



Water Vision
SANTA BARBARA



Stakeholder Perception Summary

Future Supply Considerations

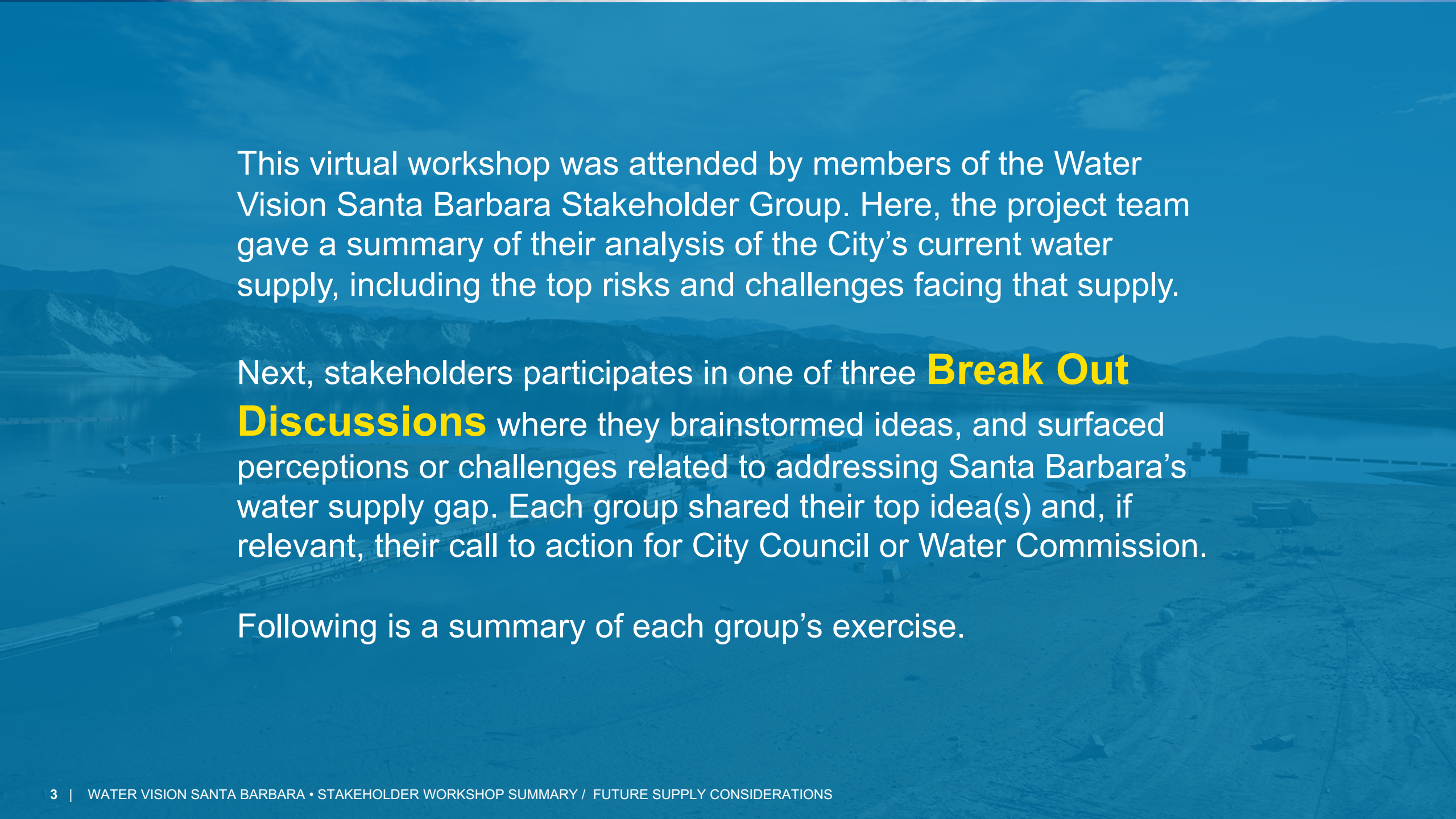
August 2020



RECAP: Goals for Stakeholder Workshop #3: Future Supply Considerations

- Document **potential supplies, conservation, and/or policy options** to further drive desired community outcomes.
-
- As result of activities, attempt to surface unforeseen impacts and/or benefits of future supply solutions, particularly among vulnerable populations and/or ecosystems

This input will be used by the project team to **inform** the draft future portfolios.



