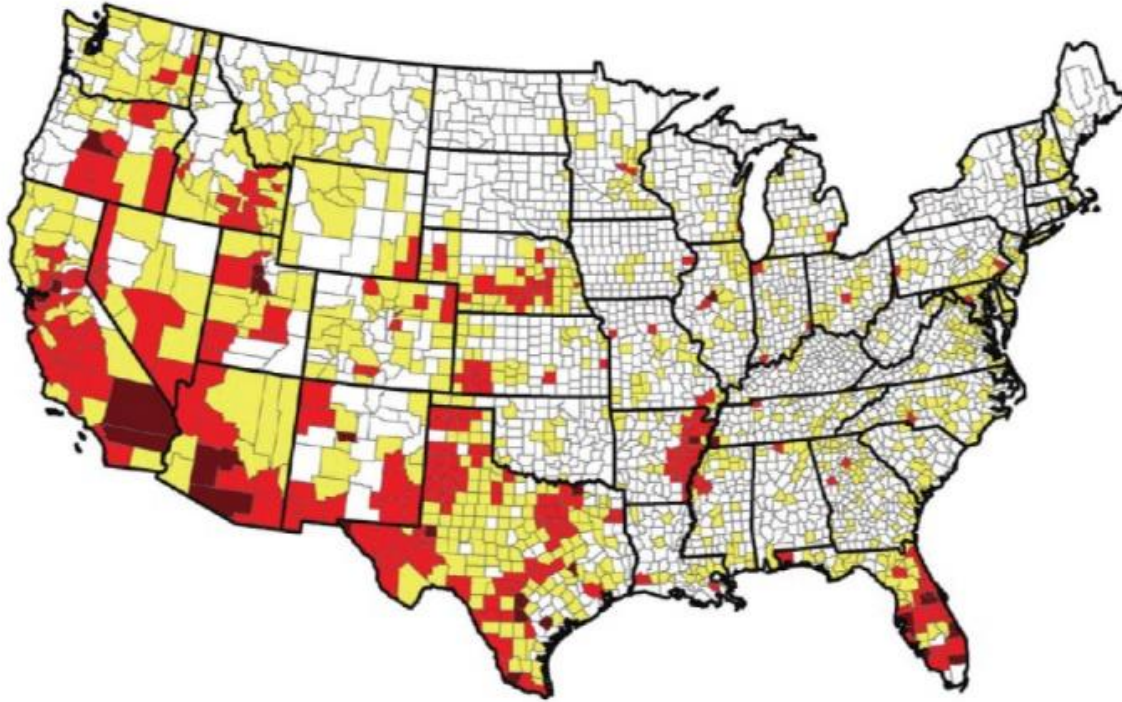
## Water

Variable precipitation and exposed water infrastructure pose increasing threats to municipal water supplies. Greater evaporation and earlier snowmelt increase the threat of seasonal drought. At the same time, increases in the frequency of heavy precipitation events increase the threat of flooding.

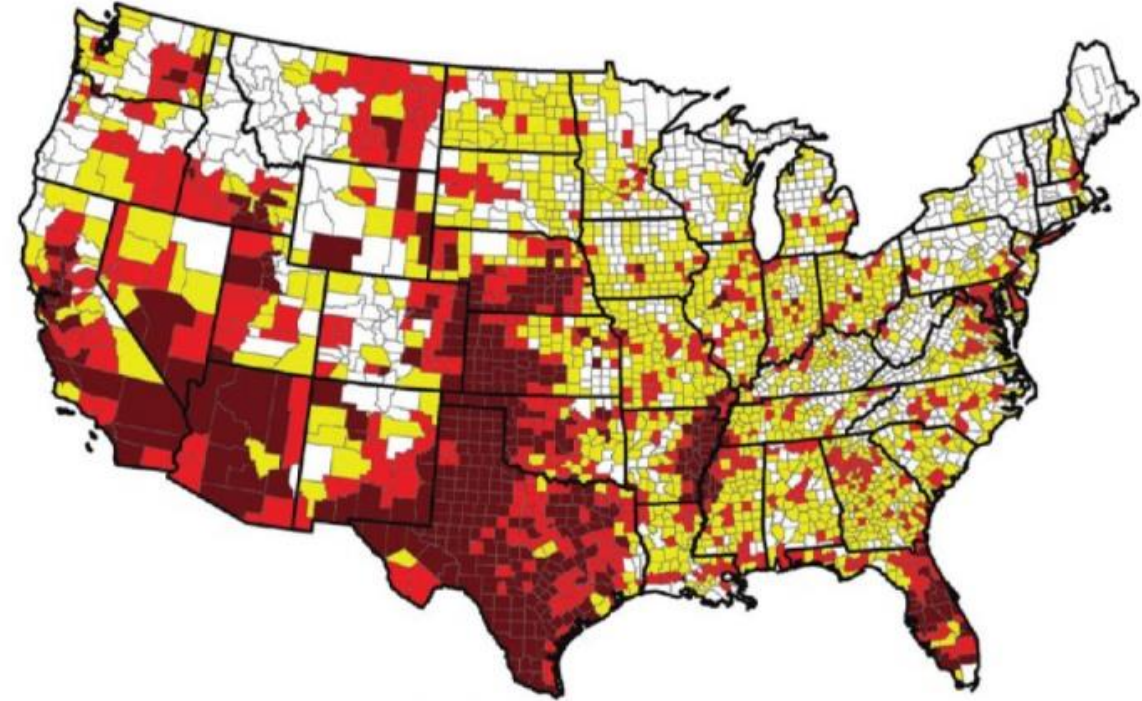


# Water Supplies Projected to Decline

## No Climate Change Effects



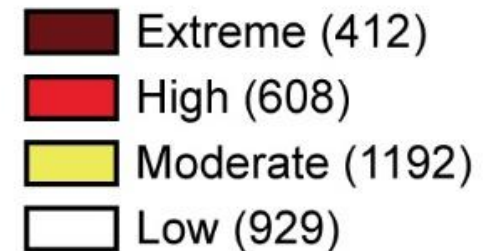
## Climate Change Effects



Water Supply Sustainability Risk Index (2050)



Water Supply Sustainability Risk Index (2050)



# FOURTH NATIONAL CLIMATE ASSESSMENT

## CHAPTER 3: WATER

- “... there is no comprehensive assessment of the climate-related vulnerability of U.S. water infrastructure.”
- “... tools, case studies, and other information are available...”
- “... there are no common design standards or operational guidelines that address how infrastructure should be designed and operated in the face of changing climate risk or that even target the range of climate variability seen over the last 500 years.”



# Water Utility Climate Alliance





## A New Generation of Water Planners Confronts Change Along the Colorado River

Reduced flows and increased demand for Colorado River water represent a real and present danger in the West. To address the threat, water managers and modelers initiated a study to understand the system, consider options, and take action.

## Climate Outlooks Help Water Supply Planning

When water utility personnel recognized their groundwater withdrawals were damaging ecosystems in the Tampa Bay area, they found new ways to reduce their dependence on it.

## Water Utility Plans for Climate Uncertainty

Managers and staff at Denver Water in Colorado are taking climate change seriously. To be sure they can continue serving their customers into the future, they're learning from climate scientists, hydrologists, and other water utilities.





# Water Utility Climate Alliance



# Strategies for 21st Century Risk Management and Climate Change Communication

**Abby Sullivan**

**Environmental Scientist, Philadelphia Water Department**

**Dr. Alison Adams**

**Principal Engineer, INTERA Incorporated**



ANTIOCH UNIVERSITY NEW ENGLAND  
Center for Climate Preparedness  
and Community Resilience

# Strategies for 21st Century Risk Management and Climate Change Communication

October 31, 2019  
Abby Sullivan,  
Environmental Scientist,  
Philadelphia Water Department







## Acknowledgement:

- Julia Rockwell, Manager of the Climate Change Adaptation Program, Philadelphia Water Dept.
- Kelly Anderson, Manager of the Watershed Protection Program, Philadelphia Water Dept.
- Sebastian Malter, Engineer, CDM Smith (formerly Philadelphia Water Dept).
- The Water Utility Climate Alliance
  - Lurna Kaatz, Climate Program Manager, Denver Water (WUCA Chair)
  - Keely Brooks, Climate Science and Adaptation Lead, Southern Nevada Water Authority
  - Heidi Roop, Lead Scientist for Science Communication, Climate Impacts Group, U. of Washington

# Climate Change, a Super Wicked Problem

## *Wicked Problem* (Rittel & Webber, 1973)

Wicked problems lack a simplistic, straightforward solution because they are difficult to define, have many interdependencies, have numerous stakeholders and opinions, involve economic burden and are interconnected with other problems (Rittel & Webber, 1973).

## *Super Wicked Problem* (Levin et al., 2007)

A problem with even further exacerbating features:

1. Time is running out
2. Those who cause the problem also seek to provide a solution
3. The central authority needed to address the problem is weak or non-existent
4. Irrational discounting occurs, pushing responses into the future

# Climate Change Communication Challenges



A diagram consisting of five overlapping circles arranged in a horizontal sequence from left to right. The circles are colored light blue, dark blue, gold, red, and yellow. Each circle contains a text label representing a communication challenge. The circles overlap such that the dark blue circle is partially behind the light blue one, the gold circle is behind the dark blue one, the red circle is behind the gold one, and the yellow circle is behind the red one.

complex

lack of  
understanding

many  
audiences,  
many  
responses

viewpoint  
based on  
tribe

cognitive  
dissonance

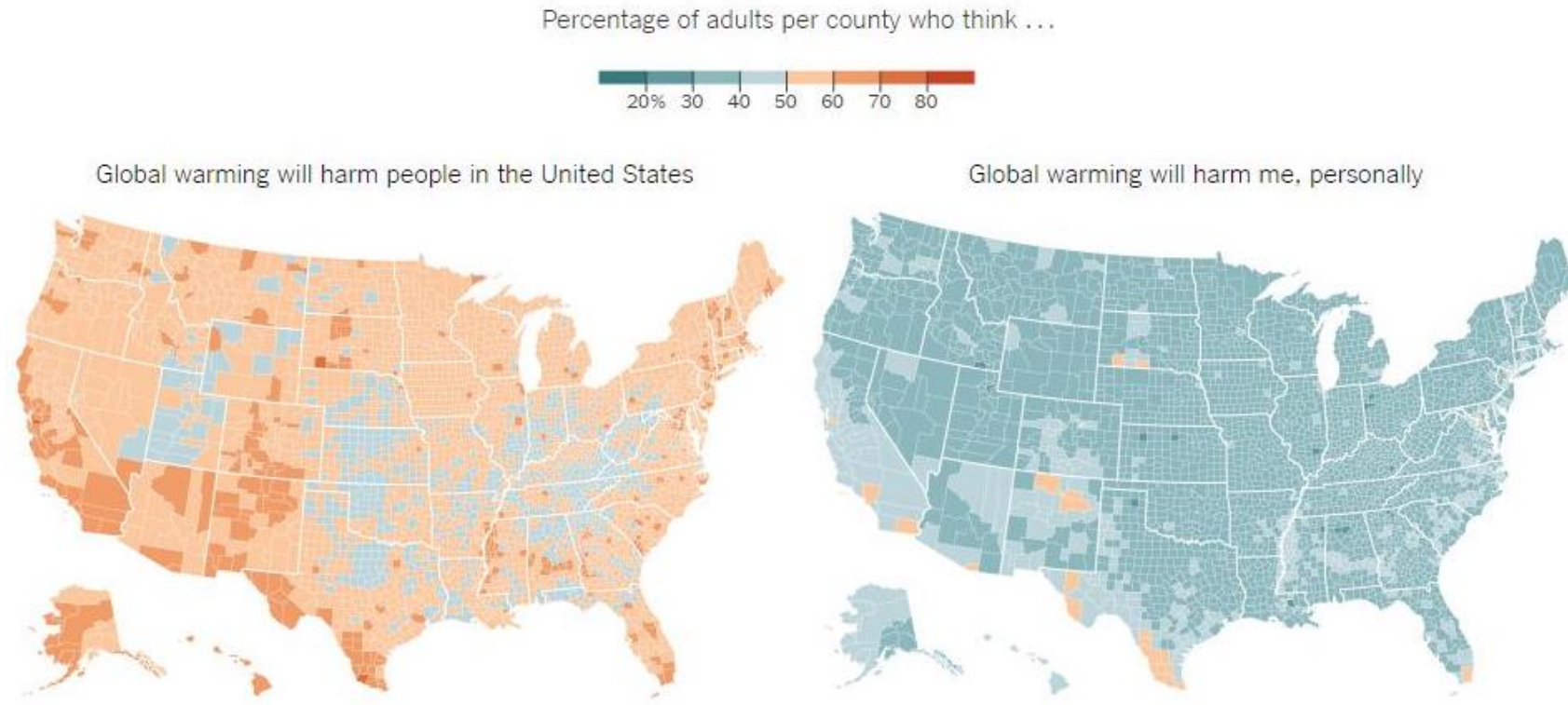
# Climate Change Communication Challenges



My desire to be well-informed is currently  
at odds with my desire to remain sane.

