THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Environmental Listening Session – August 2024

CAMP4W
Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water

1) CAMP4W Environmental Listening Session – Overview

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California conducted its sixth Environmental Listening Session devoted to climate action and adaptation, with a specific focus on current developments related to the Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water, on August 13th, 2:00-3:30 pm. Approximately 60 people participated in the session, which was conducted virtually. The meeting agenda and general session presentation slides are provided in Appendix A, while the presentation slides presented in the two separate breakout sessions are provided in Appendix B. The objectives for this session were to:

- Continue the Listening Session process of soliciting input from environmental stakeholders to inform the CAMP4W process;
- Gather input on attributes and metrics for evaluative criteria;
- Provide updates on CAMP4W; and
- Share information resources and upcoming community input opportunities.

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

Carolyn Schaffer, Metropolitan's Section Manager for Sustainability and Resilience and the session's facilitator, welcomed attendees to the virtual meeting and expressed appreciation for their participation. She noted that the previous Listening Session in March focused on the development of Time-Bound Targets related to Equity, and that today's session would focus on the further development of Attributes and Metrics for two Evaluative Criteria in particular: Equity and Environmental Co-Benefits. She then introduced Metropolitan Interim General Manager Deven Upadhyay, who thanked participants for continuing to engage in the process for the Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water (CAMP4W). He emphasized the continued commitment of Metropolitan staff and executive management to CAMP4W as well as the importance of adaptative management to preparing for and meeting the demands of an uncertain future, which includes a range of plausible scenarios. Dee Zinke, Assistant General Manager and Chief External Affairs Officer, then facilitated a Q&A period during which attendees were invited to ask any questions of Interim General Manager Upadhyay they may have. No questions were asked, and no comments were provided at that time.

Following the initial Q&A period, Schaffer shared the session objectives with participants, including the primary focus on refining proposed Attributes and Metrics for Evaluative Criteria as presented in the CAMP4W Year One Progress Report and subsequently developed by Metropolitan staff. She then introduced Liz Crosson, Metropolitan's Chief Sustainability, Resilience and Innovation Officer, who provided an overview and update on CAMP4W.

2) CAMP4W Update & Overview of Climate Decision-Making Framework

Crosson provided an overview of CAMP4W for those new to the process and noted that CAMP4W integrates water resources planning, infrastructure development, climate adaptation and financial planning (slide 06). She then informed attendees about the progress that the CAMP4W Task Force has made, highlighting the recent completion of the Year One Progress Report (May 2024). Crosson outlined the Climate Decision-Making Framework under development in both conceptual (slide 10) and linear (slide 11) terms, explaining how the metrical scoring of potential CAMP4W projects and investments would be informed by the prior establishment of Time-Bound Targets and that adaptive management

will entail evaluating the implementation of CAMP4W investments alongside real-world signposts in order to determine the extent to which Time-Bound Targets may need to be revised or further developed.

3) The Ongoing Development of Attributes and Metrics for Evaluative Criteria and CAMP4W Project Scoring

Crosson then presented to participants the six Evaluative Criteria—Reliability, Resilience, Affordability, Adaptability/Flexibility, Equity and Environmental Co-Benefits—and related Attributes documented in the Year One Progress Report. Crosson explained that the Attributes identified for each criterion are important characteristics that should be quantified and measured through associated Metrics. Underscoring that Metrics should be measurable, objective, consistent and efficient, Crosson then honed in on the refined Attributes for Equity and Environmental Co-Benefits that Metropolitan staff have developed since the filing of the Year One Progress Report. She also identified possible metrics staff have identified but highlighted the importance of input from attendees in further developing the Attributes and Metrics for both Equity and Environmental Co-Benefits.

4) Breakout Group Discussions and Report Out

Schaffer explained that participants would have the opportunity to join one of two breakout groups for two successive breakout sessions. The first breakout group would focus on proposed Attributes and Metrics related to Equity, while the second breakout group would focus on proposed Attributes and Metrics for Environmental Co-Benefits. In the first of two breakout sessions, participants were provided two prompts to initiate conversation and solicit feedback:

- Do you have feedback on the proposed Attributes for Equity or Environmental Co-Benefits?
- Are there any additional attributes we should consider adding for Equity or Environmental Co-Benefits?

In the second breakout sessions, participants were provided three prompts to initiate conversation and solicit feedback:

- Do you have feedback on the proposed Metrics for Equity or Environmental Co-Benefits?
- Are there any additional – or alternative – metrics that could help us assess the Equity dimensions or Environmental Co-Benefits of proposed projects?
- Are there any specific examples of successful metrics related to Equity or Environmental Co-Benefits that we should know about and consult as reference points?

Each breakout session was led by a member of Metropolitan's CAMP4W Outreach staff, who facilitated the discussions, along with a designated note-taker. After each of the two breakout sessions, facilitators reported on key points raised to everyone in attendance. Input gathered from each of the breakout sessions is summarized below.

Equity Discussion Group, Breakout Session 1

The first breakout session began with an emphasis on defining underserved communities, particularly those affected by environmental pollution and underinvestment. Key concerns such as race, income and their impacts on community resilience were raised, with calls for more granular data collection to

understand issues at the community level, rather than at the census-tract level. Specific communities, like Huntington Beach, were mentioned as regions needing focused attention and engagement regarding specific water quality issues. Participants also highlighted the need for comprehensive data to accurately assess the unique challenges faced by both urban and rural communities.

Effective engagement strategies emerged as a central theme of discussion, with participants stressing the importance of sufficient resources—both budgetary and temporal—for outreach efforts. Collaborating closely with local community-based organizations (CBOs) and conducting targeted listening sessions were seen as critical to understanding community needs. Examples from San Diego, where community events foster engagement, were highlighted as best practices. The necessity of avoiding technical jargon and ensuring language equity in communications was also emphasized to enhance the understanding of members of the public and to encourage equitable access for public engagement opportunities.

Workforce development also emerged as a significant focus, with discussions on creating job opportunities in the water industry, particularly for individuals with disabilities. Participants pointed out the importance of educational initiatives to raise awareness about water issues among children, who are future consumers. Building partnerships was deemed essential for achieving equity, with suggestions for organizations like Metropolitan to provide grants to support community efforts. Additionally, there was a call for developing targeted programs specifically aimed at assisting underserved communities.

Communication about drinking water issues was identified as a critical area needing improvement. Participants advocated for clearer messaging, prioritizing initiatives like "Tap Water Days" to enhance public understanding of the differences between bottled water and tap water and expanding the content available on relevant websites.

Discussion also included a specific reference to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, highlighting its importance in broader environmental and community contexts.

Environmental Co-Benefits Discussion Group, Breakout Session 1

There was a general consensus among discussants regarding the solid foundation of the proposed attributes but also a call for targeted refinements. Several participants emphasized additional attributes such as fire risk reduction, air quality improvement and community upliftment through access to green spaces—many of these used already by Accelerate Resilience Los Angeles (ARLA).