This virtual workshop was attended by members of the Water Vision Santa Barbara Stakeholder Group. Here, the project team gave a summary of their analysis of the City's current water supply, including the top risks and challenges facing that supply.

Next, stakeholders participate in one of three **Break Out Discussions** where they brainstormed ideas, and surfaced perceptions or challenges related to addressing Santa Barbara's water supply gap. Each group shared their top idea(s) and, if relevant, their call to action for City Council or Water Commission.

Following is a summary of each group's exercise.

The stakeholder group explored the
3 questions below in separate breakout groups.

1.

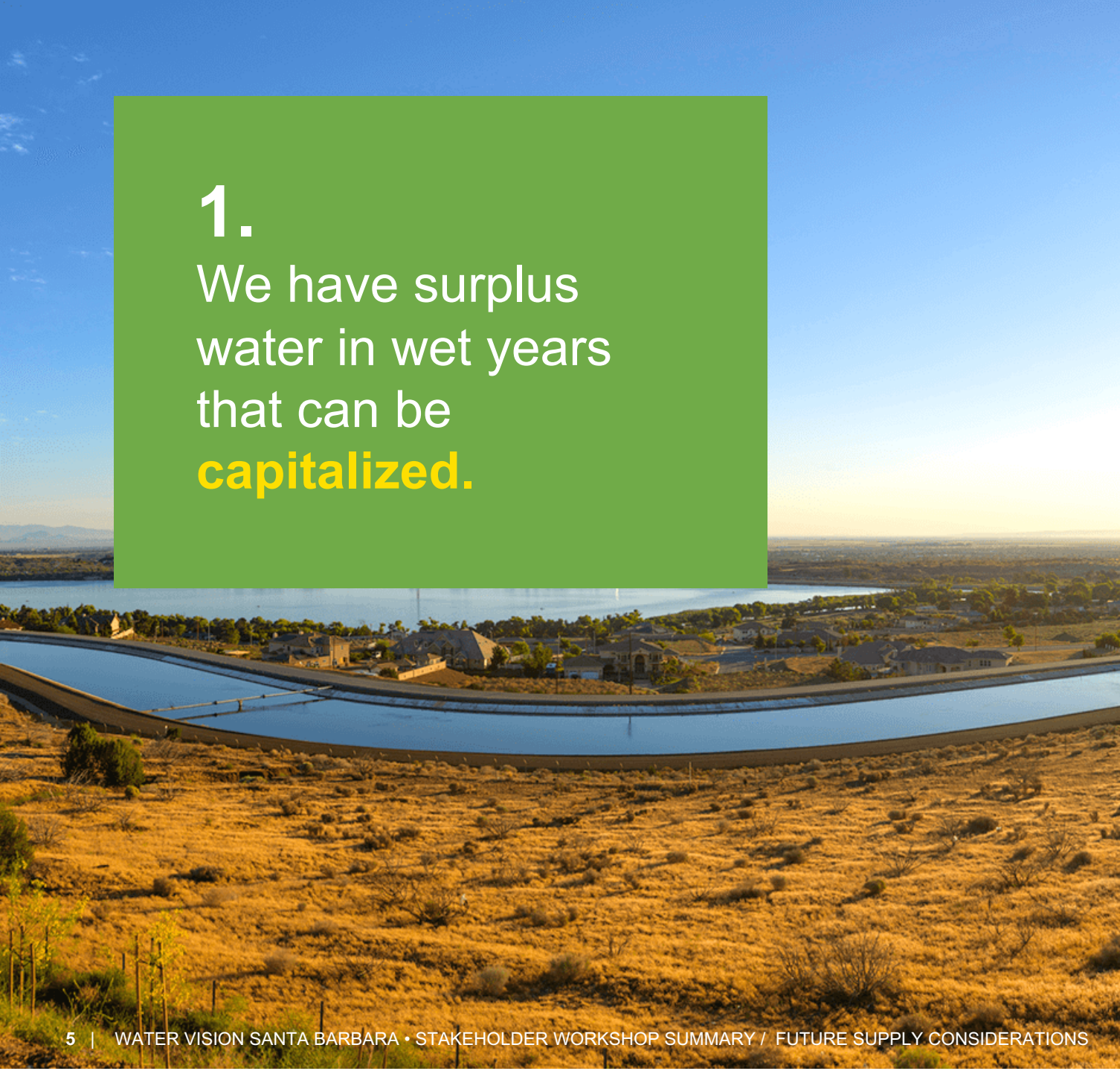
We have surplus
water in wet years
that can be
capitalized.

