

Stanford

Water in the West



Innovative Water Financing Roundtable

Convened by

Stanford University's Water in the West

&

The Governor's Office of Planning and Research

Stanford University

Spilker Engineering & Applied Science Building, Room 232

June 6th, 2017

The California Water Action Plan lays out a set of actions to move California to a sustainable water path that will allow California to survive and thrive in the face of intensified changing climate, aging infrastructure and population growth. The call to action is clear, but equally important, we must find innovative ways to finance the necessary investments as the WAP lays out in action. While some actions already benefit from robust funding options others such as access to safe drinking water, management of storm water, maintenance and protection of upper watersheds, ecosystem management and integrated resource management will require new, innovative, and integrated financing.

This roundtable, hosted by Stanford University's Water in the West program and the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, held at Stanford University, intends to focus on the underfunded water priorities and gaps; identify and discuss innovative and alternative ways to fund some of these solutions; and identify next steps and venues to continue this important conversation. This roundtable builds upon some of the ongoing water financing research at Stanford's Water in the West program¹.

¹ You can find additional information about water financing in a recent study by the Stanford Water in the West on "[Tapping into Alternative Ways to Fund Innovative and Multi-Purpose Water Projects](#)", "[Funding Water in Times of Financial Uncertainty](#)"

Agenda

- 8:30-9:00 **Light Breakfast & Registration**
- 9:00-9:30 **Welcome, Introductions and Opening Remarks**
Debbie Franco, Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR); Newsha Ajami, Stanford University
- 9:30-10:00 **Water Project Financing Gaps and Opportunities**
Moderator: *Debbie Franco, Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR)*
 - California's Water and Fiscal Orphans - *Ellen Hanak, Public Policy Institute of California*
- 10:00-10:15 **Break (15 minutes)**
- 10:15-11:45 **Existing Funding and Financing Options for Safe Affordable Drinking Water; Upper Watershed/Ecosystems; and Stormwater**
Moderator: *Caitrin Phillips Chappelle, Public Policy Institute of California*
 - Financing Upper Watershed/Ecosystems - *Debbie Franco, Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR)*
 - Financing Safe Affordable Drinking Water - *Laurel Firestone, Community Water Center*
 - Financing Stormwater – *Mike Brown, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission*
- 11:45-12:45 **Lunch**
- 12:45-2:15 **Building a Broader and more Sustainable Water Financing Portfolio**
Moderator: *Newsha Ajami, Stanford University*
 - How to finance the Shifting Paradigm in the Water Sector? - *Newsha Ajami, Stanford University,*
 - Expanding the Breadth of Financial Delivery Channels - *Jim Gebhardt, USEPA, Water Infrastructure and Resiliency Finance Center*
- 2:15-2:30 **Break (15 minutes)**
- 2:30-4:00 **Water Financing Innovations**
Moderators: *Debbie Franco, Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR); Newsha Ajami, Stanford University*
 - Lessons from the other sectors
 - Innovative Financing Landscape and Portfolio Design
 - Overarching Governance Structure
- 4:15pm **Closing**