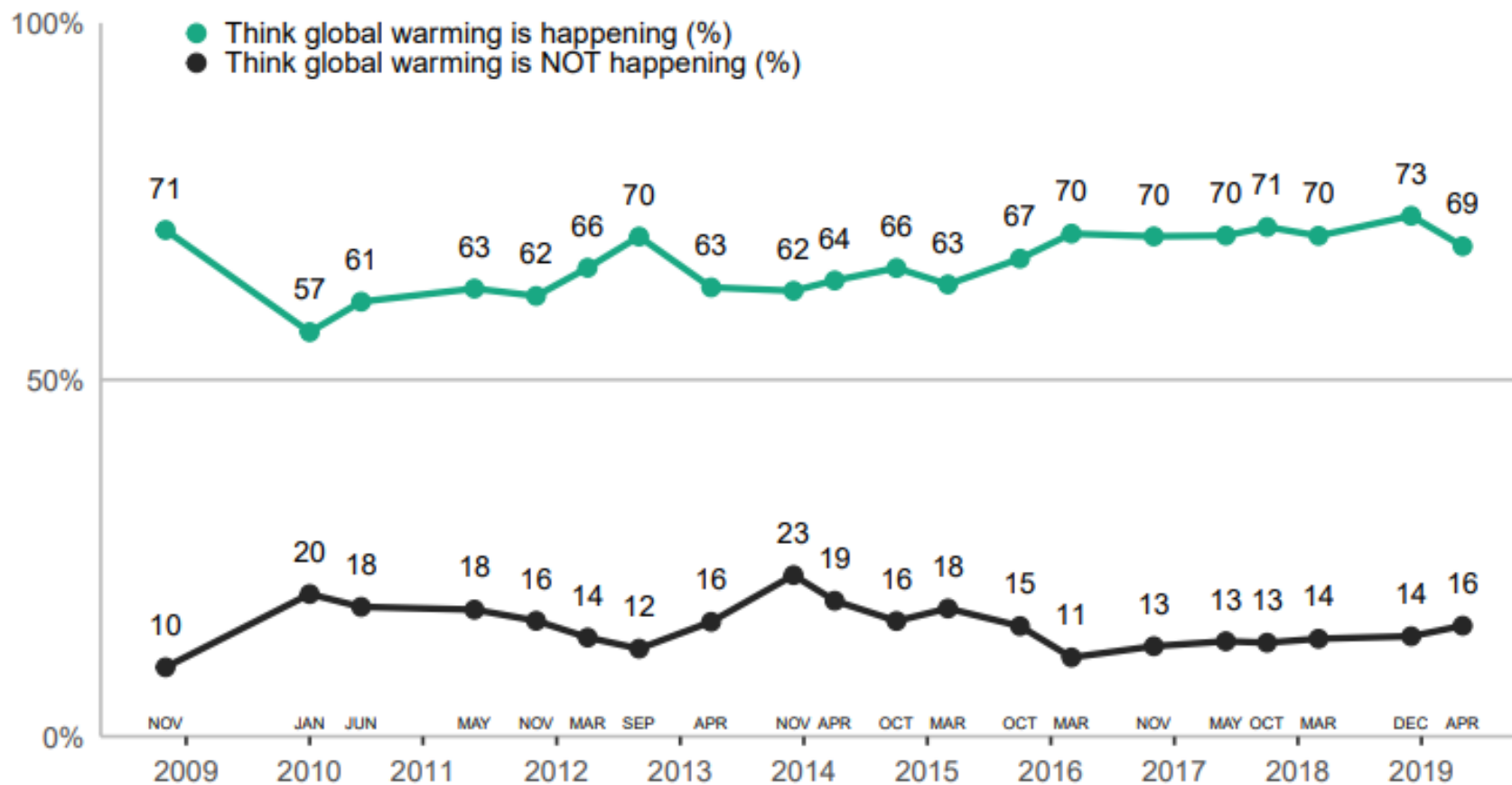
# Climate Change Communication Challenges

Most People Think that climate change will harm Americans but they don't think it will happen to them



Source: New York Times, March 21, 2017 article *How Americans Think about Climate Change, in Six Maps*

# The (mostly) good news...



Roughly 7 in 10  
Americans think  
global warming is  
happening



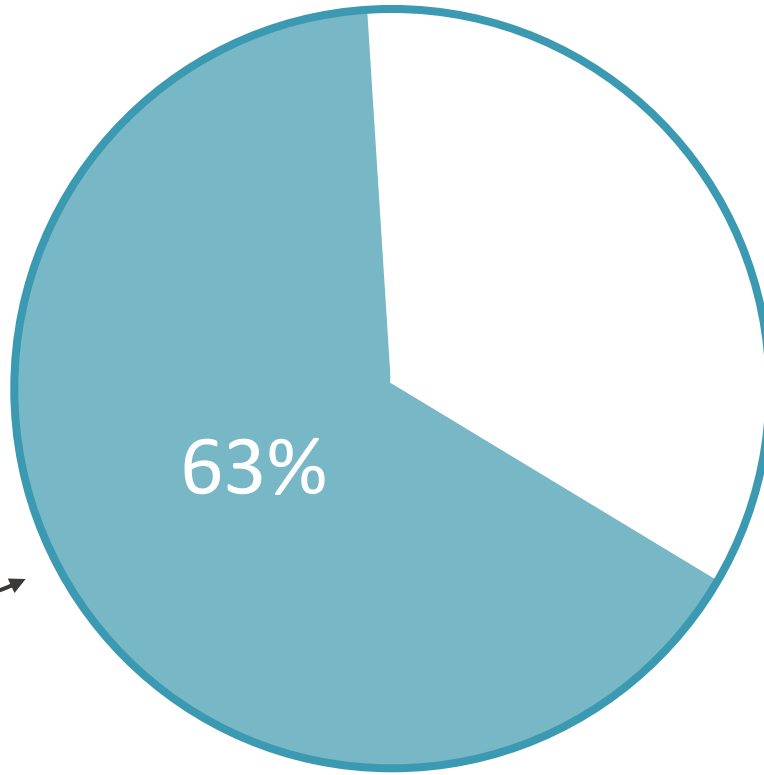
YALE PROGRAM ON  
Climate Change  
Communication



GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY  
CENTER for CLIMATE CHANGE  
COMMUNICATION

# Communication is the key!

*About six in ten Americans (63%) say they “rarely” or “never” discuss global warming with family and friends*



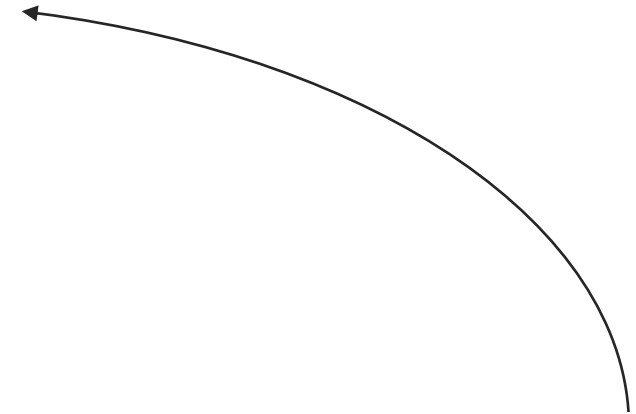
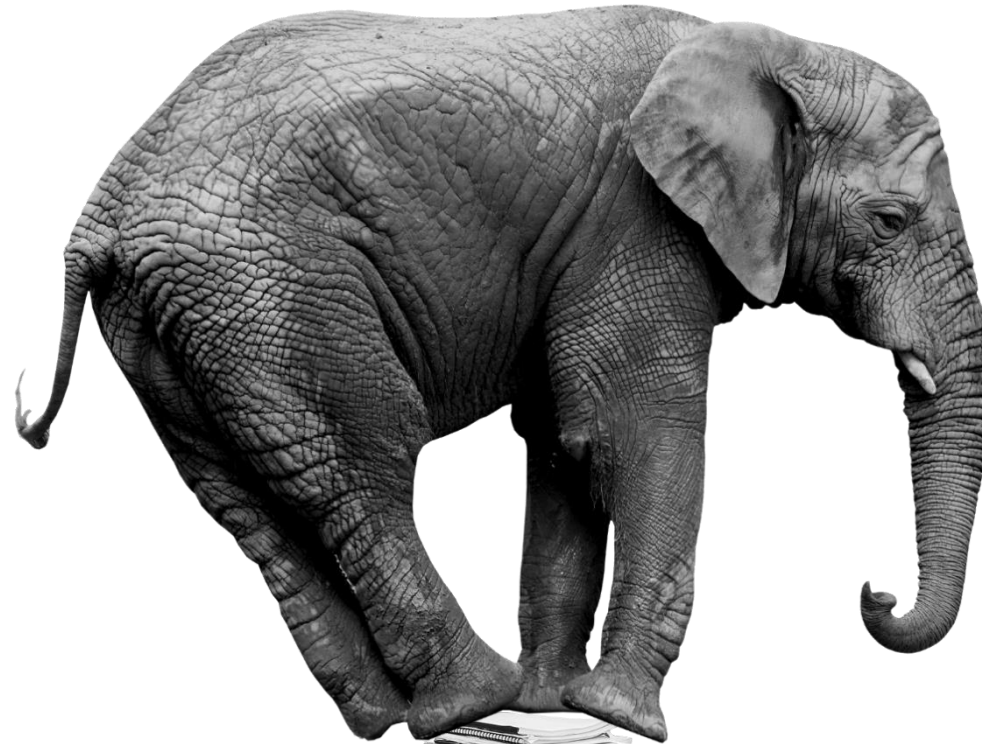
Source: Leiserowitz, et al., 2019



Katherine Hayhoe  
climate scientist/communicator  
extraordinaire



# Internal Communications and Mainstreaming



Climate Change can be  
really overwhelming!