2.

In drought **we don't
have enough
water** to meet
immediate needs.

3.

Our community's
water decisions could
have an **inequitable
impact** on vulnerable
populations.



1.
We have surplus
water in wet years
that can be
capitalized.

Key considerations:

- Frequency and magnitude of surplus
- Current storage and transport capabilities vs. needs
- Potential environmental uses of surplus water

This group's big question:

How could we
**better use the water
we already have**
to create value for our
community?

Who was in
the group?

Betsy Cramer
Citizen Planning
Association of Santa
Barbara County

Hillary Hauser
Heal the Ocean

Krista Pleiser
Santa Barbara
Association of
Realtors



**This group's
big question:**

How could we
**better use the water
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to create value for our
community?

Key facts and storage constraints shared in discussion

- While the Gibraltar and Cachuma Reservoirs are the City's existing above-ground storage options, their capacity is limited to a few years worth of water demand.
- Groundwater storage capacity is limited to just 6-12 months of water demand.
- The State Water Project offers surplus water purchasing opportunities
- Because of water quality limitations, distribution system reservoirs offer only 2-3 days of water storage.
- Building additional raw water storage is both infeasible and cost prohibitive (considering the cost of land, environmental review, permitting, regulatory requirements, and connecting storage to the existing conveyance system).
- Groundwater storage is viable on a limited basis; the City doesn't have robust groundwater basins and regulations restrict the City's ability to recharge them.
- The City has connected most non-potable water users to recycled water in the City. Connecting more has diminishing returns in terms of cost.

Key takeaways of the discussion

- Expanding surface storage is not a viable, cost-effective option in the water plan.
- The City has an opportunity to optimize existing storage assets (primarily reservoirs).

Group Brainstorm with sticky notes

Could we ...
improve
water storage?

More groundwater
storage (~1/2 to 1 year
storage)

Build new local
surface storage

EX: Lauro Reservoir has
capacity for 1 week of
supply for summer
demand

Could we cover
reservoir to reduce
evaporation?

State Water Project -
purpose is storage and
conveyance

Could we ...
explore water
trading?

Trade State Water
Project allocation in wet
years and get their
supplies during drought

Sharing between
counties / water

Can we bank groundwater in
Goleta Basin
>> Regional Coordination

Could be good idea; but not
immediately politically viable /
legally viable

Store more recycled
water in winter for
summer use

Other
opportunities
...

