

# Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water (CAMP4W)

## Environmental Listening Session – December 2023

December 20, 2023

**Prepared for**

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

**Prepared By**

Kearns & West

## 1) CAMP4W Environmental Listening Session – Overview

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California conducted the fourth quarterly Environmental Listening Session on December 11th, 1:30-3:00 pm. Approximately 40 participated in the session, which was conducted virtually. The meeting agenda and presentation slides are provided in Appendix A. The objectives for this session were to:

- Continue the Listening Session process of soliciting input from environmental stakeholders to inform the CAMP4W process
- Give brief updates on CAMP4W
- Report back on input received in the summer session and how it was used by the project team
- Focus the majority of the meeting on listening to the stakeholders' perspectives and feedback on the proposed evaluative criteria

The following sections summarize the session, including the comments, questions, ideas, and perspectives shared by the participants.

Liz Crosson, Chief Sustainability, Resilience and Innovation Officer at the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), welcomed attendees to the virtual meeting and expressed appreciation for their participation. She then introduced Adel Hagekhalil, General Manager at MWD, who thanked participants for continuing to engage in the process for the Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water (CAMP4W). He described how their feedback has been important in developing a framework for making water resource decisions. Hagekhalil explained that the focus of this listening session would be hearing feedback on the proposed evaluative criteria for CAMP4W.

Joan Isaacson, facilitator from Kearns & West, reviewed the meeting agenda and asked participants to share responses in the chat to the question, “What is one of your hopes for water in 2024?” Many participant responses mentioned equity, resilience, and reliability, and some referenced specific infrastructure proposals and specific regions (refer to Appendix B for the listing of responses).

## 2) Project Overview

Crosson introduced a [short video on CAMP4W](#) that highlighted the three main goals of the project: 1) Increase resiliency and reliability of water supply; 2) greater flexibility of delivery systems; and 3) equitable access to affordable water for all. She also described the additional information available on the [project website](#) and recapped how CAMP4W is a comprehensive, adaptive planning process (slide 7). Next, she described the Joint Task Force, which is comprised of representatives of the Metropolitan Board and member agencies, which are driving the development of a climate adaptation master plan (slide 8).

## 3) Proposed Climate Decision-Making Framework and Evaluative Criteria

Crosson described the six elements of the proposed Climate Decision-Making Framework and how progress would be measured against time-bound targets and with consideration for climate risks and vulnerabilities, MWD Board preferences, and financial implications (slide 10). This framework, she explained, will allow MWD to compare different projects, examine opportunities and tradeoffs, and

make better and more informed decisions. She then presented the process for decision-making, highlighting how projects would be scored using evaluative criteria (slide 11).

Crosson then presented the 10 proposed evaluative criteria for CAMP4W (slide 15), noting that the team is seeking input on consolidating them into five to six criteria to address input from the Task Force. She explained how the criteria would be used in the Climate Decision-Making Framework to score and rank projects using weighted factors. Projects would then be aligned with Metropolitan Board priorities and goals around affordability and equity in the service area (slide 16). Crosson encouraged participants to provide feedback on scoring during the small group discussion of the proposed evaluative criteria, which are listed below:

- Equitable Supply Reliability: Meet regional service goals
- Risk Mitigation: Mitigate climate and other risks to supply and infrastructure
- Project Feasibility: Factors include CEQA, community support, partnerships, financing
- Scalability: Modular nature of projects/programs
- Environmental Benefits: GHG emissions, ecosystem services, habitat
- Disadvantaged/Underserved Community Benefits: Direct community benefits
- Unit Cost: Dollar/acre-foot
- Locally-Sited Project: Within service area
- High Impact: Advances CAMP4W target
- Bond Feasibility: Ability to finance

#### **4) Small Group Discussion and Report Out**

Isaacson explained that participants would be engaging in small group discussions supported by a facilitator, a CAMP4W project team member, and note-takers to capture their input. She shared three questions for discussion of the proposed evaluative criteria:

- What are your initial observations?
- What do you think works well?
- Do you have ideas on how to improve them?

After the small group discussion, facilitators reported on key points. Input from each of the discussion groups is summarized below.