# Internal Communications and Mainstreaming

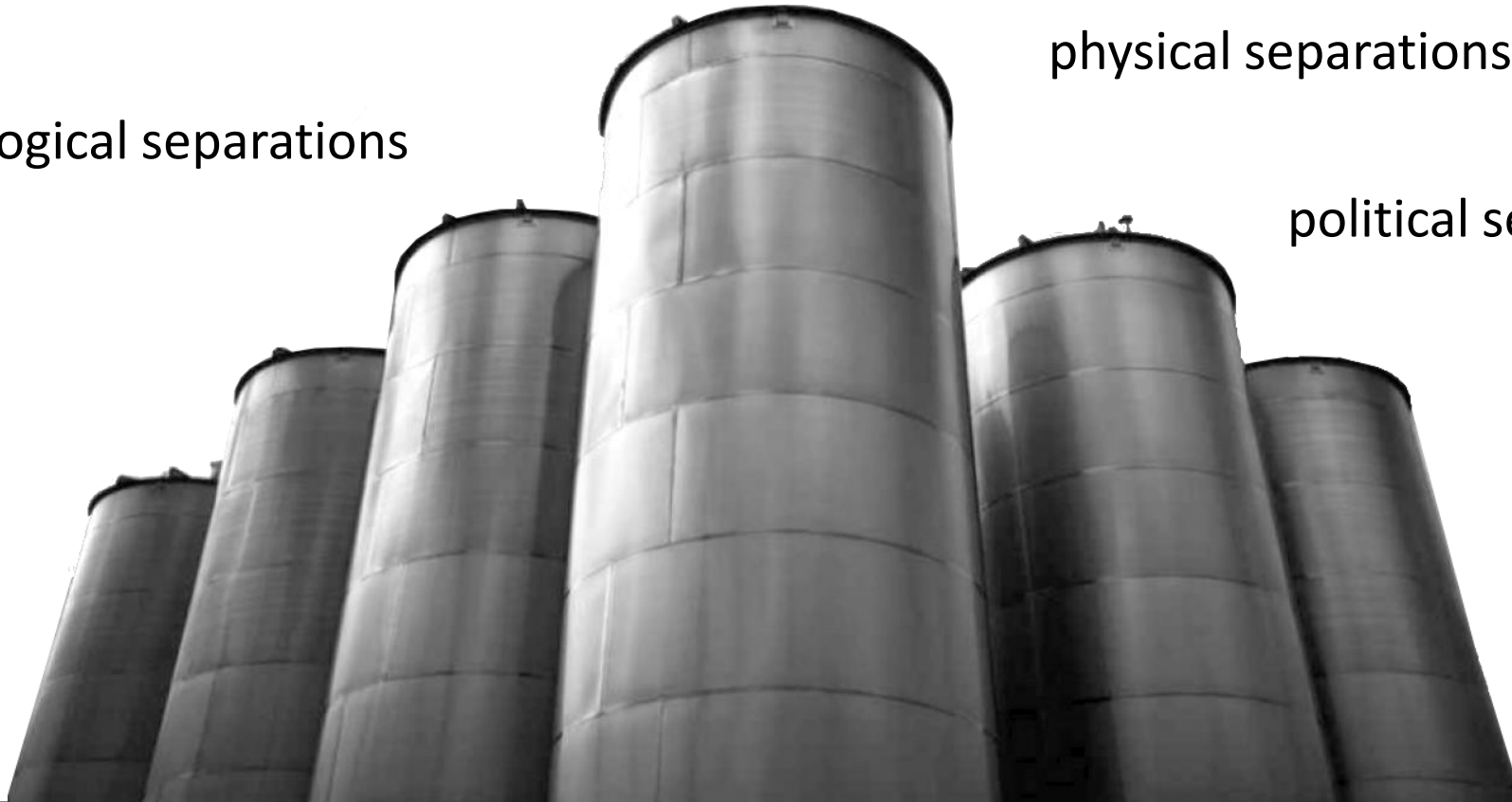
Management/leadership style

physical separations

ideological separations

political separations

large staff



# Internal Communications and Mainstreaming

Management/leadership style

physical separations

ideological separations

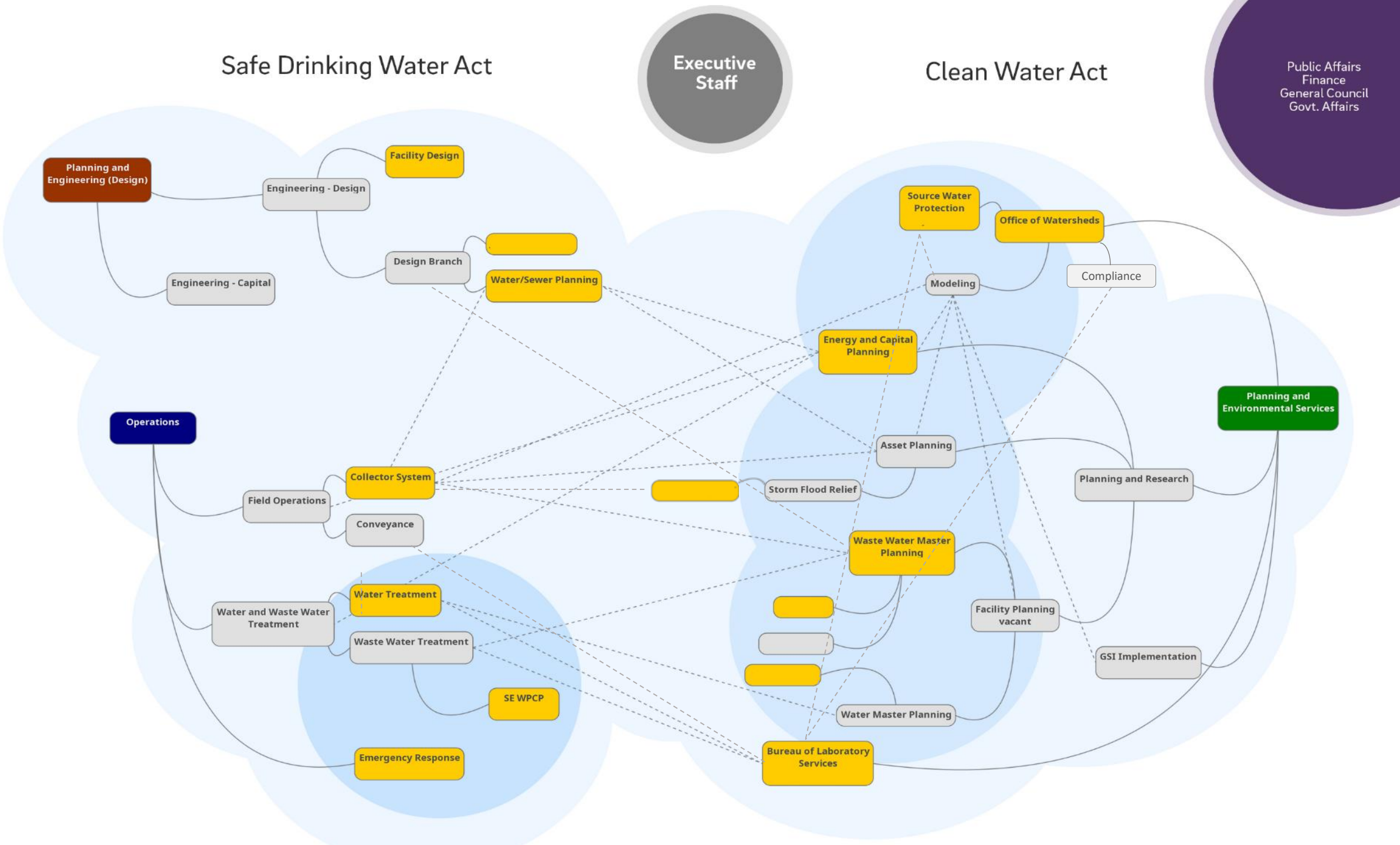
political separations

large staff

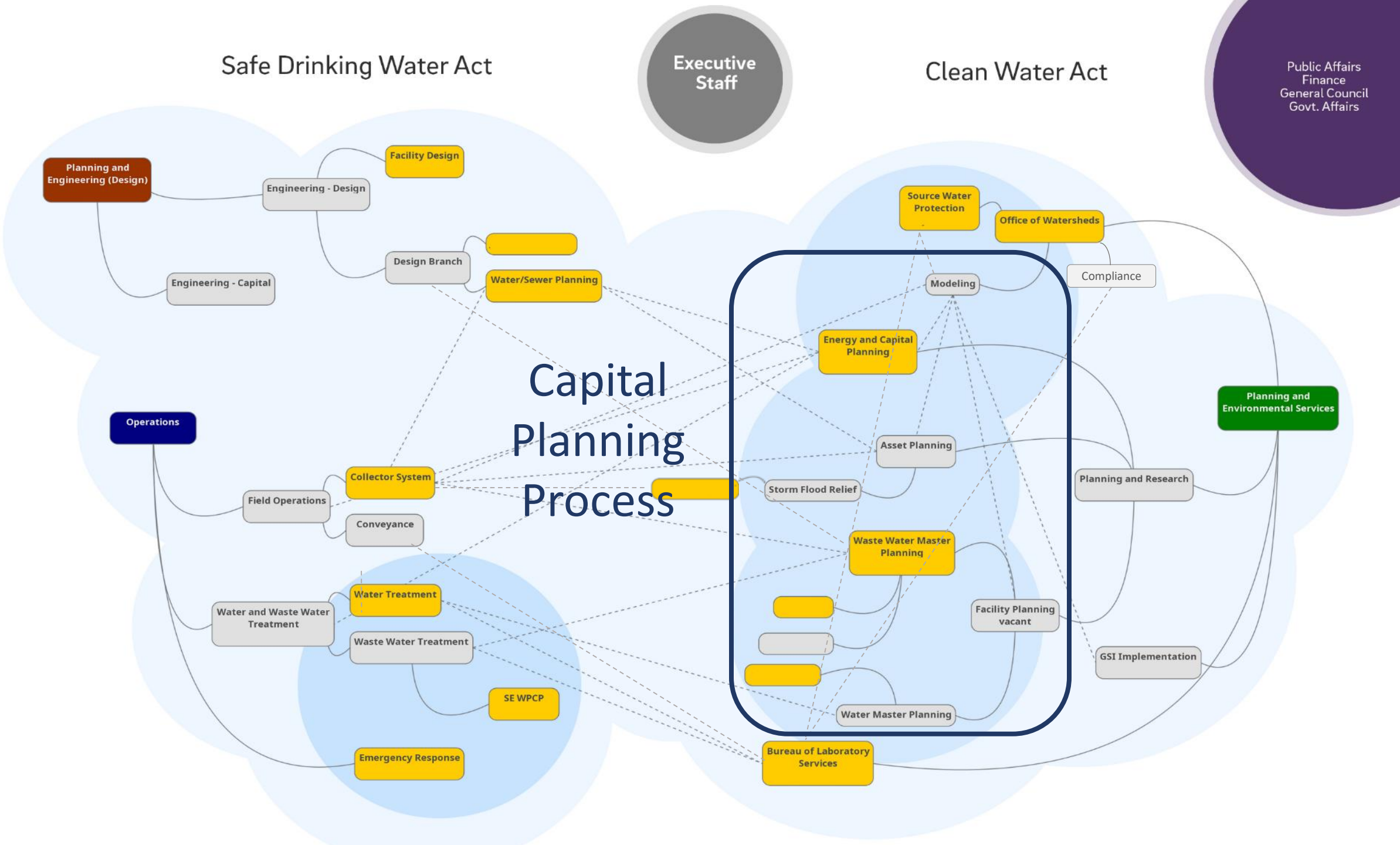
CYLINDERS OF EXCELLENCE



Roll Out Strategy - Organization Map

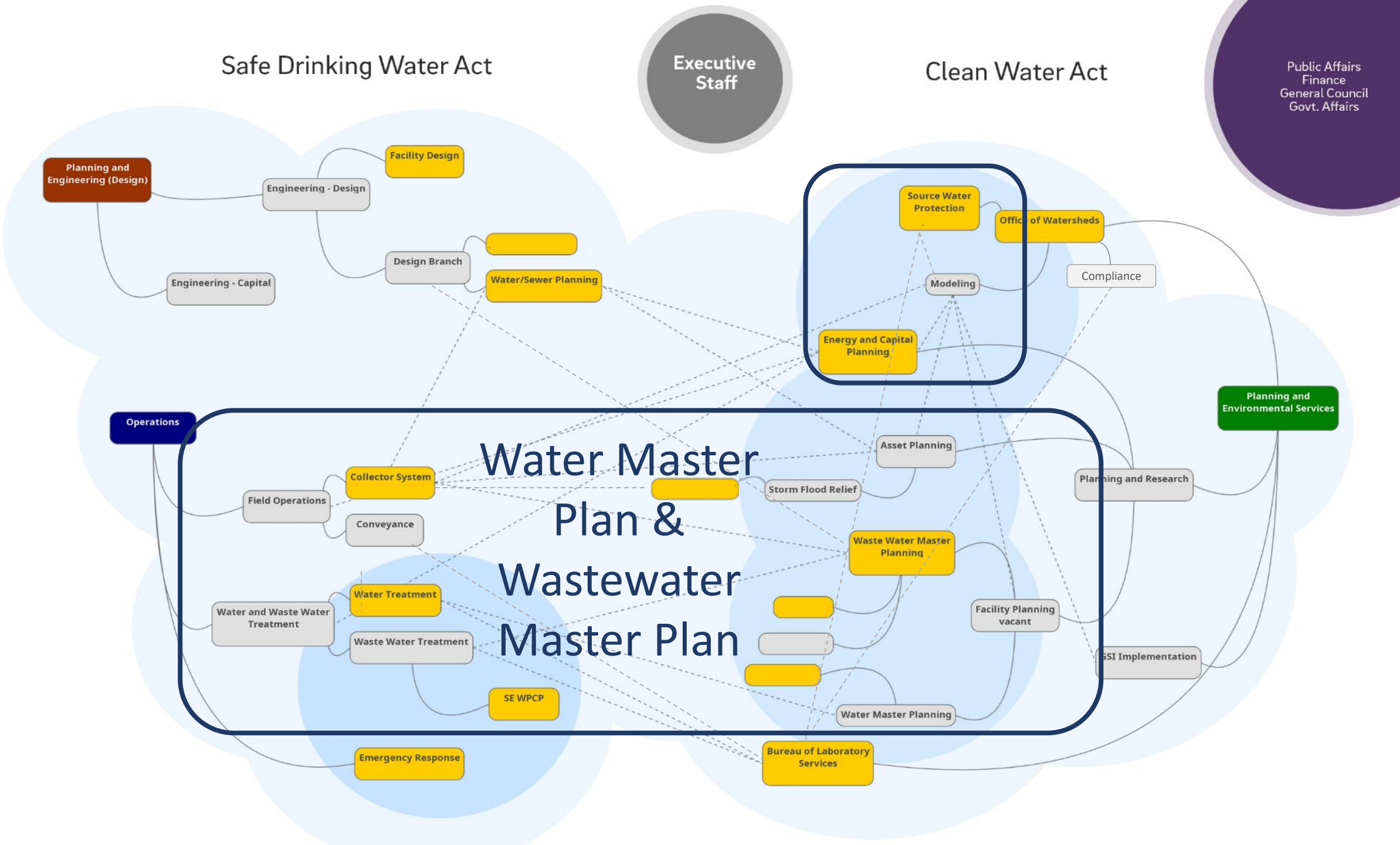


Roll Out Strategy - Organization Map

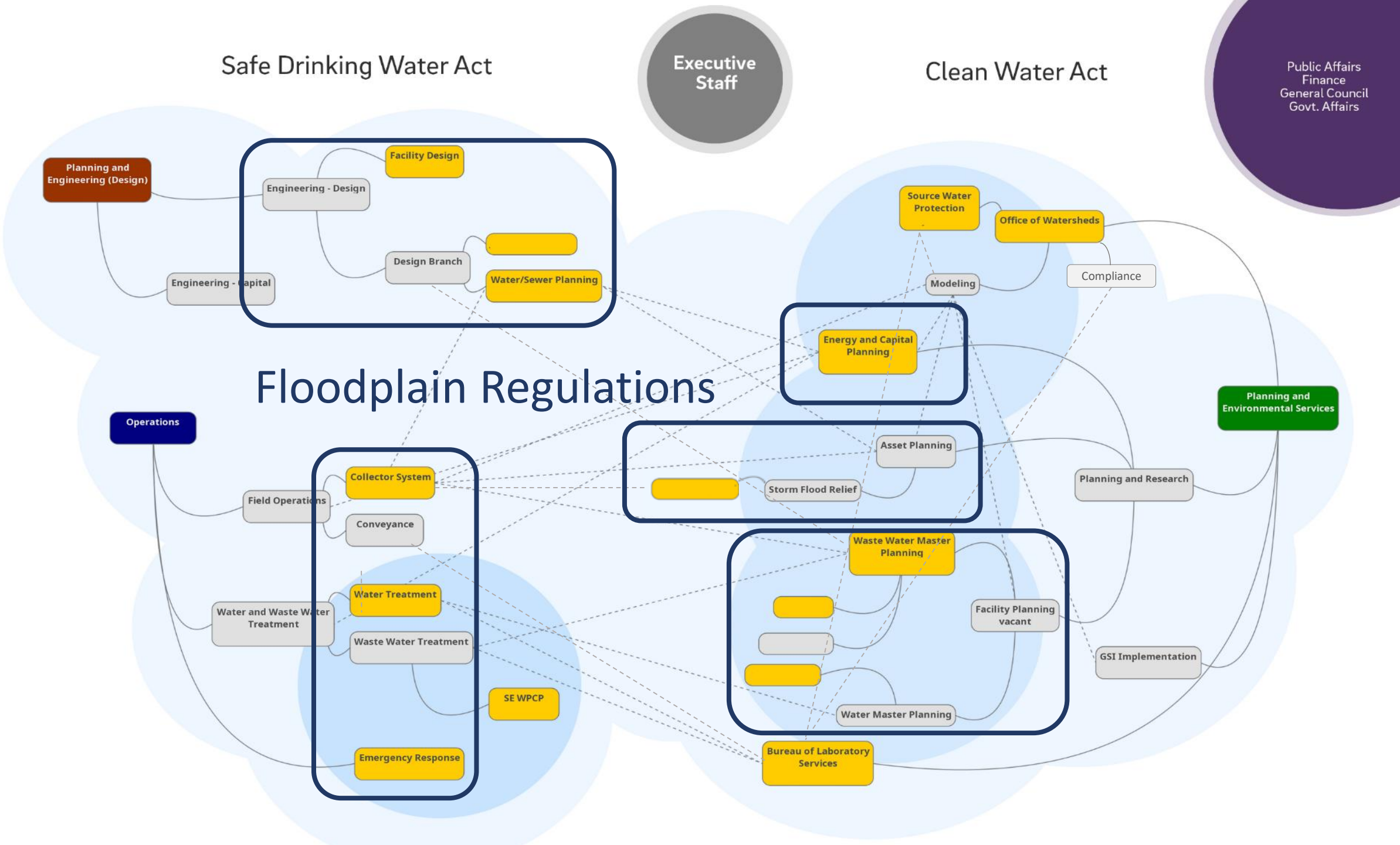




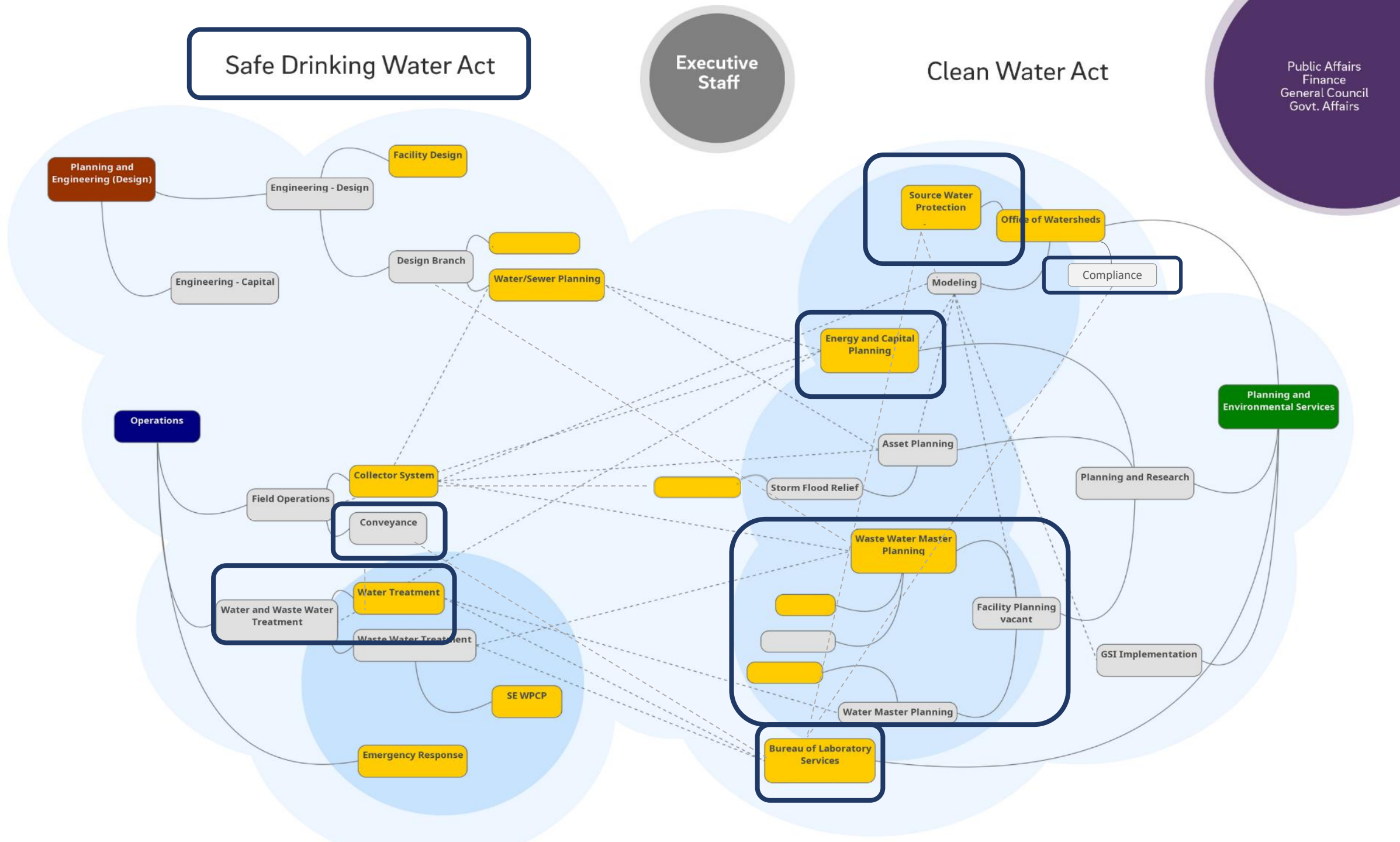
Roll Out Strategy - Organization Map



Roll Out Strategy - Organization Map

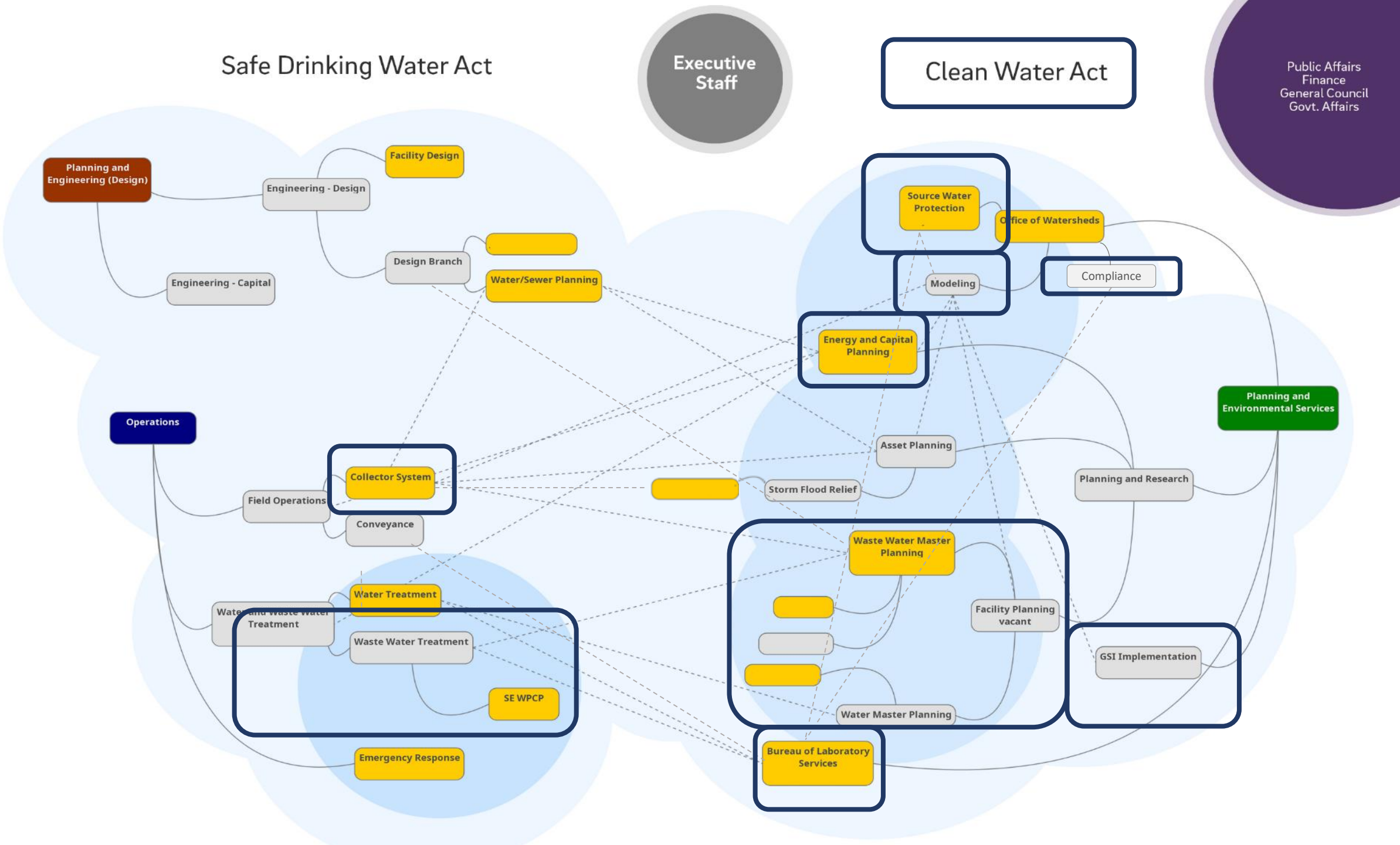


# Roll Out Strategy - Organization Map





Roll Out Strategy - Organization Map





# Internal Communications and Mainstreaming

## Sea Level Rise

What could be affected?	Units affected?	Programs, plans & processes affected?
<p><u>Structural systems</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Drinking water treatment plants</li><li>• Wastewater treatment plants</li><li>• Pumping stations</li><li>• Stormwater system (CSO &amp; MS4)</li><li>• Wastewater drainage system</li><li>• Electrical equipment (all facilities)</li></ul> <p><u>Non-Structural systems</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Source water quality</li><li>• Source water quantity</li><li>• Energy demand</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Planning &amp; Research</li><li>• Office of Watersheds</li><li>• GSI Implementation</li><li>• Operations</li><li>• Design</li><li>• Emergency Management</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wastewater Master Plan</li><li>• Water Master