One participant early in the conversation suggested that the Envision process and scoring system was not accessible enough for the general public, and proposed as an alternative a different approach that emphasized clarity and robustness so that potential projects could be prioritized effectively. The same participant raised concerns about the implications of minimal point differentials in determining major investment decisions.

Other participants highlighted the need for nuanced metrics regarding greenhouse gas emissions and proposed assessing "embodied carbon" in project evaluations. A watershed management approach to water quality assessment was also recommended, alongside considerations for fire prevention.

Recognizing a crucial overlap between Environmental Co-Benefits and Equity, numerous participants suggested integrating environmental co-benefits with equity initiatives. Participants argued against separating these concepts, advocating for targeted support for low-income communities. There were also suggestions to evaluate broader pollutant types, including brine discharge from desalination projects, and to prioritize environmental impacts that are critical to overall community health and sustainability.

Participants advocated for expanding the definitions of wildlife benefits, particularly for threatened species, stressing the need for science-based assessments. Others called for moving away from vague terminology like "flood control" to more meaningful evaluations focused on ecosystem functions and nature-based solutions. The integration of creek, river, and wetland systems was encouraged, with a focus on optimizing local water supply for both people and wildlife, while considering the energy costs associated with transporting water over long distances. Support for recycled water use and rainwater capture was also expressed, with recommendations for reducing reliance on imported water to protect local ecosystems.

Additional metrics for cooling effects, green space creation, land conservation, and tribal engagement were proposed to ensure comprehensive community benefits.

Conservation issues were also raised, with discussions about investing in leak detection infrastructure and addressing the challenges faced by low-income and underrepresented communities regarding water and air quality. The importance of climate resilience, including stormwater capture and non-potable water access, was underscored by one participant.

Equity Discussion Group, Breakout Session 2

The second breakout session on Equity opened with participants highlighting the need for a robust understanding of how programs, such as those aimed at providing safe drinking water, can significantly benefit underserved populations. They emphasized that while the approach taken by organizations like ARLA focuses on community needs, it's essential to quantify the extent of these benefits. A report detailing the demographics of affected communities and their "spheres of influence" was referenced as a useful resource.

The conversation then shifted to the Spectrum of Community Engagement to Ownership, as articulated by Rosa Gonzalez. This framework outlines five stages of involvement, emphasizing that projects should reach at least Level 3—consultation—to be deemed meaningful. Integrating this spectrum into project scoring systems was suggested as a way to assess community engagement more effectively.

Further insights focused on the necessity of a holistic approach when setting targets for projects in underserved areas. Recognizing that community members have a comprehensive understanding of their priorities is vital. Meetings should be designed to be purposeful, respecting participants' time and contributions.

Another key point was the importance of addressing displacement within disadvantaged communities, with suggestions to actively involve tribal communities and collaborate with non-profits to bolster support for these initiatives. Developing a matrix for tracking engagement and impacts was identified as a complex yet necessary task. Participants also communicated the importance of defining responsibilities clearly, focusing on equity and establishing a decision-making framework that monitors data flows over time.

As climate change continues to exacerbate flooding risks along the LA River, concerns were raised regarding the adequacy of current management plans. The potential displacement of nearby communities due to efforts aimed at naturalizing the river was highlighted as a pressing issue. Lastly, the conversation touched on the need to analyze data, such as ridership patterns through the MTA matrix, and to consider examples from other regions like Owens Valley to inform future projects.

Environmental Co-Benefits Discussion Group, Breakout Session 2

The second breakout session on Environmental Co-Benefits opened with one participant noting the effectiveness of triple bottom line accounting for quantifying co-benefits related to water programs, offering it as an industry standard and volunteering to share resources for further exploration. Another participant raised concerns about relying on generic checklists for ecosystem services, suggesting this approach is ill-defined and calling for a more tailored evaluation method.

The concept of fostering partnerships with public health agencies emerged as a way to enhance project metrics, particularly in terms of community engagement and measuring success. Participants emphasized that metrics must be measurable, time-bound and directly linked to specific objectives. There was a strong focus on tracking GHG emissions and assessing program efficacy, especially concerning significant investments like the turf program, which some participants deemed ineffective due to a lack of rigorous analysis of its benefits beyond water conservation.

Additionally, the importance of watershed health and biodiversity indices was underscored, with a call for more in-depth discussions on these topics. One participant pointed out the challenges of developing metrics that can be widely applied across multiple projects for comparison purposes, suggesting that meaningful metrics might include developments of green space that emphasize native biodiversity and tree canopy expansion.

Lastly, concerns about the environmental impact of synthetic turf were raised, highlighting issues such as higher methane emissions and increased injury risks for children. Alternatives like gravel or succulents for landscaping were recommended to better support local ecosystems, further stressing the need for thoughtful evaluation and sustainable practices.

5) Next Steps

Schaffer thanked participants for their input and reminded them that notes had been taken in all discussion groups and would be shared in a summary posted on the CAMP4W webpage. Crosson identified the next steps and provided information on upcoming Joint Task Force meetings as well as the upcoming hybrid public forum on “Climate Adaptation for Water” hosted at Metropolitan headquarters on September 12.

Appendix A

Listening Session PowerPoint Presentation

Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water

Environmental Listening Session

August 13, 2024

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Today's Agenda

1. Q&A with Interim General Manager Deven Upadhyay
2. CAMP4W Updates, including refinement of Evaluative Criteria and project scoring
3. Breakout Room Discussions
4. Report Back to Group
5. Wrap Up & Next Steps