##### **Discussion Group 1**

Participants in Discussion Group 1 first shared initial observations about the proposed evaluative criteria. On affordability and rates, multiple participants noted that affordability is important to include in the criteria descriptions and that its definition varies from person to person. A participant stated that although cost-benefit analysis typically comes later, it should be at the forefront. One question was whether MWD would have tiered rates for consumers based on usage, while another participant stated that although imported water may be cheaper, it should not be at the sacrifice of the environment. Additional comments on the environment included impacts to fish and to residents who rely on fishing to feed their families. Another comment called for a greater emphasis on nature-based solutions.

Observations about the reliance on imported water centered on locally sited projects as a way to reduce this reliance and overlapped to an extent with feedback on building more local storage, perhaps as

multi-benefit projects that could combine parks with water storage and underground water storage to reduce evaporation. Participants also cited the importance of addressing water waste.

Multiple participants also cited the importance of getting community input and conducting accurate needs and strengths assessments – especially from environmental justice communities – to inform the development of community benefits programs. A few participants expressed liking the transparency of the process and that CAMP4W is a living document.

Additional feedback from individual participants concerned the need for Tribal consultation early in the process, consideration for earthquake resilience, and the motivation for member agencies to do their own projects. One participant raised the issue of how MWD calculates unit cost and stated that the criterion will not provide fair results until water conservation and stormwater capture are recognized as water supply.

In response to the question of what works well in the proposed evaluative criteria, multiple participants expressed appreciation for the Environmental Listening Sessions. They noted the availability of materials ahead of the session, the shift from hearing presentations to sharing perspectives and input, and how MWD has invited organizations to join.

Participants in Discussion Group 1 also shared ideas for improving the proposed evaluative criteria. One participant suggested specifics on greenhouse gas emissions and noted the interrelated nature of large projects. One participant asked why reduce the number of criteria, and followed with maybe more should be added.

### Discussion Group 2

In Discussion Group 2, participants shared a range of initial observations. Some participants expressed that the 10 proposed evaluative criteria seemed to present a good synthesis with enough detail to evaluate a project and that it would be difficult to narrow them down further, while another suggested the themes of infrastructure, people, and administration to try to consolidate into three to five criteria. A participant stated that some of the criteria felt subjective and “squishy,” noting that for environmental impact, different elements fall into other categories and that it is not clear how projects would be ranked.

Other initial observations from individual participants included the need to educate residents – especially on costs and siting of resources – the interplay among all the factors, the correlation of conservation with revenues, and the role of community benefits. Another participant expressed liking the inclusion of the adaptive management process and the weighting of criteria.

When asked what works well, participants made both positive comments and expressed skepticism. Commenters said the criteria were well thought out and that it was good to see equity in the proposed evaluative criteria, although they asked how it would be defined, implemented, and interpreted. One participant said the responses to those questions would be the difference between stakeholders feeling like MWD was sincere or just checking a box. Another asked how equitable access to water and affordability would be balanced and suggested greater transparency on the details.

Participants also shared ideas for improving the proposed evaluative criteria. One area of feedback was that community awareness and buy-in are important aspects of project feasibility, especially with

discussions of siting resources in low-income communities. It was noted that part of equity is communities having a say in the siting process. Another participant suggested larger-scale regional advertising to garner more stakeholder involvement. A further suggestion was to look at successful projects, such as one conducted by the Council for Watershed Health, to see where they succeeded. A closing comment was that outreach is the minimum level of engagement, and the solutions need to be more holistic to avoid unintended negative outcomes.

### Discussion Group 3

Similarly, initial observations from participants in Discussion Group 3 addressed a range of topics. One participant expressed that the 10 proposed evaluative criteria could be more nuanced and not limited to quantitative metrics, with another participant adding that for unit cost, the process should use full cost accounting. Related comments were that some criteria, such as carbon footprint and greenhouse gas emissions, should be separate and that with desalination projects, there would be water discharge and electricity use to consider. A commenter also expressed support for the use of Representative Concentration Pathway 8.5 in the analysis.

Another set of comments focused on who would be conducting the needs assessment for community benefits and how those would be defined. One participant noted the importance of considering the available workforce, water use for medical services, and seismic events. Another observed the need for native and climate-appropriate habitat, calling for specifics on natural vs. constructed infiltration.