Plan</li><li>• Operations (treatment, pumping)</li><li>• Storm Flood Relief Program</li><li>• Capital Planning Program</li><li>• Linear Asset Management</li><li>• Source Water Protection Program</li><li>• Green City Clean Waters (H&amp;H modeling, GSI)</li><li>• Emergency Planning &amp; Response</li></ul>

# Internal Communications and Mainstreaming

- Identify champions
- Form a working group
- Embed climate change into existing programs & plans



# Internal Communications and Mainstreaming

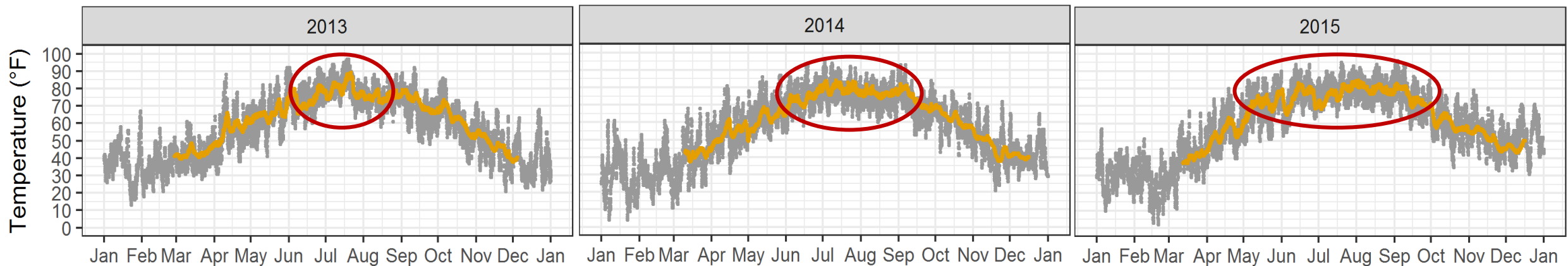
CCAP Champions Database					
Unit	Division	Staff member	email	phone	Location
Planning and Engineering	Facility Design				
	?				
	Engineering - Design Branch				
	Water/sewer Planning				
Operations	Field Operations				
	Conveyance				
	Waste water Treatment?				
	Waste Water Treatment				
	Emergency Response				
	Water Treatment				
	Field Operations				
Planning & Environmental Services	Planning and Research - capital planning and Energy				
	Planning and Research				
	OOW - Source Water/ Water Master Plan				
	Planning and Research - Waste water planning				
	Planning and Research - Waste water planning				
	Planning and Research - Waste Water Planning				
	GSI Implementation - GSI maintenance				
	GSI Implementation				
	GSI Implementation - Ecological Restoration Unit				
	GSI Implementation - Ecological Restoration Unit				
	GSI Implementation - Ecological Restoration Unit				
	OOW - H&H Modeling Group				
	OOW - H&H Modeling Group				
	Bureau of Laboratory Services				
	Bureau of Laboratory Services				



RESISTANCE

# Internal Communications and Mainstreaming

Talk about climate change in the context of what people already know

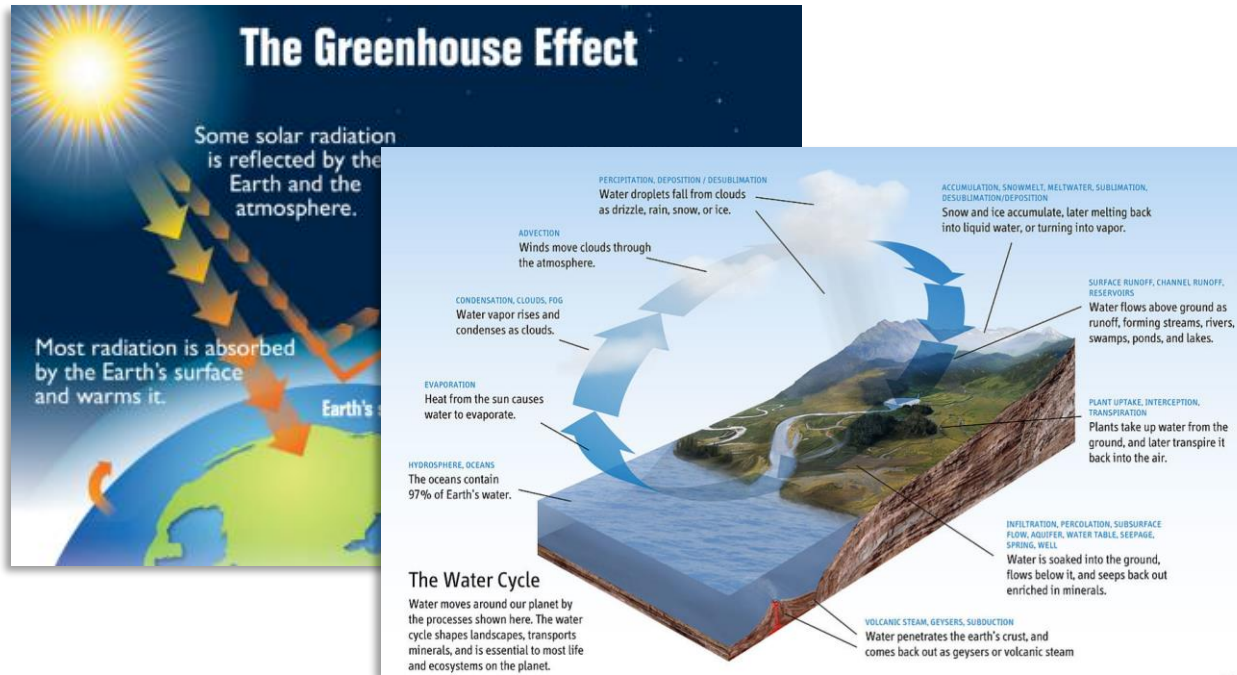


Climate change amplifies and multiplies issues we already deal with.