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Q&A Format

Please raise your hand to ask a question

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Today's Agenda

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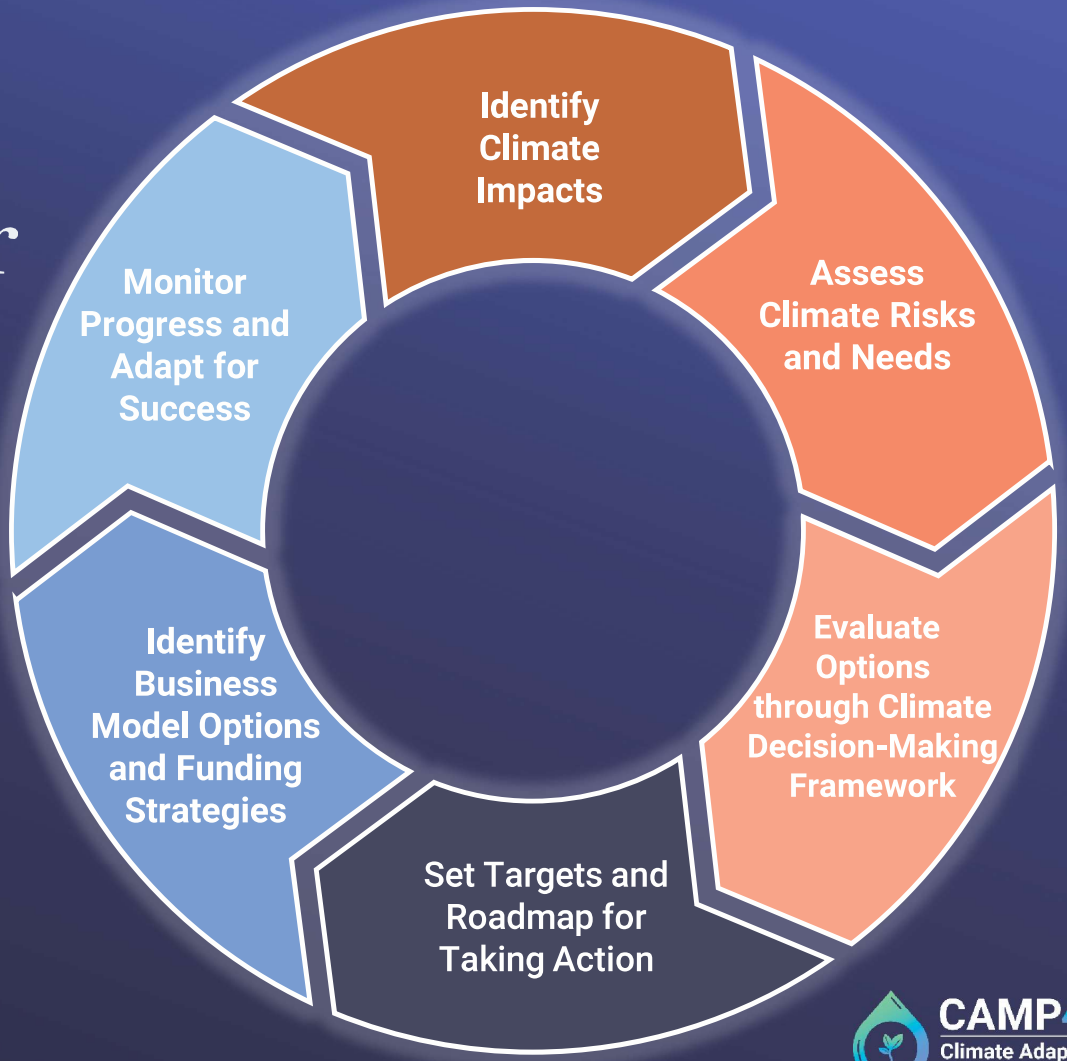
A comprehensive, adaptive planning process

CAMP4W integrates

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

into one interconnected and iterative process.



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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

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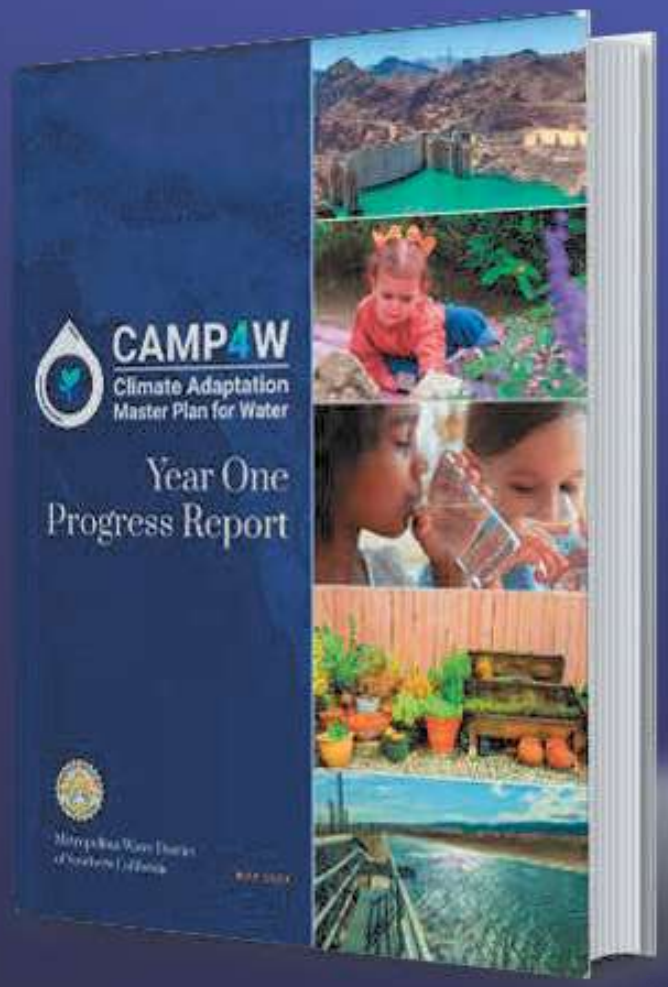
CAMP4W Year One Progress Report

- Executive Summary
- Background, Need and Outcome
- Climate Decision-Making Framework
- Development of Adaptation Strategies
- Business Model and Affordability
- Policies Initiatives and Partnerships
- Adaptive Management

www.mwdh2o.com/camp4w



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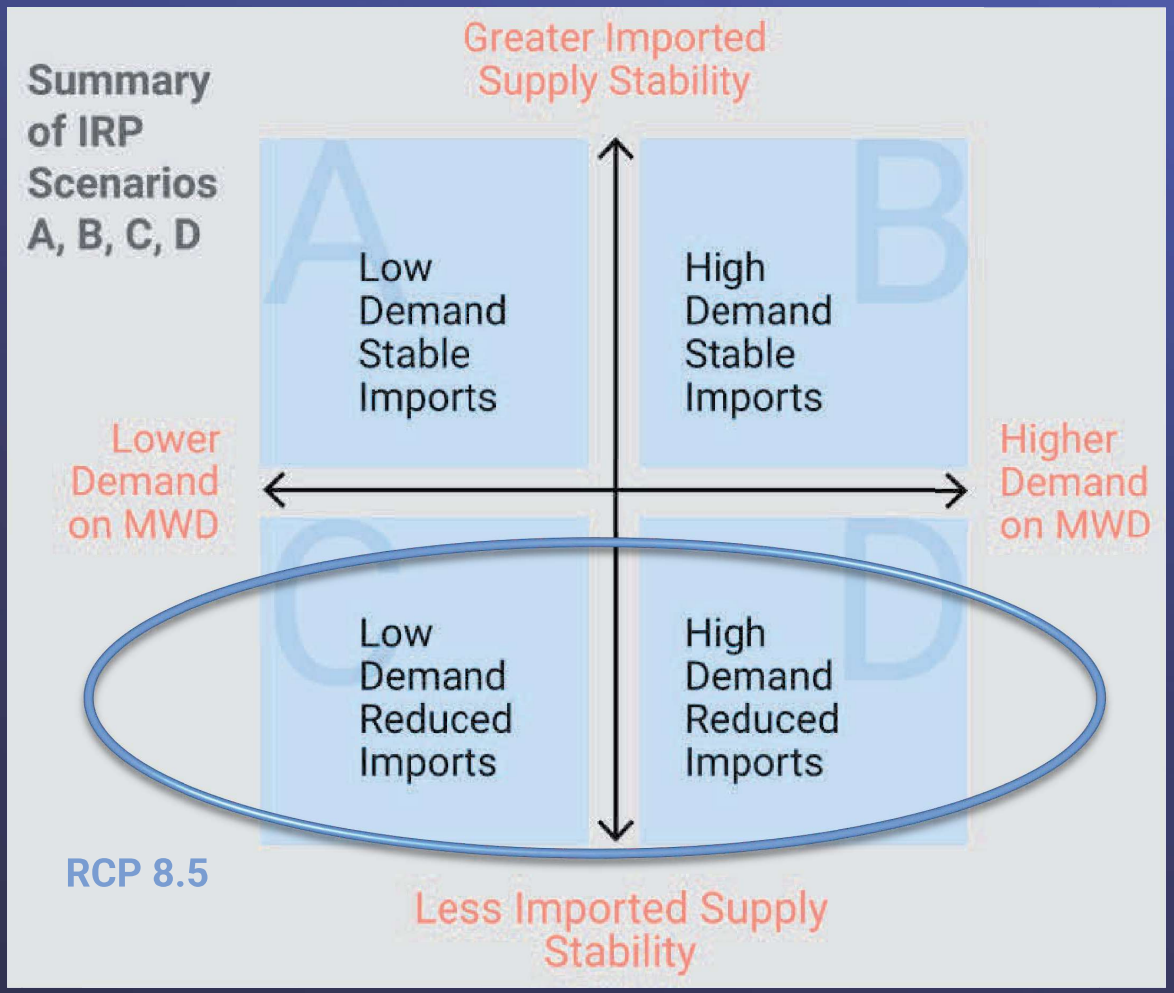
Planning for various climate scenarios