When asked what works well in the proposed evaluative criteria, a participant described the usefulness of locally-sited projects as a target with the caveat that non-local projects may provide more environmental benefits combined with operational flexibility. Another participant talked about emphasizing climate-smart local projects that are nature-based and multi-benefit. A comment on equitable supply reliability raised the point of looking for other funding and finance streams so that costs don't fall on low-income individuals.

Finally, on ideas for improving the criteria, feedback included both adding criteria and possibly merging some of them.

### Discussion Themes

Taken together, feedback from the three discussion groups had shared themes around the proposed evaluative criteria, which are presented below in alphabetical order.

**Community Input** – Participants asked who would be conducting needs assessments and how those would be advertised to stakeholders. Education on rates, siting of infrastructure, and CAMP4W itself was seen as a need. Although participants expressed appreciation for their involvement in the process thus far, some asked who the messengers would be for environmental justice communities. The timing of community input was also raised, and in particular, Tribal involvement at early stages in the process.

**Definitions** – In all groups, the participants asked for clearer definitions of terms used in the proposed evaluative criteria. One group asked how equity would be defined and implemented. In two groups, the definition of unit cost was interrogated, with participants proposing different ways to calculate that metric.

**Interrelationships** – Participants talked about the complex nature of the project and its interrelated elements using terms such as holistic, multi-benefit, and nature-based. In multiple groups, participants pointed out how resilience should not be limited to climate impacts and needs to include seismic considerations. Other participants described unintended consequences of policies that fail to consider interrelated effects (e.g., turf replacement projects that introduce plastic into landscaping and raise temperatures). In other comments, participants called for nature-based solutions and multi-benefit solutions that would integrate features like parks with water storage.

**Tradeoffs** – Although this word was not used in all discussion groups, participants discussed the tradeoffs of different options. One example was the lower cost of imported water balanced against environmental concerns and local resiliency. Another lens was the tradeoff of a robust number of evaluative criteria weighed against having too many considerations.

## 5) Next Steps

Isaacson thanked participants for their input and reminded them that notes had been taken in all discussion groups and would be shared in a summary. Crosson described the next steps and provided information on upcoming Joint Task Force meetings and contact information for the team. She then responded to a few questions from participants about the timing and implementation of projects, updating reporting for scope 2 and 3 emissions, and requests for input on the turf replacement program before thanking participants for their engagement and closing the meeting.

## Appendix A

Listening Session PowerPoint Presentation



# Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water

Environmental Listening Session

December 11, 2023



**CAMP4W**  
Climate Adaptation  
Master Plan for Water



## Today's Agenda

1. Metropolitan's Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water
2. Draft Evaluative Criteria
3. Small Group Discussions
4. Report Out / Reflections
5. Wrap Up

# Introductions

On the count of three. . .Type into chat:

# Introductions

On the count of three...Type into chat:  
*What is one of your hopes for water  
in 2024?*



# CAMP4W

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Climate Adaptation  
Master Plan for Water

