

Planning for Change: Climate Change Vulnerability and Adaptation Summit Tuesday, September 17, 2019

A Call to Action: Develop, share, and broadly implement innovative approaches in evaluating climate change vulnerabilities and adaption strategies for California water systems

California is fortunate to be the subject of extensive and ongoing inquiries regarding the impacts of a changing climate on its people and resources. While climate science continues to advance, not enough connection is being made between the science and water management decision-making. This disconnect is exacerbated by siloed institutions, a decline in the quality and quantity of natural resources, and an aging water system.

In this context, two key challenges present significant opportunities for transforming the ways in which water is managed both in terms of approach and scale, and the need for urgent attention by California water managers.

- The response of water systems to the hazards of climate change remains deeply uncertain. A better understanding of the interactions among climate impacts and lifelines — including “cascading failures” — is a particularly pressing need. **The urgent need for resilient adaptation strategies requires us to more effectively incorporate climate science into infrastructure design and operations.**
- The quality and relevance of climate information produced by the State and its partners directly impacts local agency water management decision-making. Consequently, there must be a focus on continual improvement of these technical resources. **Watershed-scale actionable information that maximizes the effectiveness of integrated strategies, prevents negative effects of unilateral decisions, and empowers local organizations to address climate change impacts is of paramount importance.**

This Summit and Workshop will focus on the state of actionable climate science and its use across government, academia, and industry. To facilitate institutional capacity building, a post-summit deliverable will be a policy brief addressing the research, practice, advocacy, and education of risk-based management and decision-making for the state’s water resources.