The scenarios in Metropolitan's IRP Needs Assessment provide the foundation of climate adaptation planning



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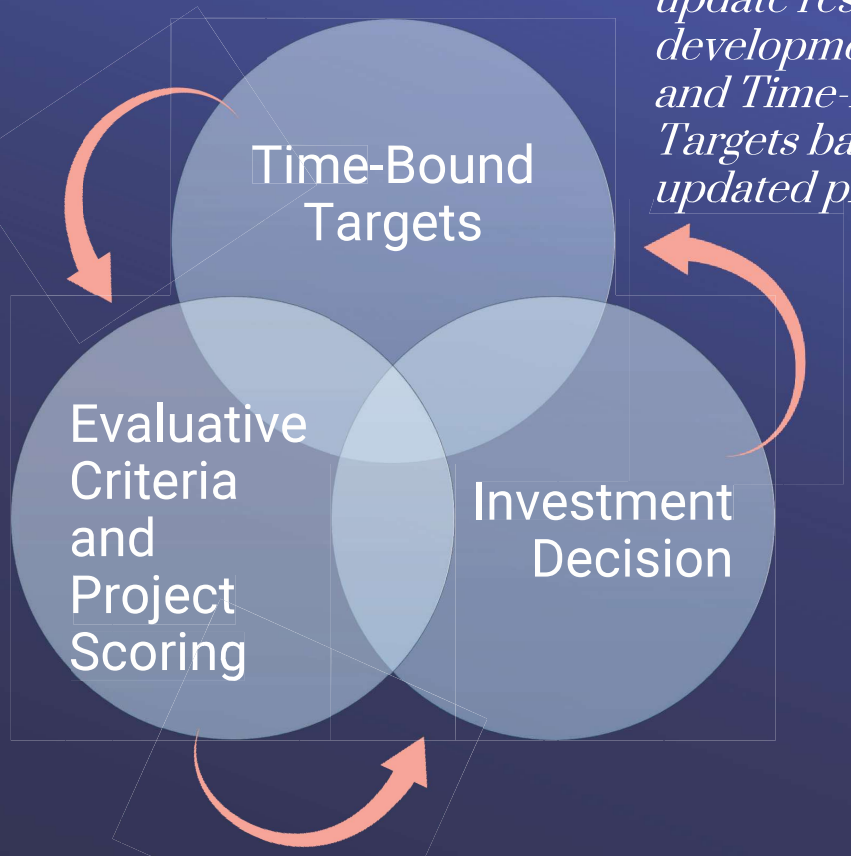
Climate Decision Making Framework

Integrated Elements:

Time-Bound Targets, Evaluative Criteria and Investment Decisions function together

Time-Bound Targets guide project development and inform scoring of projects

Adaptive Management: update resource development needs and Time-Bound Targets based on updated projections



Scores and Time-Bound Targets inform decision-making

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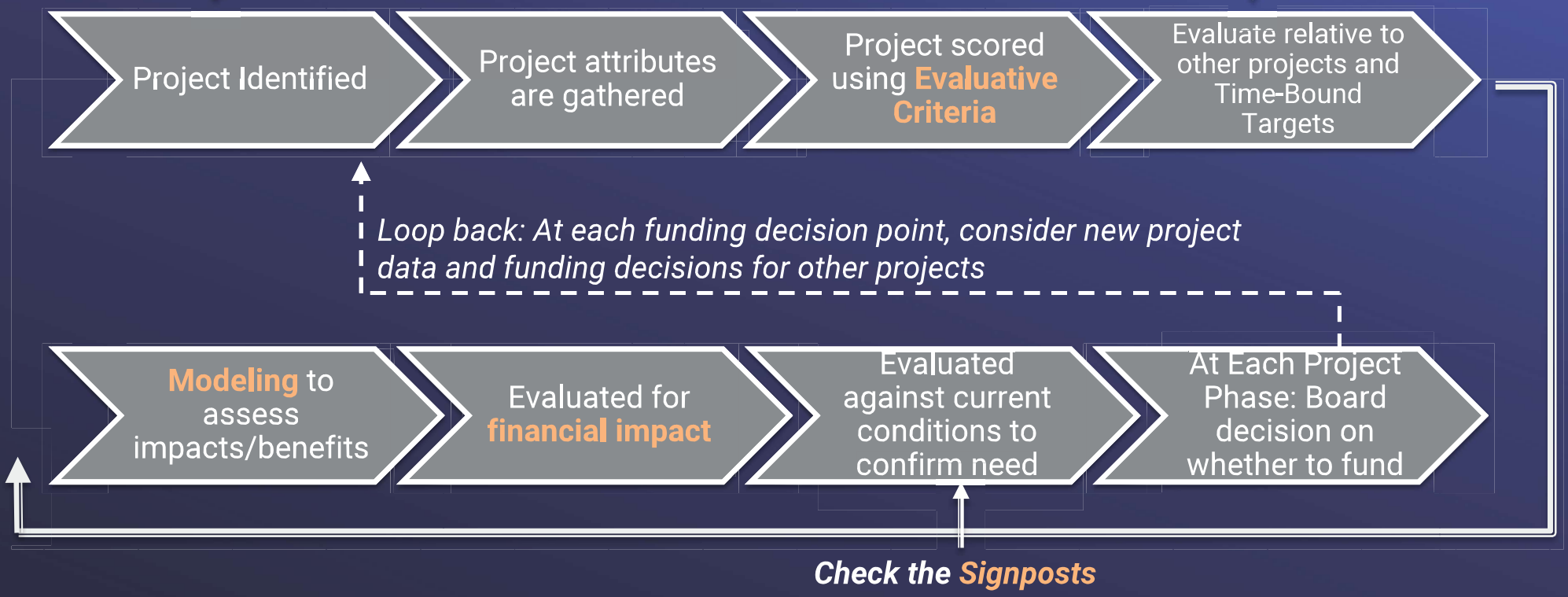
Climate Decision-Making Framework

