

# Re-inventing the Nation's Urban Water Infrastructure (ReNUWIt)

## Enhancing Water Security in the SF Bay Region

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# The challenge



- **Continued reliance on traditional water sources—esp. imported water—poses risks**
  - Climate change
  - Environmental flows
- **Examples in So. Cal how a region can diversity its water supply portfolio**
- **Discussions underway in the Bay Area**



# The opportunity

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- **Leaders recognize the value of regional collaboration**
  - For water (BARR, BACWA)
  - City planning and econ. dev. (SPUR, ABAG, SVLG)
- **Regional desal study example (five water agencies)**
- **But... pretty conventional so far (e.g., inerties) and short term focus**
- **Opportunity to understand full range of options, educate various stakeholders, create a tangible long-term plan**
- **Potential to save \$, anticipate unintended consequences, and let others know that you are leading on these issues**



Bay Area Regional Reliability

# Bay Area Regional Partnerships for Sustainable Water (March 2018)

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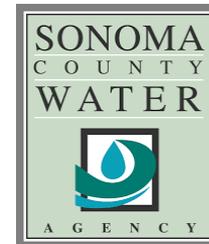
- **Look to the future; 160+ registrants**
- **80+ agencies, cities, NGOs, elected officials**
- **Steve Moore, Scott Weiner and others**
- **Also, Johnson Foundation meetings (2013, 2018) and others like ABAG**
- **“Thirst for knowledge” about these approaches**



# Why ReNUWit?

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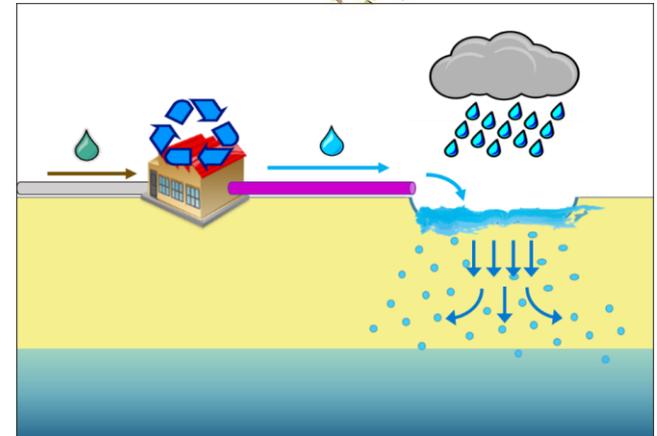
- In 8<sup>th</sup> year, transitioning away from NSF & looking to partner on demo projects
- Successful projects in the Bay Area and So. CA
- Systems-level vision
- Impacts
  - Water reuse
  - Resource recovery & reuse
  - Stormwater capture & use
  - Systems planning
    - Nutrient management
    - Recycled water + stormwater



# Example of partnerships



- **Silicon Valley Clean Water and Calif. CEC grant, new tech. & resource recovery (\$5m+)**
- **Oro Loma Horizontal Levee Project**
  - \$2m+ and planning for other demo
- **Water quality improvement & concentrate management (SCVWD, San Jose)**
- **Systems integration**
  - Stormwater + recycled water in spreading basins (MWD, LADPW, +)



# Project plan

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- **Workshops**
  - Opportunities and Challenges for Water Reuse
  - Expanding the Use of Stormwater as a Local Water Source
- **Targeted workshops—important stakeholders & experts for off-the-record discussions.**
- **White paper with tangible recommendations & next steps**
  - Similar approach as with Johnson Foundation



# Project plan

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- **Large public meeting**
  - “Enhancing Water Security in the SF Bay Region 2020”
  - Jan. 2020
- **Disseminate and discuss results from workshops**
  - Expert panels
- **Engage high-level decision makers (utility leaders, business leaders, state gov.)**
- **Discuss funding for new projects to enhance water security**
- **Foster the innovation ecosystem**
- **Not permanent entity**
  - not compete with BAWAC, etc.

# Budget

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- **Workshops, \$35k each**
- **Half time support staff, \$100k (w benefits & OH)**
- **Leveraging contributions from NSF, \$40k**
- **In-kind contributions from Berkeley Water Center and ReNUWIt**
- **Charge admission to annual meeting**
  
- **Support for two years from utilities/cities**
- **Re-examine interest and plan for funding to grow the effort**

# ReNUWIt brings:



- Help with demo projects—as we get to know regional needs
- Matching NSF funds for staff support
- Experience with openness of discussion w/o attribution
- Engagement of Berkeley Water Center

