

Lynne Plambeck
AB1234 report
Oct 17th, 2022
DWR Virtual Meeting
9-12:30

Drought to Flood Symposium: Building Resilience for California's Climate Extremes

This was a California Department of Water Resources hosted event centered on the impacts of climate change extremes in California. The agenda featured speaker presentations and insightful panel discussions about how to build climate change resiliency in water resources and flood management and an opportunity to hear various viewpoints and concerns.

Topics included flood management equity, ARkStorms, Forecast Informed Reservoir Operation, and the necessary innovations and partnerships to prepare for—and respond to—inevitable weather extremes.



1st Panel - Equity issues around flood and drought

Justine Massey, Community Water Center – at risk communities over 1000 homes already relying on hauled water because of dry wells. How will we manage getting water safely to them in a flood event? Climate change is a threat multiplier. No water to fight fires, fire dept. must be notified. How

to notify people about where they can get water – Communication system improvements. Don't allow over-pumping that causes shallow wells to drop.

Mark Strudley - Flood anticipation in Pajaro river More sediment and vegetation in flood control channels. Sediment due to increased fire activity.

Ivon Senok Must also consider what is important to the community including tribes sacred sites. Build communication with communities BEFORE an emergency so that there is trust and everyone knows who to contact.

Ray Leon – sea level rise Increased salt water intrusion in farming areas around Santa Cruz. People didn't anticipate this and it is happening now.



2nd Panel

What is happening with current ARk storms and how the sudden increased flow is being managed? FIRO.

Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations (FIRO)

- FIRO is a flexible water management approach that uses watershed monitoring and improved weather forecasting to help water managers selectively retain or release water from reservoirs for increased resilience to droughts and floods
- FIRO evaluated at Lake Mendocino, Prado Dam, Yuba/Feather River Basin
- In the Yuba/Feather, FIRO builds upon the partnerships and groundwork of the Forecast-Coordinated Operations (F-CO) program
- USACE developing a process for working on FIRO implementation with its Water Control Manual updates



3rd Panel - How to address the future

Jane Dolan – Big picture strategies - We need to widen our flood plains to protect people. Ecosystems will help protect people and provide re charge for our groundwater, She is the President of the Central Valley flood district. Putting out a new Flood Control Plan.

John Cain – giving our rivers more room is the best way to protect the public from flooding. For example Dos Rios restoration area. It attenuates peak flood flow, promotes groundwater recharge, improves water quality, provides recreational opportunities.

Chris Elias – models shows we are facing an inordinate amount of flows Huge increase in flow – Channels aren't big or high enough to accommodate such flows. Also facing sea level rise. Last, increased frequency is not the issue, but more likely it is the intensity that will overwhelm the infrastructure.

Alicia Kirchner – The Corp needs to work with three prongs of government – fed. state and local. Provide a forum for discussion and communication and cooperation.

Gary Littner Must protect flood plains

DWR Director Karla Nemeth- Closing remarks. Need to hear all sides of the issues and cooperate to find solutions.