Identify projects/ programs that address Time-Bound Targets

Compare project/program to other "go" projects to ensure portfolio of projects will not exceed/conflict with Time-Bound Targets



Check the Signposts

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Evaluative Criteria & Attributes from Year 1 Report

Attributes:
- Supply performance
- Equitable reliability

Attributes:
- Address known vulnerability
- Project's ability to perform under climate impacts

Attributes:
- Unit cost

Attributes:
- GHG emissions
- Ecosystem services
- Habitat/wildlife benefit

Attributes:
- Programs for underserved communities
- Scale of community engagement
- Public health benefits
- Workforce development

Attributes:
- Flexibility of existing assets
- Ease/Complexity
- Scalability

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Attributes & Scoring Metrics

- Criteria are goals of the evaluation procedure based on missions and policies (themes) identified by the Board
- Attributes are primary characteristics of the criteria
- Scoring metrics are objective measurements to quantify attributes
  - Applicable database, processes, standards, etc., that could be utilized:
    - Metropolitan processes/initiatives
    - US census database
    - California SB 535 Disadvantage Community Data
    - ASCE Standards for Sustainable Infrastructure
    - ASCE/COS 73-23 Standard Practice for Sustainable Infrastructure

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Scoring Metrics should be:

- Measurable
- Objective
- Consistent
- Efficient

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Criterion #5: Equity

Attributes (Year 1 Report):

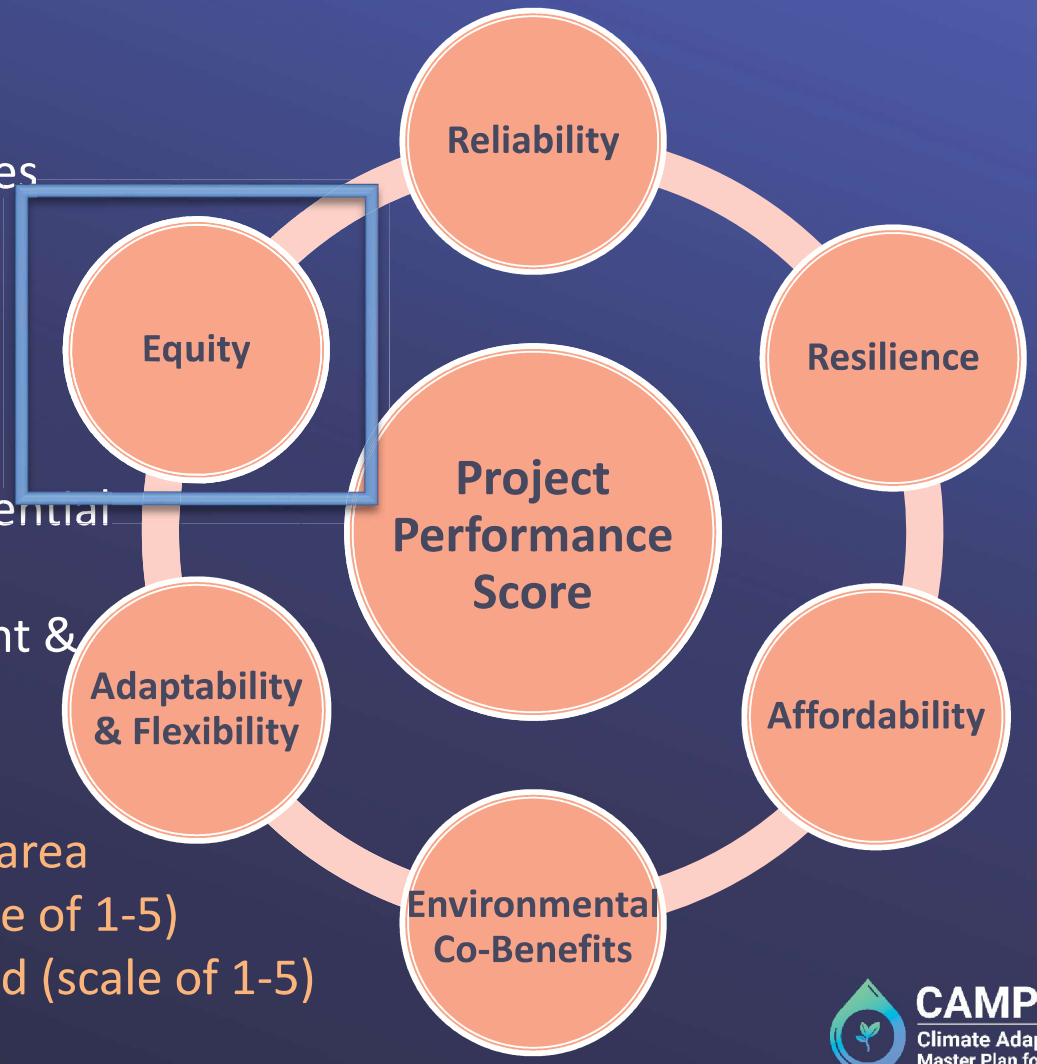
- Programs for underserved communities
- Scale of community engagement
- Public health benefits
- Workforce development

Proposed refinements:

- Apply census data to quantify the potential impact on DAC
- Assess level of community engagement & collaboration

Possible scoring metrics:

- % underserved community in project area
- Level of community engagement (scale of 1-5)
- Extent of community benefits provided (scale of 1-5)



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Criterion #6: Environmental Co-Benefits

Attributes (Year 1 Report):

