

High Level Summary of Themes from Day 1 Small Group Discussion

Overarching Themes:

- Need for regional approach; MET board and member agency cooperation and collaboration.
- Resilience definition is good, but perhaps should be accompanied by some additional principles around equity/equality and building back better.
- Financial issues of great concern: customer affordability; MET rate structure; balancing resilience with reliability/sustainability.
- Need to focus on disadvantaged communities and their vulnerabilities.
- Need to plan for/resolve supply chain issues

What challenges or vulnerabilities were widely held?

- Financial: Retail customer affordability; financial planning; optimizing use of existing collective investments
- Water System: Supply; storage; reliability; resource planning
- Promoting MET programs: fallowing/conservation/water quality programs
- MET Cohesiveness: board and member agency alignment, recognizing differing dependencies on MET
- Climate change means looking ahead, not at the past

What was unique to particular jurisdictions?

- Too much or too little water: Some jurisdictions are growing/facing potential water shortages; Atmospheric rivers
- Some agencies entirely dependent on MET while others are not
- One agency was able to lower rates
- Water quality issues differ among agencies: different water contaminants; brackish water; water quality

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What challenges were mentioned that you haven't heard much about today

- Financial : MET's rate structure; affordability; funding growth in areas with increasing population; outdoor water use impact on rates
- MET cohesiveness: Increase trust to decrease legal issues; regional solutions
- Water system: Groundwater; storm water; water quality; leaking pipes
- Communication: common messaging from all agencies in a drought
- Partnerships: MET-member agencies; Agriculture-Urban
- Improve legislative outcomes: Educating/building relationships with legislative members to
- LRP Program – need more discussion to see realized benefits of what has already been paid for
- Prop 286 limits flexibility

What were 1-3 of the opportunities raised were most intriguing for your group?

- Water system: Deliver blended water to everyone; develop regional storage/delivery solutions; trading water within/between agencies/water districts; Increase storage above and below ground; water recycling; new water source development; build back better
- Financial: Pricing control through tiered structures; Leverage co-funding of projects; Credit system for trading/selling saved water
- Government/Funding: legislative roundtables; collaborate to pursue state/federal funding
- Metrics: Benefit checks for all agencies for new investments
- Partnerships: Carbon transfer relationships; conservation innovation and partnerships
- Support for Sites project