# Internal Communications and Mainstreaming

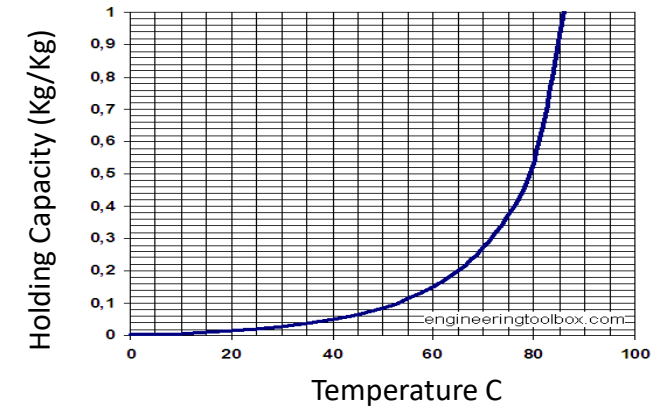
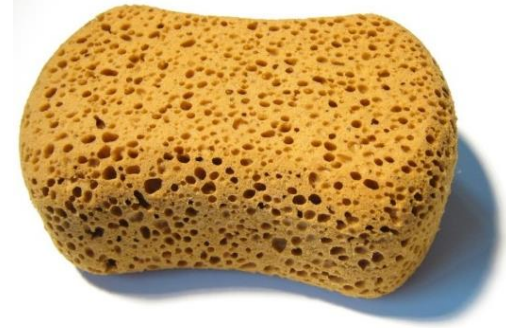
Educate people, have discussions, get them involved



- Provide the basics
- Cater your presentations
- Give people ownership
- Let them suggest solutions
- Getting stakeholders to the table is the most important part!

## Principle #1

Warm air holds more moisture than cold air.  
“Atmospheric holding capacity”

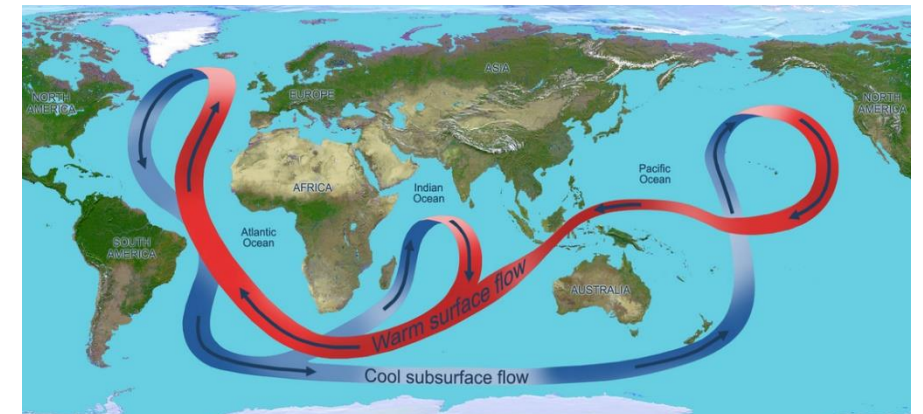


## Principle #2

Warm air increases evaporation and transpiration rates

## Principle #3

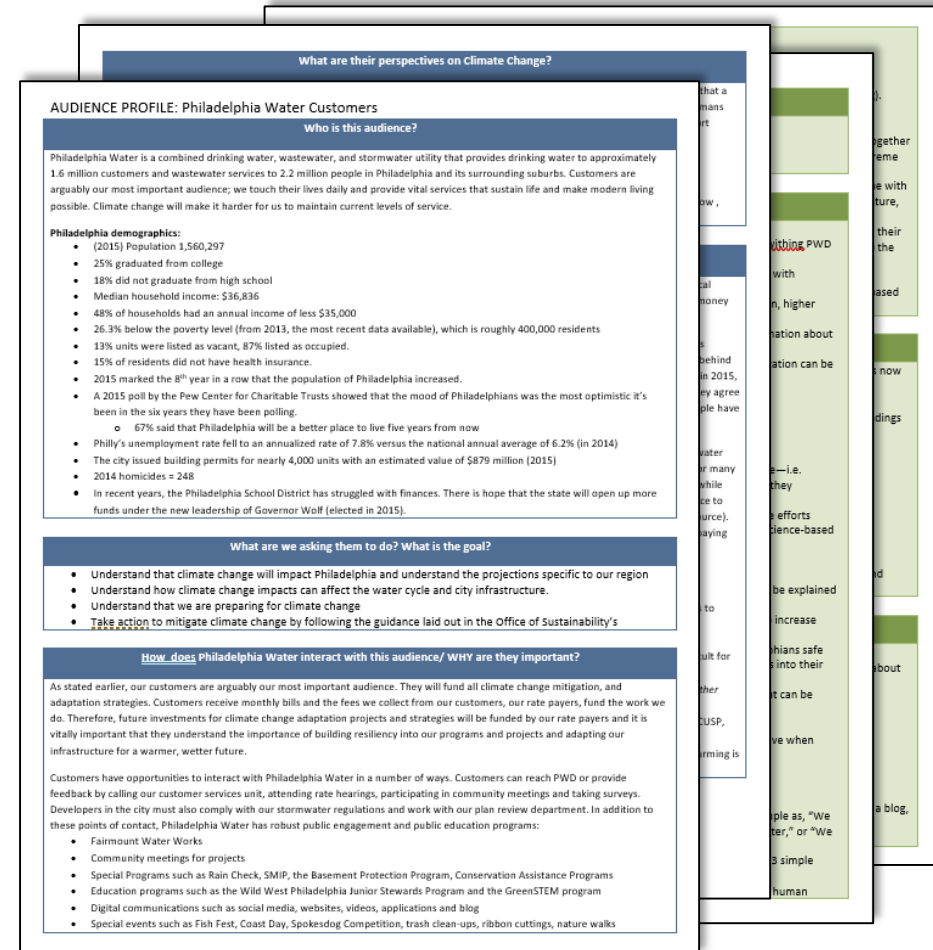
Temperature changes influence global circulation patterns (atmosphere & ocean)



# Best Practices – external communication

## Know your audience (do your homework!)

- Who is your target audience?
- Create audience profiles
- What matters to them (values)?
- If you don't know your audience:
  - Look at Yale climate opinion maps
  - Survey the audience: raise of hands





# Best Practices – external communication

---

WHO IS THIS AUDIENCE?

WHAT IS OUR COMMUNICATION GOAL?

WHY IS THIS AUDIENCE IMPORTANT?

WHAT ARE THEIR PERSPECTIVES?

WHAT ARE KEY MESSAGES?

WHAT IS OUR COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

WHAT TOOLS CAN WE USE?

A series of horizontal stripes in blue, red, and gold colors at the bottom of the slide.

# Best Practices – external communication

Knowing your audience allows you to frame your message



People connect on values:

- Family
- Health
- Our responsibility – (to children & environment)
- Tell stories
- Convey how climate change will impact them (without necessarily using the words “climate change”)

# Best Practices – external communication

Knowing your audience allows you to frame your message



Debbie Dooley, Tea Party Member

When talking to Republicans,  
promote renewable energy by talking  
about energy independence and  
freedom of choice, not by linking it to  
climate change.

# Lessons learned – external communication

Language has weight. You don't need to use the words “climate change”



- Belief Bias
- People feel attacked when beliefs are challenged
- “Extreme events” or “changing conditions”

# Lessons Learned – external communication

It's important to listen and learn.  
Building trust takes time and effort...

- Take the time to talk to people
- Listen to their concerns
- People want to be heard

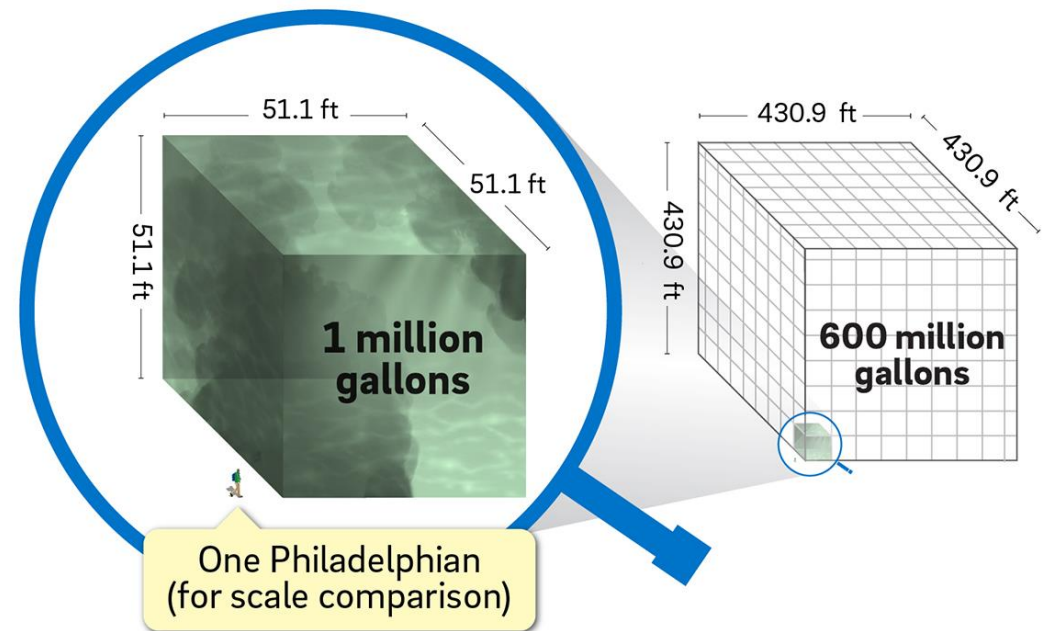


# Best Practices – external communication

Simple, clear, informative, repeated messages

- Never assume, but don't talk down
- Simple graphs
- Communicate on a human scale
- Make the science and statements meaningful
- 27 words or less

**What does 600 million gallons of pollution look like?**



Source: Philadelphia Water Department

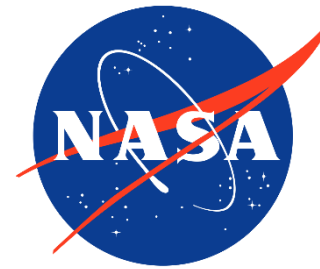


# Lessons Learned – external communication

## The messenger matters

- Convey through a trusted community member
- Send information from trusted sources
- Engage through existing channels
- Channel the power of groups
- Meet people where they are

I didn't say it, they did



United States  
Global Change  
Research Program

MOODY'S

STANDARD  
& POOR'S



# Best Practices – external communication

97% of  
them!

**IT'S REAL**  
**IT'S US**  
**EXPERTS AGREE**  
**IT'S BAD**  
**THERE'S HOPE**

Global warming is happening.

Human activity is the main cause.

There's scientific consensus on  
human-caused global warming.

The impacts are serious and affect people.

We have the technology needed to avoid  
the worst climate impacts.

# Emotions....



- Common wisdom says keep emotion out of messaging
- People shut down when they feel it is beyond hope
- Majority do not want emotion in climate change messages

However....

- More people are persuaded to take action when the message was conveyed with emotion
- There are differences in reaction based on gender, age, etc.