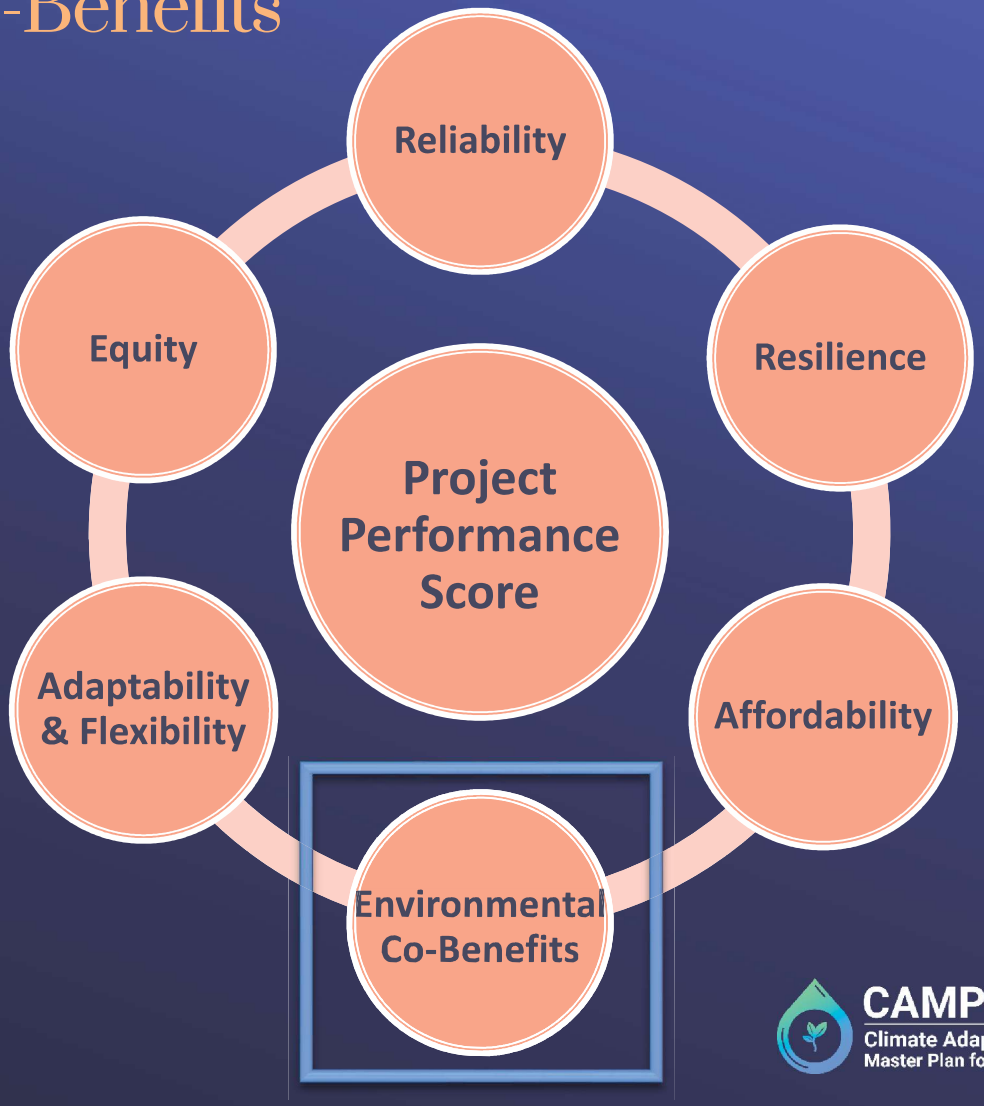
- GHG emissions
- Ecosystem services
- Habitat/wildlife benefit

Proposed refinements:

- Assess Envision credits relevant to the three attributes

Possible scoring metrics:

- GHG emissions comparison based on baseline project/program
- Number of ecosystem services provided
- Scale to account for siting decisions, habitat creation/restoration, land conservation practices



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2024 Activity

Climate Decision-Making Framework

- Project/ Program Identification
- Test Evaluative Criteria
- Evaluate projects and programs

Adaptive Management

- Monitor on the ground conditions
- Review and refine Time-Bound Targets
- First CAMP4W Annual Report

Community Engagement

- Ongoing effort in partnership with Member Agencies and Community-Based Organizations

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Breakout Discussion Prompt #1

l) Do you have feedback on the proposed attributes for Equity or Environmental Co-Benefits?

Are there any additional attributes we should consider adding for Equity or Environmental Co-Benefits?

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Breakout Discussion Prompt #2

2) Do you have feedback on the proposed metrics for Equity or Environmental Co-Benefits?

   Are there any additional – or alternative – metrics that could help us assess the Equity dimensions or Environmental Co-Benefits of proposed projects?

   Are there any specific examples of successful metrics related to Equity or Environmental Co-Benefits that we should know about and consult as reference points?

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Next Steps

Upcoming Task Force Meetings:

August 28

September 25

October 23

- Public Forum: Climate Adaptation for Water Sept. 12
- Staff generate Annual CAMP4W Report Nov. to Jan. / presented to board in Feb.

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Thank you!

For more information, visit:
www.mwdh2o.com/camp4w

Appendix B

Breakout Session Discussion Slides

Breakout Group 1:
EQUITY

Environmental Listening Session

August 13, 2024

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Breakout Discussion Prompt #1

1) Do you have feedback on the proposed attributes for Equity?

   Are there any additional attributes we should consider adding for Equity?

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Criterion #5: Equity

Attributes (Year 1 Report):

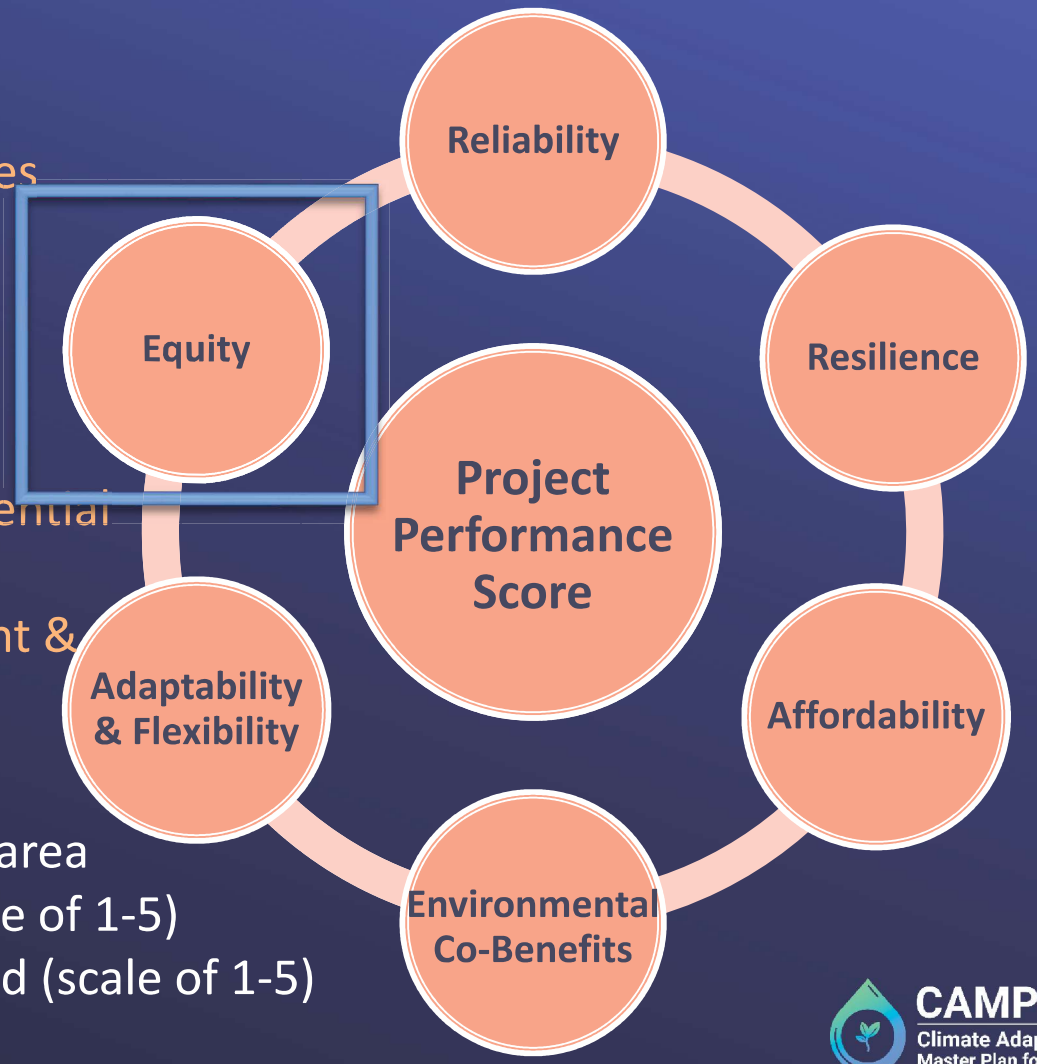
- Programs for underserved communities
- Scale of community engagement
- Public health benefits
- Workforce development