# CAMP4W Video

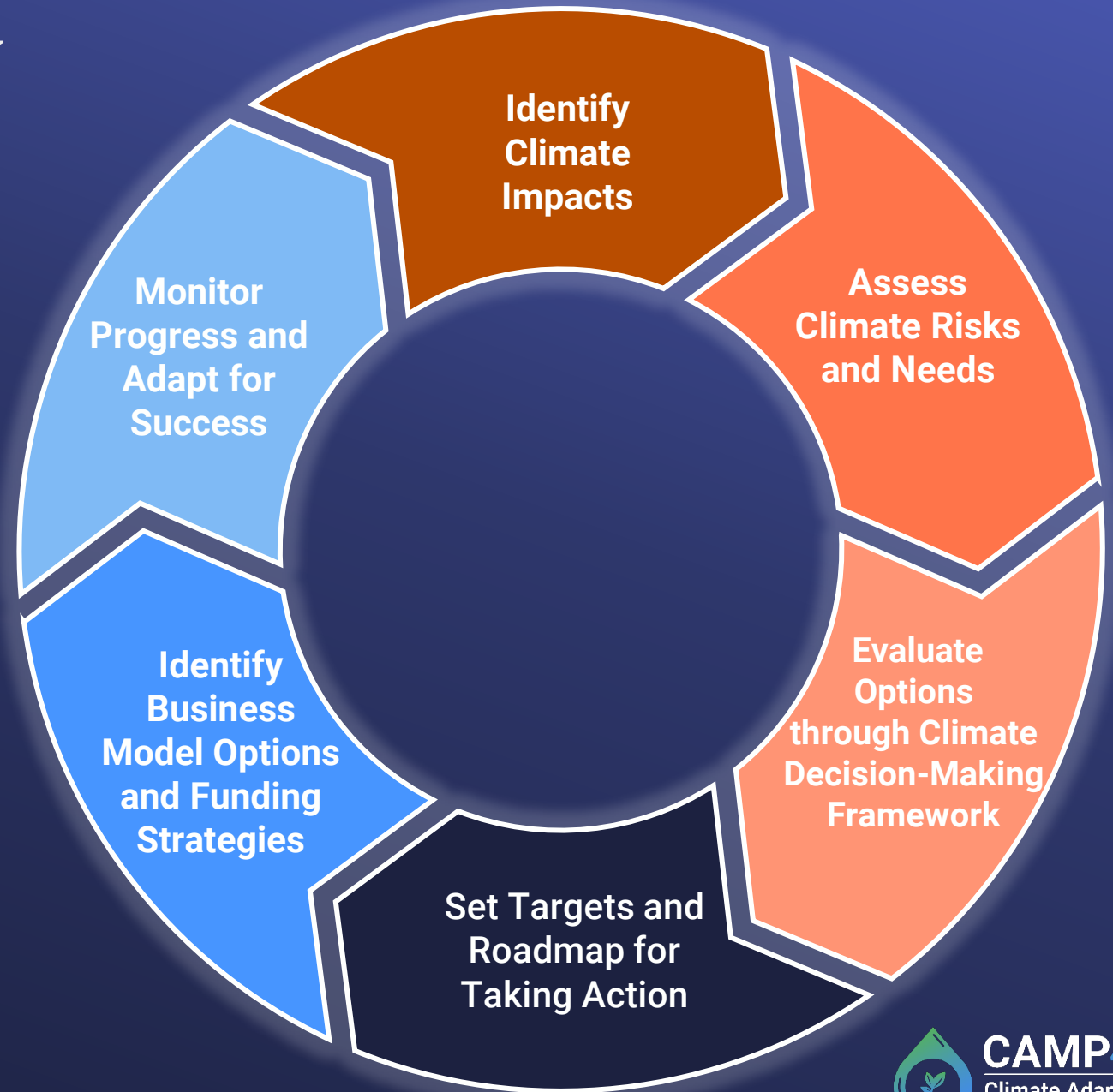
# Purpose of CAMP4W

A comprehensive, adaptive planning process

The CAMP4W integrates

- water resources planning
- infrastructure development
- climate adaptation
- finance planning

into one interconnected process.



# CAMP4W Joint Task Force

- Joint Task Force of Board Members and Member Agencies
- Charter to develop a climate adaptation master plan that includes:
  - Climate and Growth Scenarios
  - Time-bound Targets
  - Framework for Climate Decision-Making and Reporting
  - Policies, Initiatives, and Partnerships
  - Business Models and Funding Strategies