Source: Bloodhart, Swim & Diccio (2019) in the journal *Science and Environmental Communication*

# Keeping people engaged

- Don't read your notes!
- Don't use a lot of text!
- Make eye contact
- Practice your presentation



# THANKS



Abby Sullivan, Environmental Scientist  
Climate Change Adaptation Program  
**Philadelphia Water Department**

[abby.sullivan@phila.gov](mailto:abby.sullivan@phila.gov)

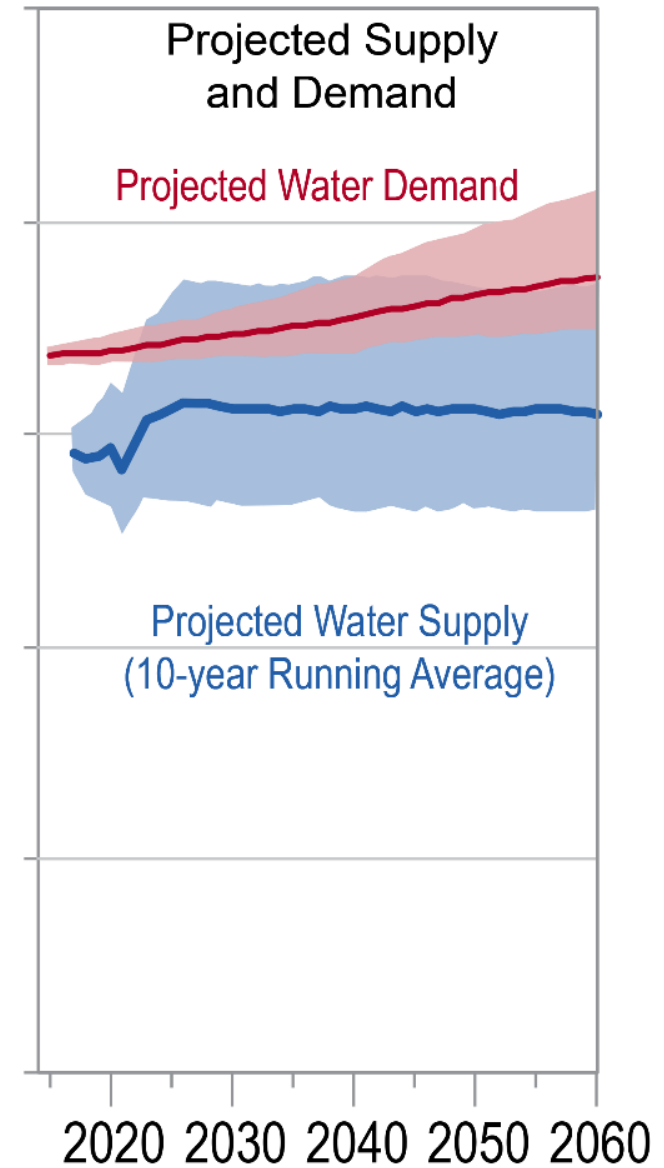
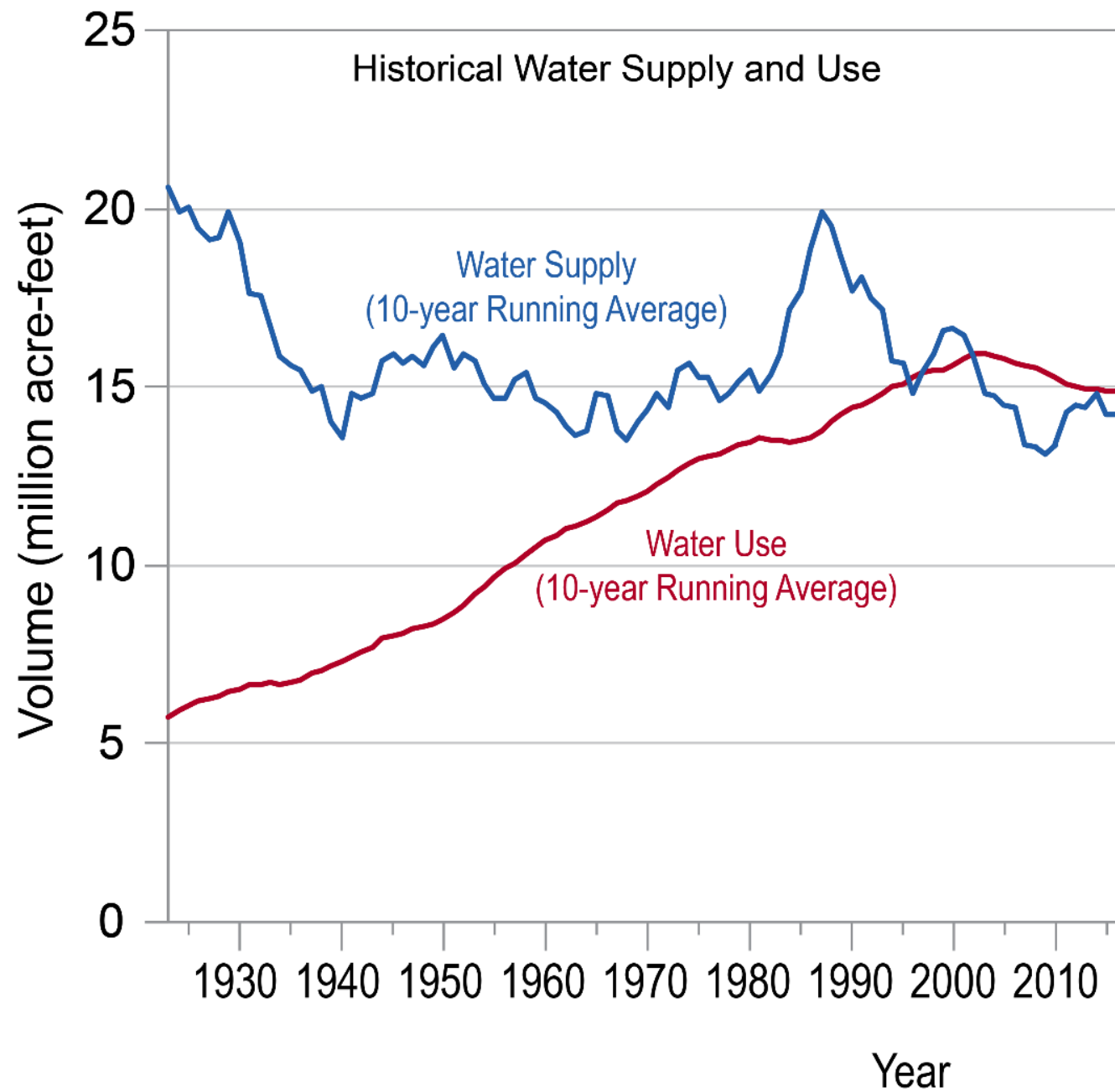
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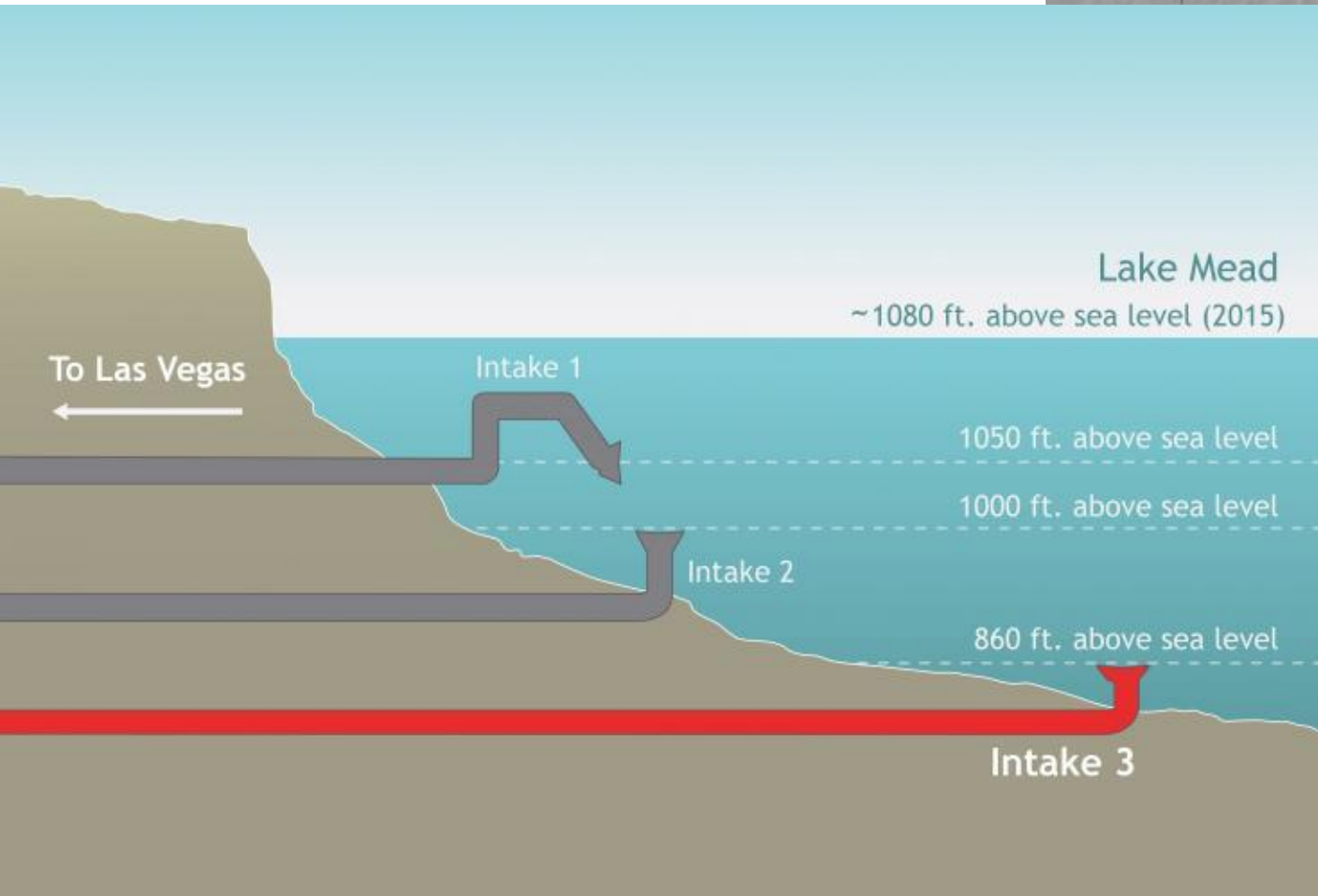


# Water Utility Climate Alliance



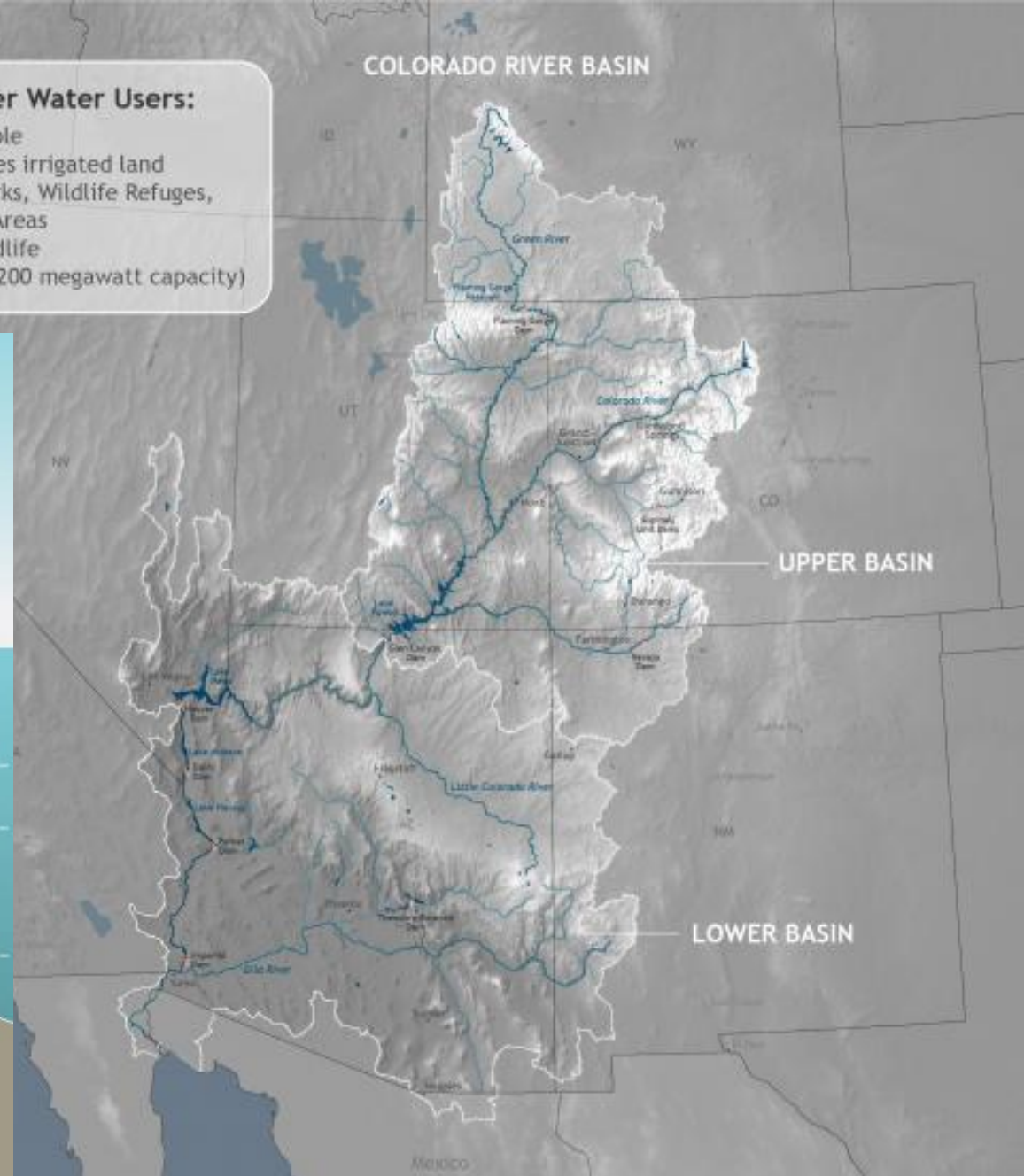


# The Colorado River, Lake Mead, and the Southern Nevada Water Authority



## Colorado River Water Users:

- 40 million people
- 4.5 million acres irrigated land
- 22 National Parks, Wildlife Refuges, or Recreation Areas
- Uncounted wildlife
- Hydropower (4200 megawatt capacity)





