Scenario Design: An Accelerated Introduction to Scenario Planning

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Scenario Planning

• Scenario Planning **IS** about being prepared for whatever happens in the future

• Scenario Planning is **NOT** about envisioning what we want to happen in the future or predicting what will happen in the future
Scenario Planning
Cone of Uncertainty

Near-term Plan

Present

No or low Regrets
Preserving Options

Trigger Points

Planning Futures (2095)
Scenario Planning Process*

1. Define the planning context
2. Identify the driving forces
3. Rank the driving forces
4. Create scenarios and develop narratives
5. Evaluate each future
6. Create a path of actions for each future
7. Define triggers and build adaptive plan
8. Compare and contrast actions, identify common actions across futures

*Adopted from Ralph Marra with SWRC
Personal Insights

1. No one-size-fits all approach
2. Pick the parts and pieces that work for you
3. Goal is adaptive planning

“In preparing for battle I have always found that plans are useless, but planning is indispensable.”
- Dwight D. Eisenhower
EMBRACING UNCERTAINTY
A Case Study Examination of How Climate Change is Shifting Water Utility Planning

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The Society is a multi-disciplinary association of professionals working to improve methods and tools in this field, facilitate their use in practice, and ultimately encourage sound decision making in our rapidly changing world.