How to get Water Agencies to pay for Stormwater Projects

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Outline

- Why invest in projects?
- Basic principles of water supply
- How scale affects opportunities
- Bringing it all together
Why invest? Two worlds of motivation
Why invest in a project?

- **Water Suppliers**
  - Marketable product
  - Manage variability
  - Hedge risk
  - Water quality
  - Match cost to value
  - Qualify for grant funding

- **Stormwater Managers**
  - Regulatory compliance
  - Protect beneficial uses
  - Put off more costly compliance
  - Coordinate uncoordinated mandates
  - Qualify for grant funding
You can sell water agencies on your stormwater project by monetizing your product.
Water Supply Basics: Dampening Variability
Hydrologic supplies are out of sync with demands
Storage, demand management, and non-hydrologically dependent supplies are valuable to water suppliers.
Scale: How it transforms management options
Finding the effective scale of management

- System characterization: macro to micro
- Institutional scale
- Wicked problems and embedded values
- Uncertainty, curiosity & generating shared knowledge
Regional Investment Considerations

- Type and source of water supply
- Measurable water supply yield or demand reduction
- Impacts, positive or negative, to Met’s system redundancy or emergency risk
- Impacts, positive or negative, to existing Met system investments and developed system capacity
- Total cost elements
- Met’s financial exposure and revenue recovery
The scale and shared understanding of a problem set defines the motivation of participants to cooperate in solutions.
Scaling for integration
Finding shared value at scale

- Transactional
- Groundwater replenishment
- Recycled water augmentation
- Demand management
- Pricing externalities
- Transformational
- One Water LA 2040
- Watershed/Basin scale
- Metropolitan Water District’s Integrated Resource Plan 2015
- Global climate change
Bottom line

- To meet traditional water supplier expectations, stormwater managers need to provide value at a competitive cost.
- There are opportunities to redefine value by redefining inter-relationships at scale.
- Investment in shared vision precedes investment in shared projects.
Thank you for your attention.

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Systems Analysis and Optimization of Local Water Supplies in Los Angeles (Porse et al, 2017)
https://doi.org/10.1061/(ASCE)WR.1943-5452.0000803


Dilemmas in a General Theory of Planning (Rittel and Webber, 1973)