# A Strategy for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Risk Management in a Changing Climate

Alison Adams Ph.D, PE, Project Engineer, Intera Incorporated

Presented on behalf of Southern Nevada Water Authority  
October 31, 2019

Antioch University Weathering Change Webinar



Las Vegas Valley Water District  
Southern Nevada Water Authority  
Springs Preserve™



# Outline

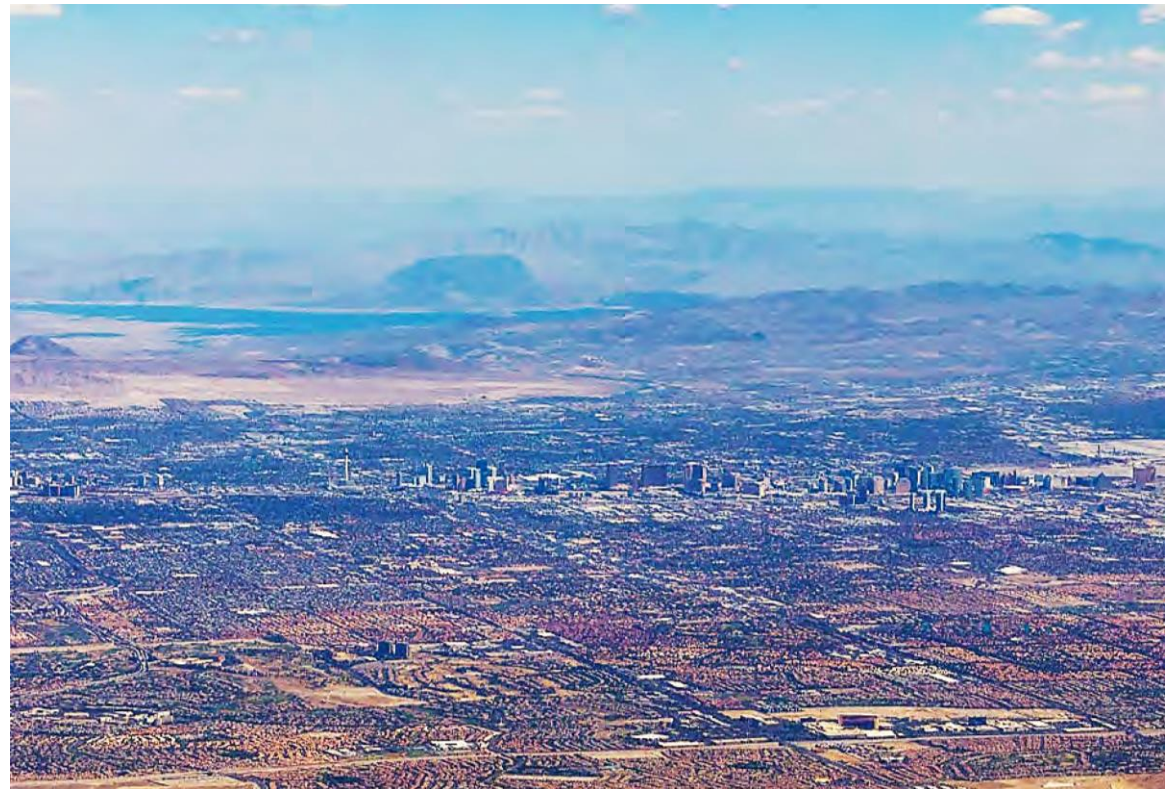


SOUTHERN NEVADA  
WATER AUTHORITY



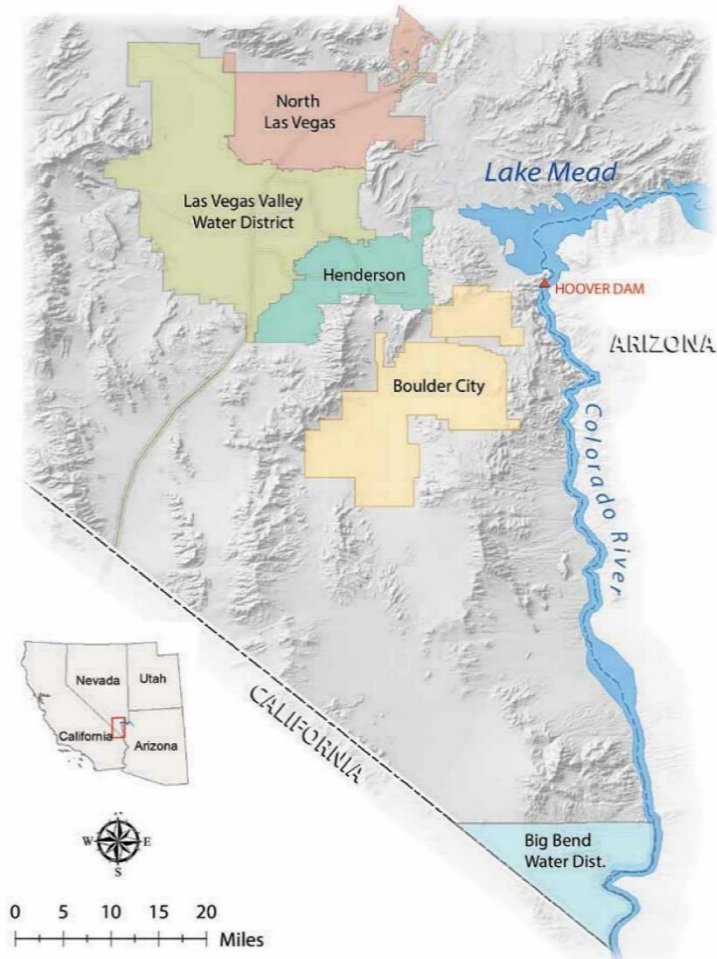
LAS VEGAS VALLEY  
WATER DISTRICT™

- ▶ **Background**
- ▶ **Approach**
  - ▶ **Climate Changes**
  - ▶ **Enterprise Risk Management**
- ▶ **Project Goals & Objectives**
- ▶ **Process**
- ▶ **Results**
- ▶ **Key Take Aways /Lessons Learned**



Las Vegas Valley Water District  
Southern Nevada Water Authority  
Springs Preserve™

# Background



SOUTHERN NEVADA  
WATER AUTHORITY



- Formed in 1991
- Seven member agencies serve 2.2 million people
- Colorado River 90% of supply



LAS VEGAS VALLEY  
WATER DISTRICT™

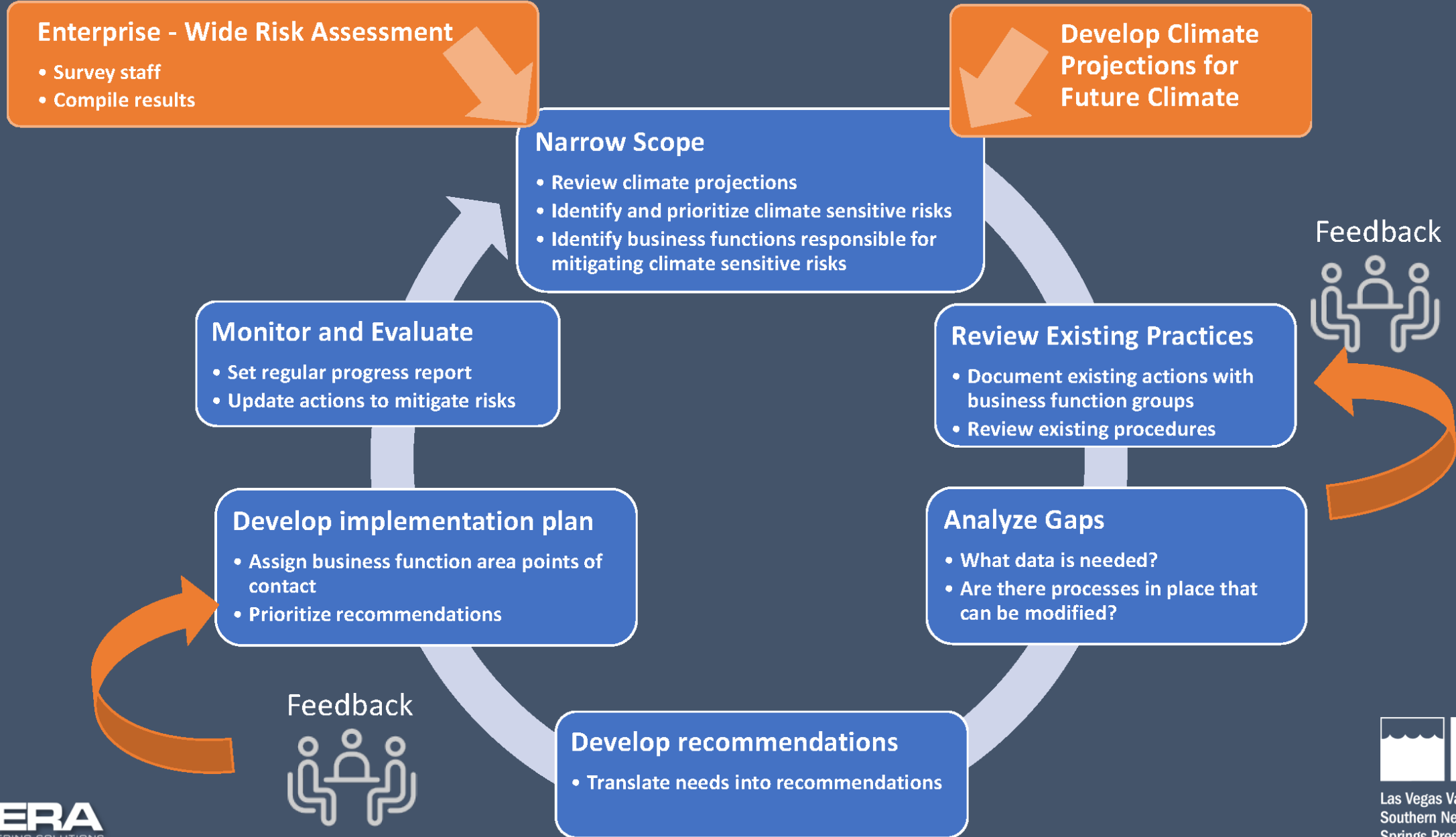
- Serves 1.4 million people
- 6,500 miles of pipe, 102 wells, 54 pump stations, 79 distribution storage reservoirs



Las Vegas Valley Water District  
Southern Nevada Water Authority  
Springs Preserve™



# Operationalizing Climate Information

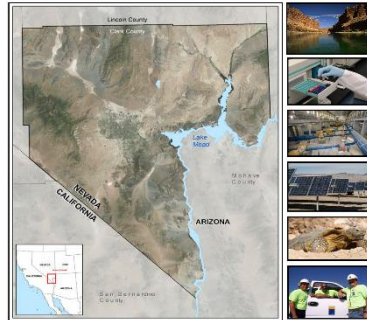


# Projected Change in Climate – Clark County



## Climate Conditions in Clark County, NV

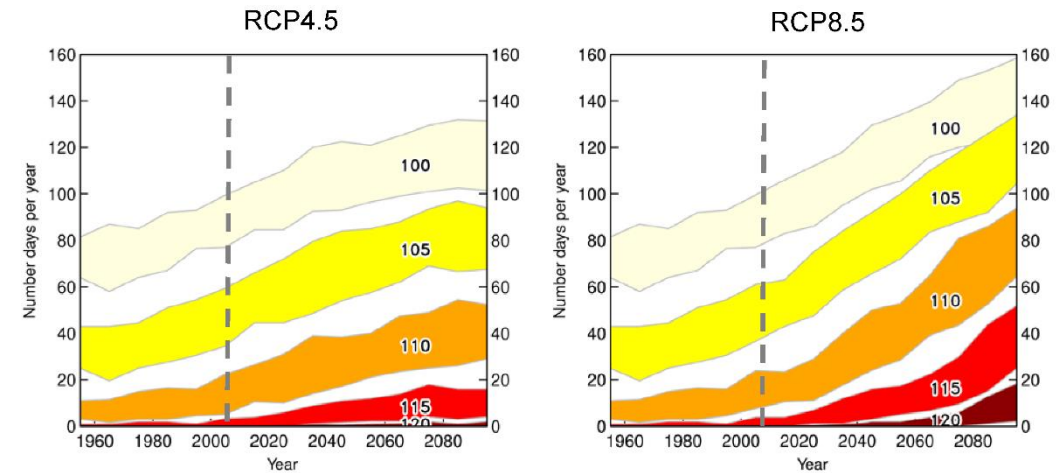
An Evaluation of Historic and Projected Future Climate  
using Global Climate Models



2018 | Julia Kalansky, Amanda Sheffield, Daniel Cayan, David Pierce

A report developed for the Southern Nevada Water Authority by the California Nevada Application Program (CNAP). CNAP is a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments (NOAA-RISA) team, at Scripps Institution of Oceanography and the University of California San Diego.

