

MAWAC-ENA WORKSHOP: Extreme Events in Los Angeles

PARIS
November
2025



Major events LA is facing

Statewide

2014-2016 multi-year drought followed by 2017 extreme wet year
2020-2022 multi-year drought followed by 2023 extreme wet year

(Inter)National

2007-2009 recession
2020 Covid pandemic

Local

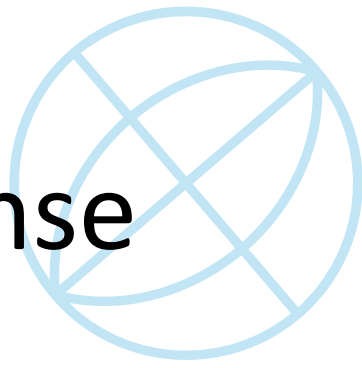
2023 Floods
2018 Woolsey Fire
2025 Wildfires (Pacific Palisades and Eaton)

Future Focus

Major Earthquakes (Richter Scale > 6.0)
World Cup (2026)/Olympics 2028

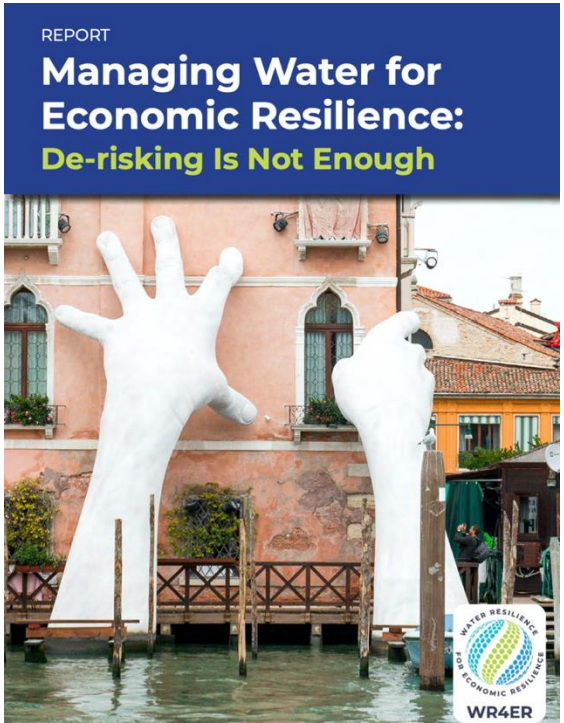
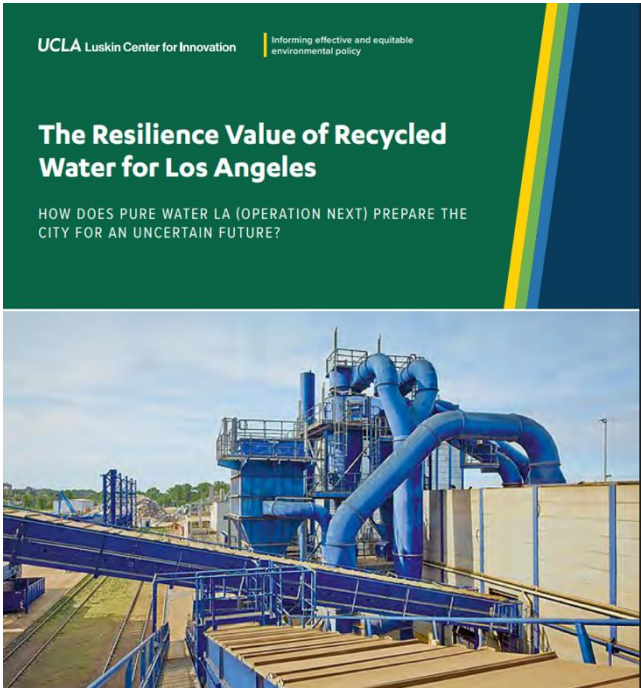
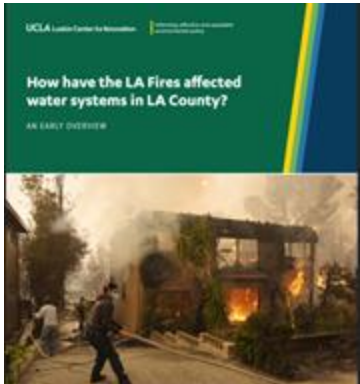
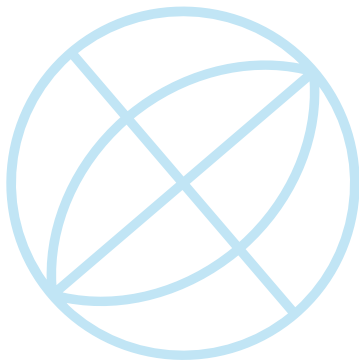


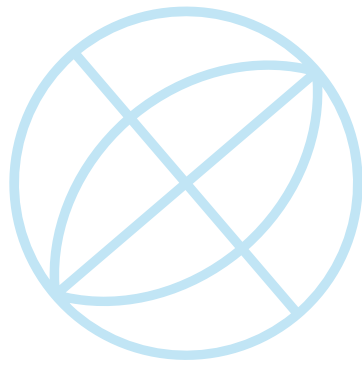
Different scales for preparedness & response



- Depending on the hazard or event, different scales and agencies get involved. In LA:
 - The City, which serves 40% of the County and $<1/3$ the region
 - Local Water Systems: not all of which are city-county run
 - County: the most stable, but also fiscally constrained actor
 - Other regional entities: ie, Metropolitan Water District
 - State: especially involved in drought, and fire events
 - Federal: only triggered depending on size/impact of event
- Civic society: a strong Environmental and EJ network of groups but ill equipped for fire and weaker outside the City boundaries

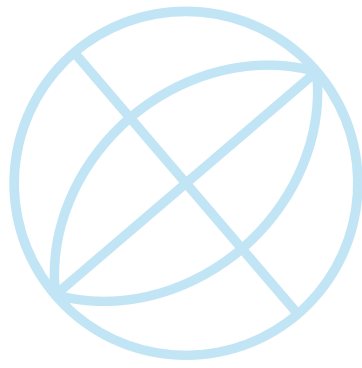
Our work in this space





Major challenges

- How to fund preparedness and recovery more quickly in an period of austerity
 - Public private partnerships?
- New adversarial and ad hoc dynamics with Federal government
- Individual forms of communication reliance and trust in information shifting toward a diffuse and fractured media landscape, including social media and influencers



Open, Collaborative Questions

- Public communication: How to avoid disaster/preparedness fatigue? Who are the most trusted and effective messengers? Does it vary by hazard or event?
- Lessons to be learned in administrative coordination in ConOps despite scale and structural differences across cases?
- Olympics: what can we learn from Paris on funding environmental and infrastructure improvements in lead up to and following games?

Thank you for your attention

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du Grand Paris



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NOVEMBER

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