Proposed refinements:

- Apply census data to quantify the potential impact on DAC
- Assess level of community engagement & collaboration

Possible scoring metrics:

- % underserved community in project area
- Level of community engagement (scale of 1-5)
- Extent of community benefits provided (scale of 1-5)



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Breakout Discussion Prompt #2

2) Do you have feedback on the proposed metrics for Equity?

   Are there any additional – or alternative – metrics that could help us assess the Equity dimensions of proposed projects?

   Are there any specific examples of successful metrics related to Equity that we should know about and consult as reference points?

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Criterion #5: Equity

Attributes (Year 1 Report):

- Programs for underserved communities
- Scale of community engagement
- Public health benefits
- Workforce development

Proposed refinements:

- Apply census data to quantify the potential impact on DAC
- Assess level of community engagement & collaboration

Possible scoring metrics:

- % underserved community in project area
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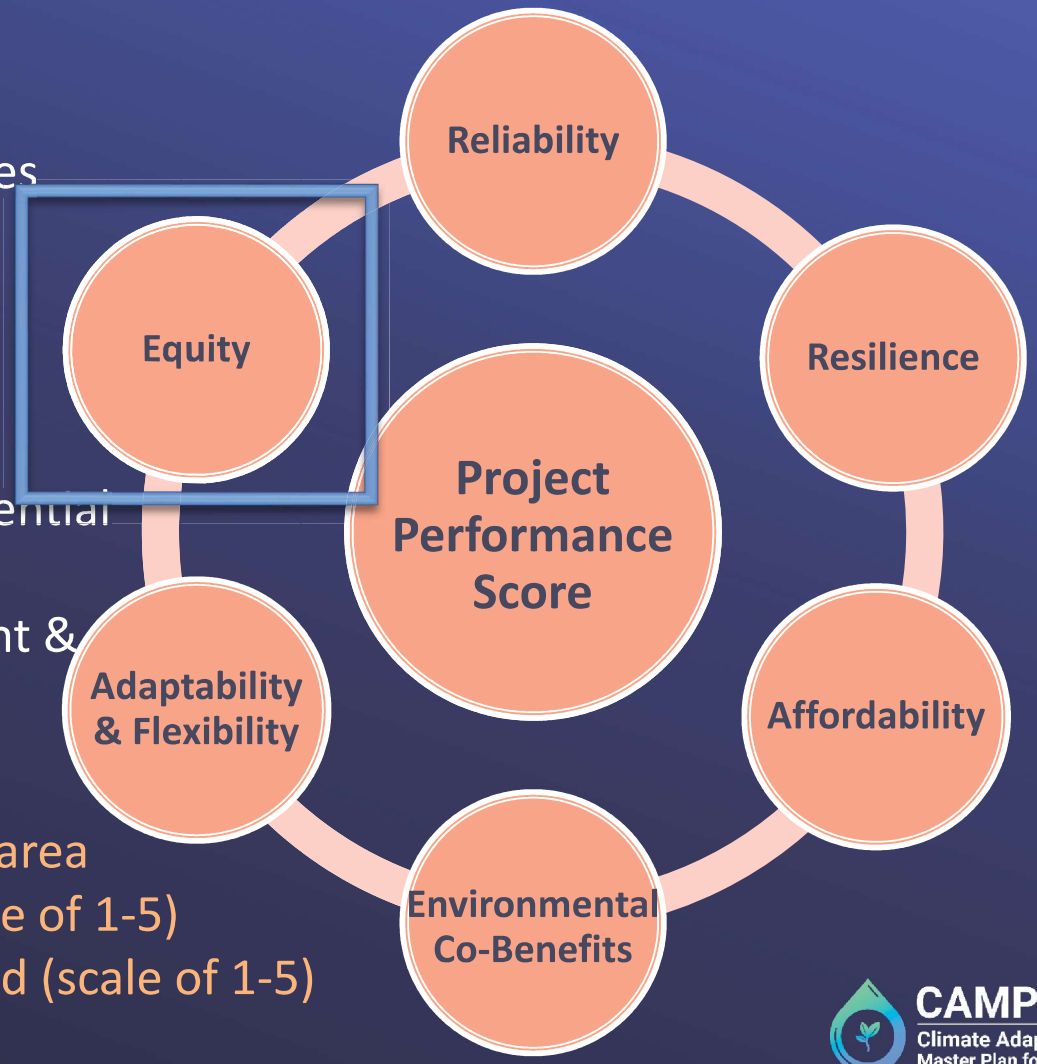

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Scoring Metrics should be:

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Breakout Group 2: ENVIRONMENTAL CO-BENEFITS

Environmental Listening Session

August 13, 2024

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Breakout Discussion Prompt #1

1) Do you have feedback on the proposed attributes for Environmental Co-Benefits?

   Are there any additional attributes we should consider adding for Environmental Co-Benefits?

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Criterion #6: Environmental Co-Benefits

Attributes (Year 1 Report):