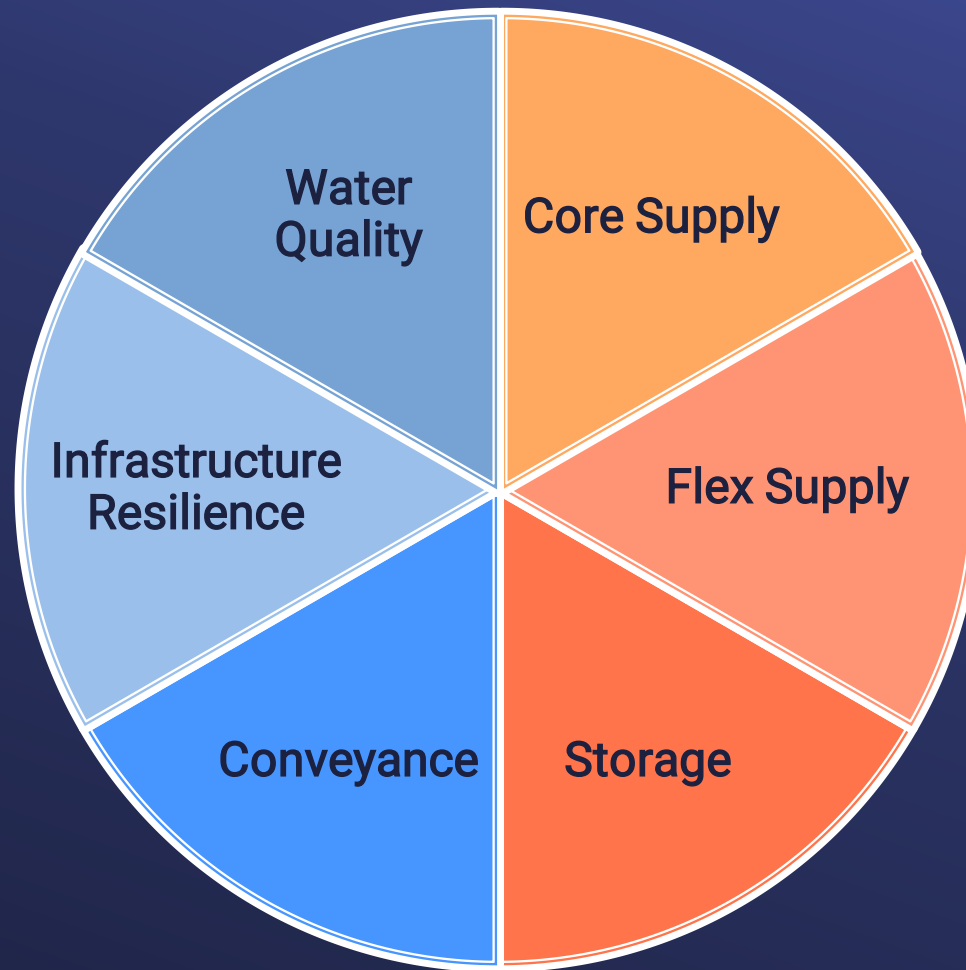
Questions

Please use the chat or raise your hand



# Climate Decision-Making Framework

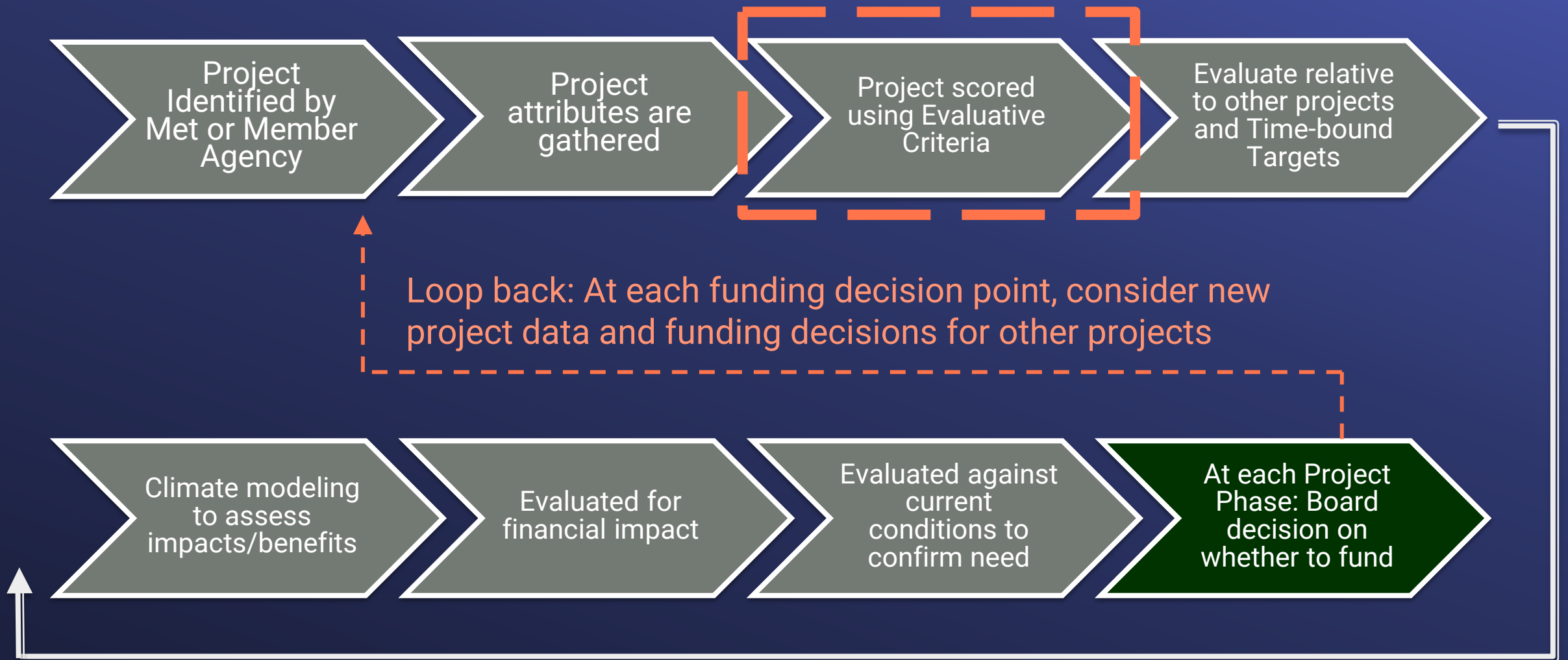
The process by which Metropolitan assesses investment decisions through a methodical, data driven manner while accounting for climate risks and vulnerabilities, Board preferences and financial implications