- ▶ Mean annual temperature projected to increase 3.8 to 6.5 °F by the 2050s
- ▶ Night time lows increase more rapidly than day time highs
- ▶ High heat days increase significantly



Las Vegas Valley Water District  
Southern Nevada Water Authority  
Springs Preserve™

**INTERA**  
GEOSCIENCE & ENGINEERING SOLUTIONS



# Evolution of Enterprise Risk Management

## Traditional Risk Management

-  Historically focused
-  Ad hoc activity
-  Accounting, treasury, and internal audit
-  Fragmentation (Silo Approach)
-  Financial Risk
-  Inspect, detect, react
-  Focus on people

## Enterprise Risk Management

-  Strategic
-  Continuous activity
-  All of management
-  Focused and coordinated ( Holistic)
-  Business Risk
-  Anticipate, detect, monitor
-  Focus on processes and people



# Enterprise Risk Management – Types of Risk

## Hazard

- Property Damage
- Natural Catastrophe

## Financial

- Asset Value
- Liquidity
- Credit

## • Operational

- Service Failure
- Human Resources

## Strategic

- Reputation
- Competition
- Regulatory



# ERM Progress To Date

ERM Committee held 115 meetings and interviewed 181 supervisors, managers, directors and DGMs between February and June 2018



Compiled 928 comments

Based on comments 59 risks were identified



Marsh Analytics study completed



Las Vegas Valley Water District  
Southern Nevada Water Authority  
Springs Preserve™

# SNWA Mainstreaming Project

## ▶ GOALS:

- ▶ Operationalize climate change information
- ▶ Reduce potential risks through a streamlined approach

## ▶ OBJECTIVES:

- ▶ Characterize and prioritize climate – related risks
- ▶ Identify opportunities to incorporate climate change information into existing processes, procedures, and programs
- ▶ Identify data and baseline information needs for monitoring and evaluating future impacts
- ▶ Develop an implementation plan



### A STRATEGY FOR 21ST CENTURY RISK MANAGEMENT

Integrating Climate Change into the Risk Paradigm at  
SNWA and LVVWD

#### ABSTRACT

This report summarizes opportunities for Southern Nevada Water Authority and the Las Vegas Valley Water District to incorporate climate change projection information into existing programs and processes to reduce enterprise wide risks.

Keely Brooks, Alison Adams, Dan Haddock  
September 2019



# Engagement Process

- ▶ Identify climate sensitive risk from the Enterprise Risk Management List
- ▶ Identify business function groups and staff for engagement





# Business Function Areas

- ▶ **59** enterprise-wide potential risks
- ▶ **17** climate sensitive
- ▶ Addressed **11** climate-sensitive potential risks
- ▶ Managed by **7** Business Function Areas

Water  
Resources

Environmental  
Health and  
Safety

Capital  
Program  
Governance

Engineering  
Design  
Standards

Infrastructure  
Management

Distribution  
System  
Operations

Water Quality  
Treatment and  
Monitoring



Las Vegas Valley Water District  
Southern Nevada Water Authority  
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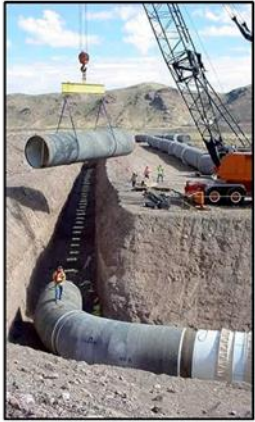
 **INTERA**  
GEOSCIENCE & ENGINEERING SOLUTIONS

# Engagement Process (con't)

- ▶ Held 17 small group meetings to identify data and baseline information needs for monitoring and evaluating future impacts
- ▶ Iterative process to develop an implementation plan



# Results



## A STRATEGY FOR 21ST CENTURY RISK MANAGEMENT

Integrating Climate Change into the Risk Paradigm at  
SNWA and LVVWD

### ABSTRACT

This report summarizes opportunities for Southern Nevada Water Authority and the Las Vegas Valley Water District to incorporate climate change projection information into existing programs and processes to reduce enterprise wide risks.

Keely Brooks, Alison Adams, Dan Haddock  
September 2019

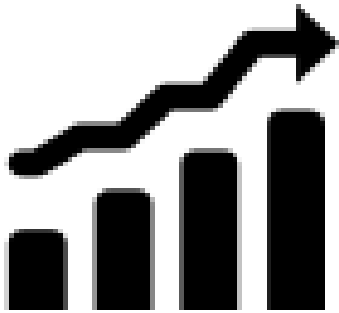
- ▶ **37** recommendations to help manage increased risk
  - ▶ **Collect and monitor data**
  - ▶ **Educate and Train**
  - ▶ **Adapt procedures**
  - ▶ **Research and modeling**
  - ▶ **Strategic**



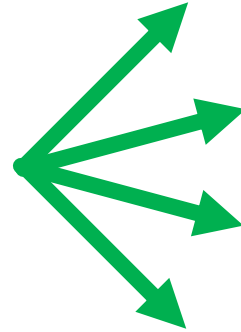
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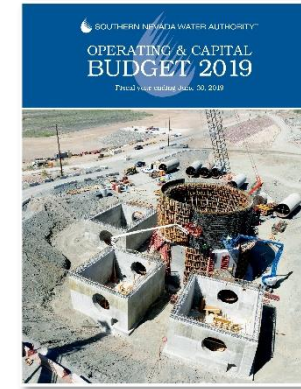
# Establish a Common “Reference Climate Future”



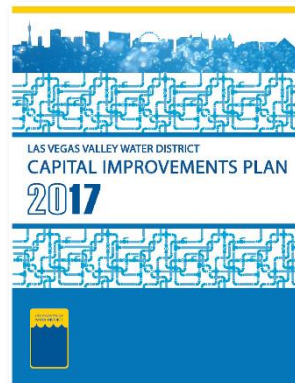
**Reference  
Climate Future**



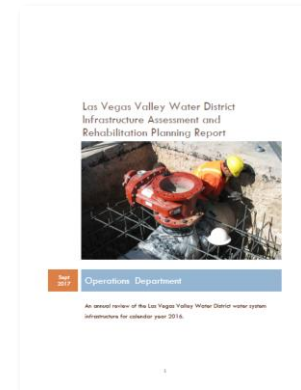
**Water  
Resource  
Plan**



**Budgets**



**Capital  
Investment  
Plan**



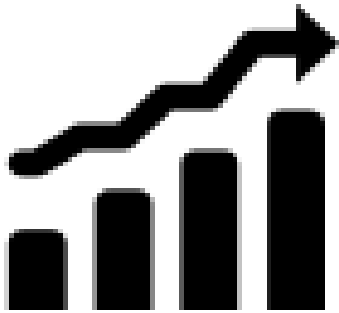
**Asset  
Management  
Plan**



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# Establish a Common “Reference Climate Future”



## Reference Climate Future

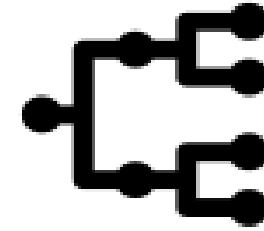
	Today	2020s	2050s	2080s
<b>Mean annual temperature (°F)</b>	62.7	+1.3 to +3.1	+3.8 to +6.5	+7.2 to +9.7
<b># of days above 100°F</b>	84	+17	+38	+56
<b># of days above 105°F</b>	44	+18	+44	+67
<b># of days above 110°F</b>	12	+11	+33	+60
<b># of days above 115°F</b>	1	+3	+11	+29
<b># of days above 120°F</b>	0	+0	+0	+7
<b># of days below 60°F</b>	236	-13	-32	-53
<b># of days below 50°F</b>	174	-15	-31	-55
<b># of days below 32°F</b>	42	-15	-25	-33
<b>Change in Cooling Degree Days (CDD)<sup>1,2</sup></b>	2190	NA	2847 to 3679	NA
<b>Mean annual precipitation<sup>3</sup></b>	4.21	NA	NA	-1.36 to +2.92 in



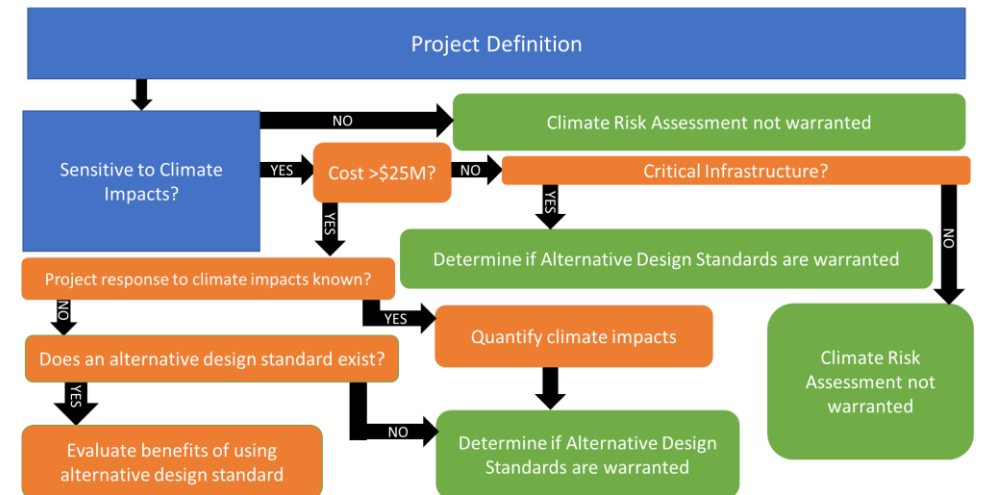


# Early Wins

- ▶ Revised Engineering Design Standards
- ▶ Project initiation decision tree & climate conditions guide
- ▶ Increased data collection and tracking
- ▶ Enhanced education and training for extreme heat



## Decision Tree



# Key take aways

- ▶ **Climate change is a threat multiplier**
- ▶ **Start with what you are already doing**
- ▶ **Risk management is a logical home for climate change planning**
- ▶ **Go to the internal experts - let the Business Function Areas offer up solutions**
- ▶ **Opportunities exist to supplement organizational “controls” to address new and increasing risks**



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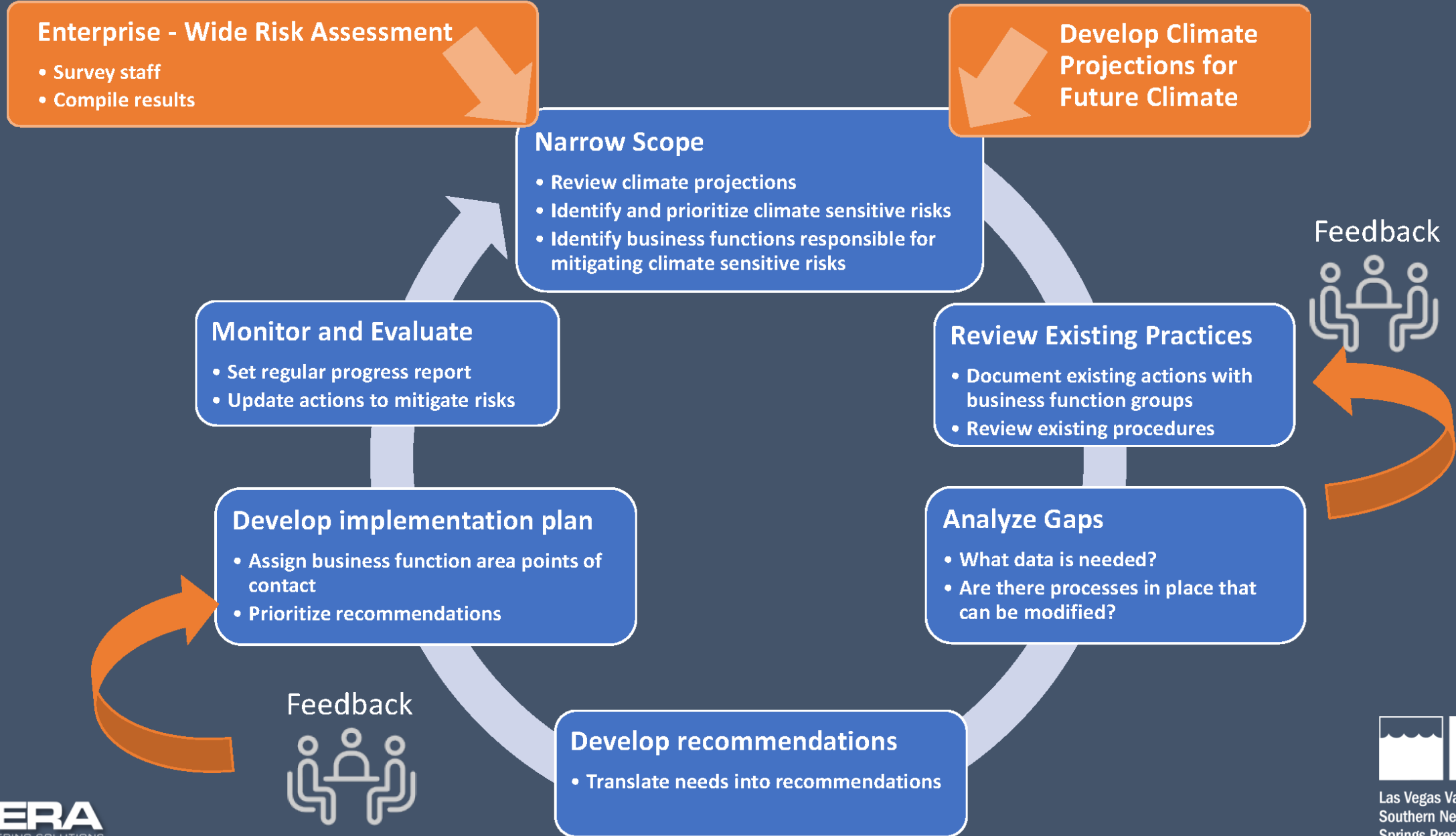
# Lessons Learned

- ▶ Know your utilities risk profile (conduct an enterprise risk assessment)
- ▶ Create a reference climate future for consistent planning (future climate projections)
- ▶ Start with existing mitigation strategies
- ▶ Iterative process using small group meetings
- ▶ Feedback is important
- ▶ Accountability



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# Operationalizing Climate Information





# Acknowledgements & Questions



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