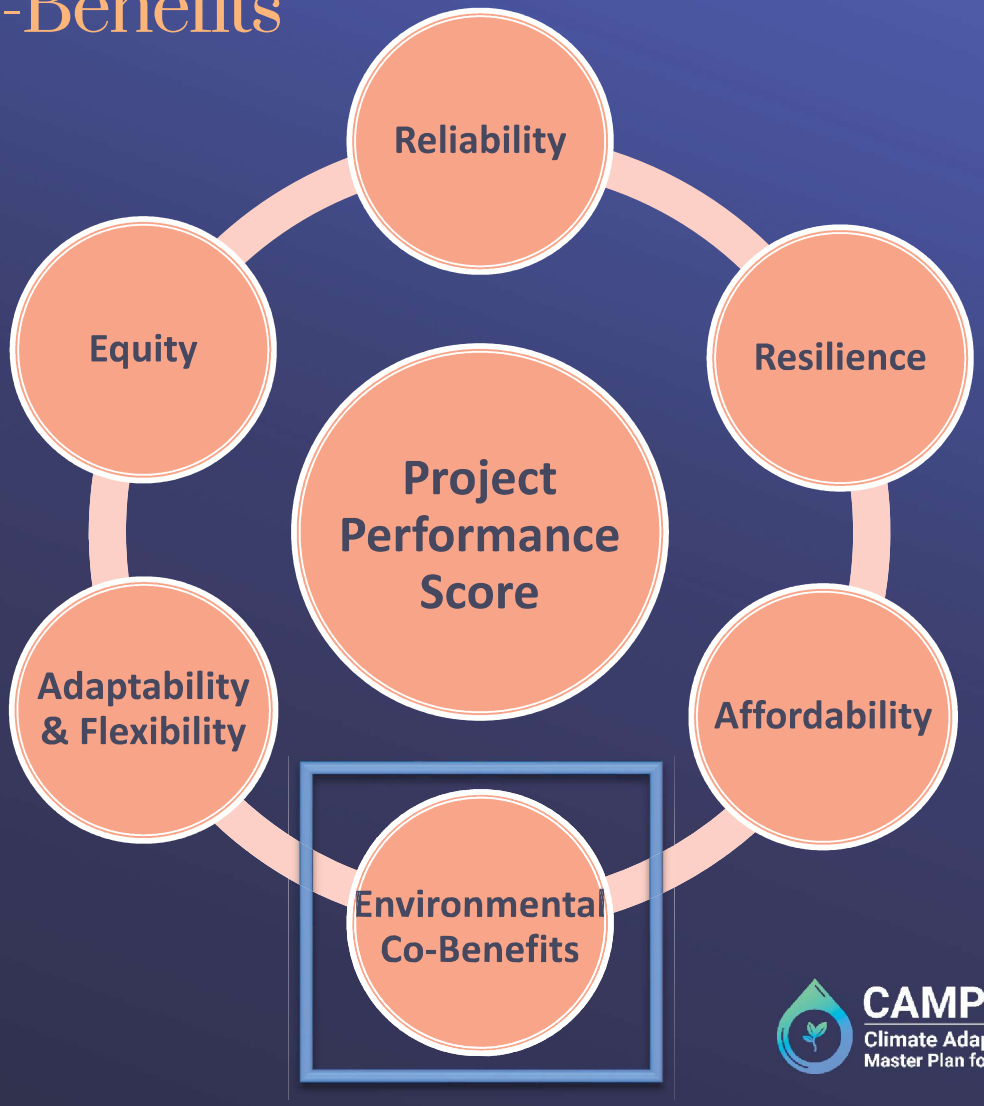
- GHG emissions
- Ecosystem services
- Habitat/wildlife benefit

Proposed refinements:

- Reference applicable ASCE or Envision standards for sustainable infrastructure

Possible scoring metrics:

- GHG emissions comparison based on baseline project/program
- Number of ecosystem services provided
- Scale to account for siting decisions, habitat creation/restoration, land conservation practices



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Breakout Discussion Prompt #2

2) Do you have feedback on the proposed metrics for Environmental Co-Benefits?

   Are there any additional – or alternative – metrics that could help us assess the Environmental Co-Benefits of proposed projects?

   Are there any specific examples of successful metrics related to Environmental Co-Benefits that we should know about and consult as reference points?

Criterion #6: Environmental Co-Benefits

Attributes (Year 1 Report):

- GHG emissions
- Ecosystem services
- Habitat/wildlife benefit

Proposed refinements:

- Reference applicable ASCE or Envision standards for sustainable infrastructure

Possible scoring metrics:

- GHG emissions comparison based on baseline project/program
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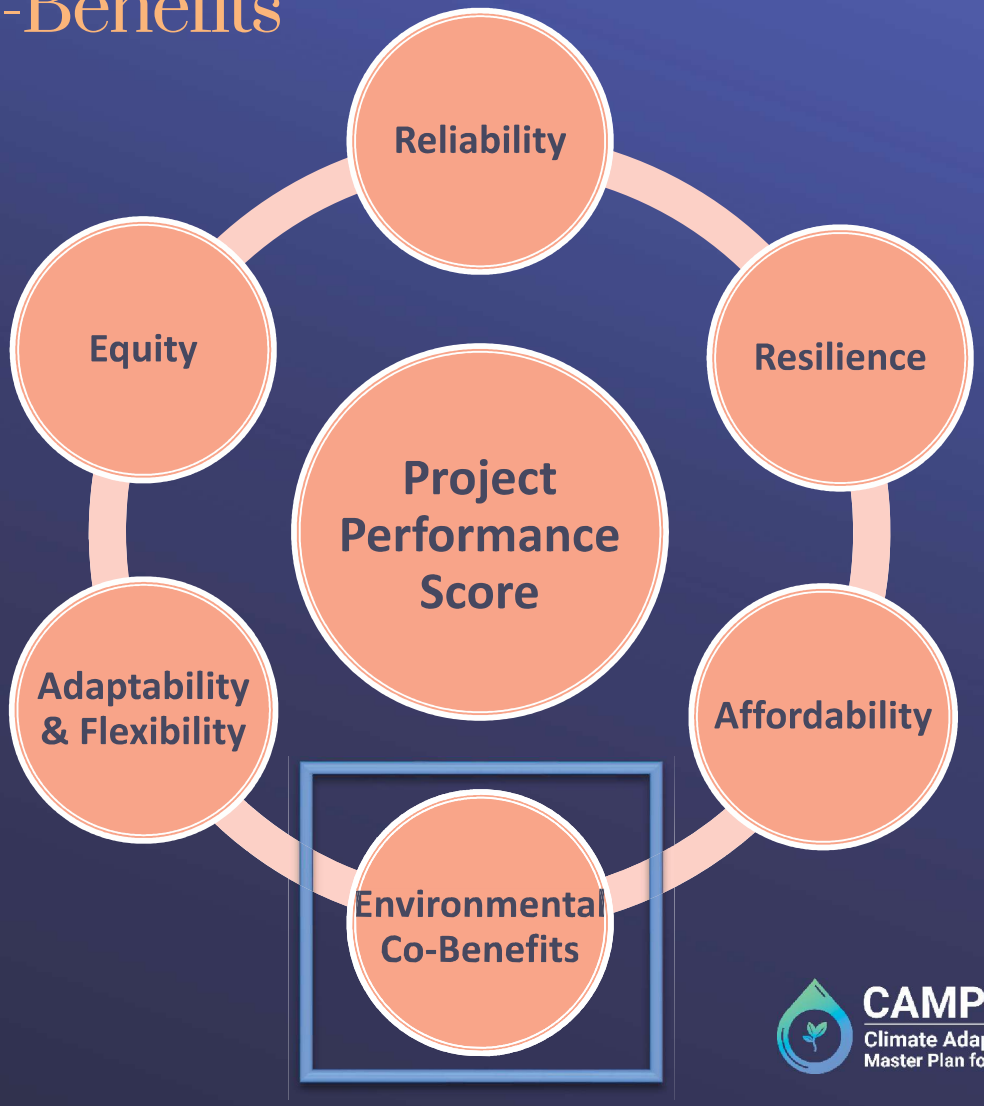

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