Programs and projects will be evaluated through the Climate Decision-Making Framework

Progress could be measured against Time-bound Targets

# Climate Decision-Making Framework: Process for Decision-Making



# Draft Evaluative Criteria

Metrics used to score and rank projects,  
where weighting factors change the  
importance of a given criteria

# CAMP4W Proposed Evaluative Criteria

## **Equitable Supply Reliability**

Meet regional service goals

## **Risk Mitigation**

Mitigate climate and other risks to supply and infrastructure

## **Project Feasibility**

Factors include CEQA, community support, partnerships, financing

## **Scalability**

Modular nature of projects / programs

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## **Environmental Benefits**

GHG emissions, ecosystem services, habitat

## **Disadvantaged/ Underserved Community Benefits**

Direct community benefits

## **Unit Cost**

Dollars / acre foot

## **Locally-Sited Project**

Within service area

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## **Equitable Supply Reliability**

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## **Unit Cost**

Dollars / acre foot

## **Locally-Sited Project**

Within service area

## **High Impact**

Advances CAMP4W target

## **Bond Feasibility**

Ability to finance

# CAMP4W Scoring

- Project or program has a raw score for each evaluative criteria
  - From 0 to 5 based on attributes
- Provides current score for any project or program being considered for Metropolitan investment and implementation
  - Potential for score to change when later phases are being considered (concept vs. implementation)
- Scoring criteria will encourage better projects
  - Higher scores=higher alignment with evaluative criteria and Board priorities

# Discussion Session on Draft Evaluative Criteria

3 rooms, 35 minutes

- 1) What are your initial observations?
- 2) What do you think works well?
- 3) Do you have ideas on how to improve them?



# Discussion Session on Draft Evaluative Criteria

## Report Out / Reflections

# Next Steps



Upcoming Task Force  
Meetings:  
December 19  
January 18  
February 28

- Develop Time-bound Targets
  - A defined and measurable goal for a specific category of actions and investments over a specified period of time
- Potential targets could include supply targets and related metrics:
  - Avg regional gallons per capita per day (GPCD)
  - Sq. Ft of Non-functional turf replaced
  - Thousand-acre feet (TAF) of: Storage Capacity, Stormwater Capture, Recycled Water
  - Avg Energy Use Intensity; GHG Reduction Targets
  - % Locally-Sited Water
- Year One Report



# CAMP4W

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Climate Adaptation  
Master Plan for Water

Thank you!

For more information, visit our project website:

[www.mwdh2o.com/camp4w](http://www.mwdh2o.com/camp4w)



## Appendix B

### Participant Responses

What is one of your hopes for water in 2024?

- No Delta Conveyance project
- Equity for all
- Infiltration
- Resilience and sustainability
- More water for all
- Equity for all
- Resilience
- Reliability for all
- Build water reservoirs
- Providing equitable incentives for Angelenos to have climate resilient landscapes
- More local, resilient water
- Sustainable clean drinking water for Tribes
- Raise the Water IQ of Californians
- More resilience for urban, ag and the environment
- Delta Tunnel, Sites, Pacheco bad