Partner with
Carpinteria (similar
to Goleta,
groundwater basin
regional
coordination)

Sell excess recycled
water vs. use by City
for irrigation or
potable reuse

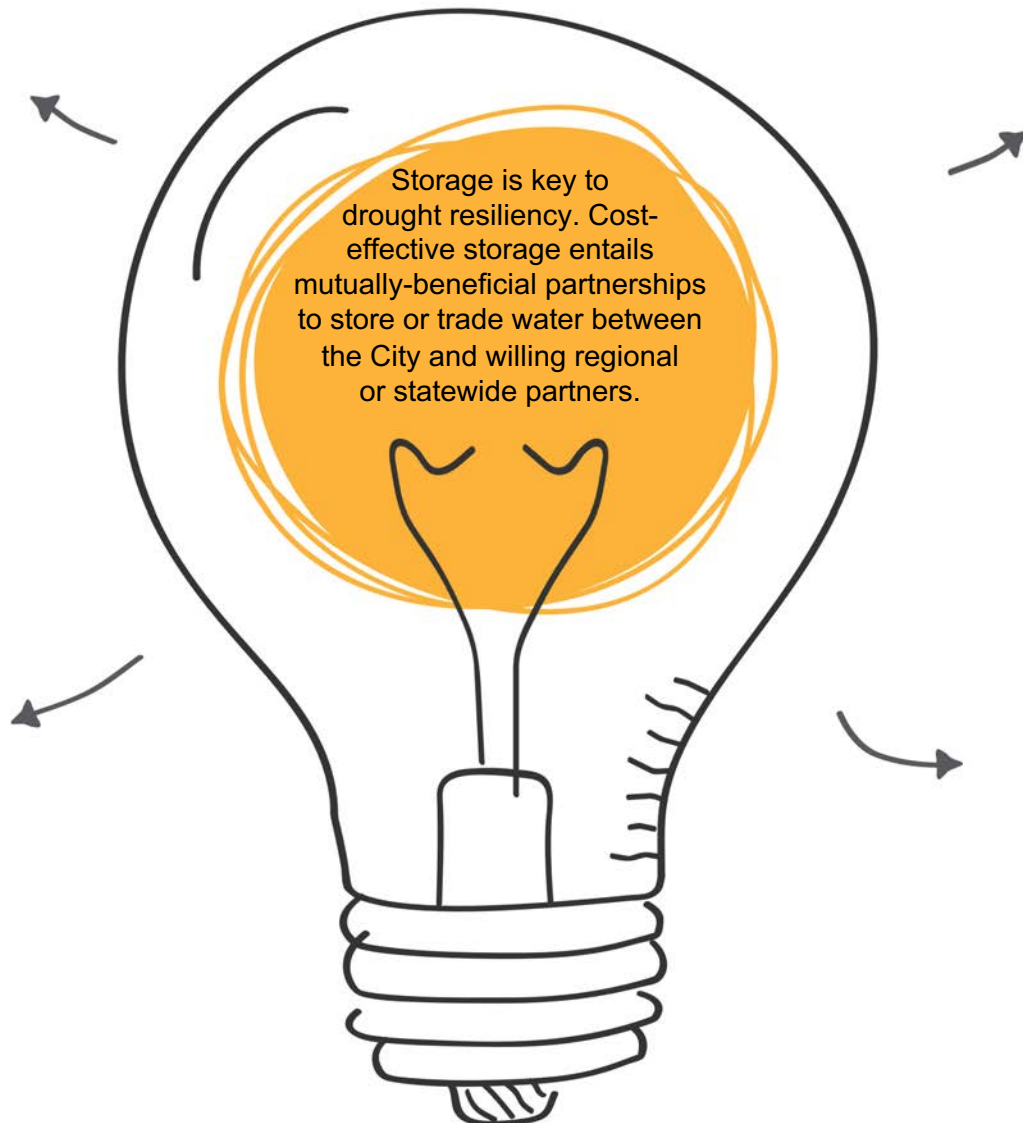
Exchange with farms; water
rights trading (in wet years give
farms City water, in dry years we
get farmers water and farmer
uses groundwater)

Our top Ideas

Regional
collaboration for
groundwater storage
/ exchanges

'Bank' water
for dry times

Our One Big Idea





2.

In drought **we don't have enough water** to meet immediate needs.

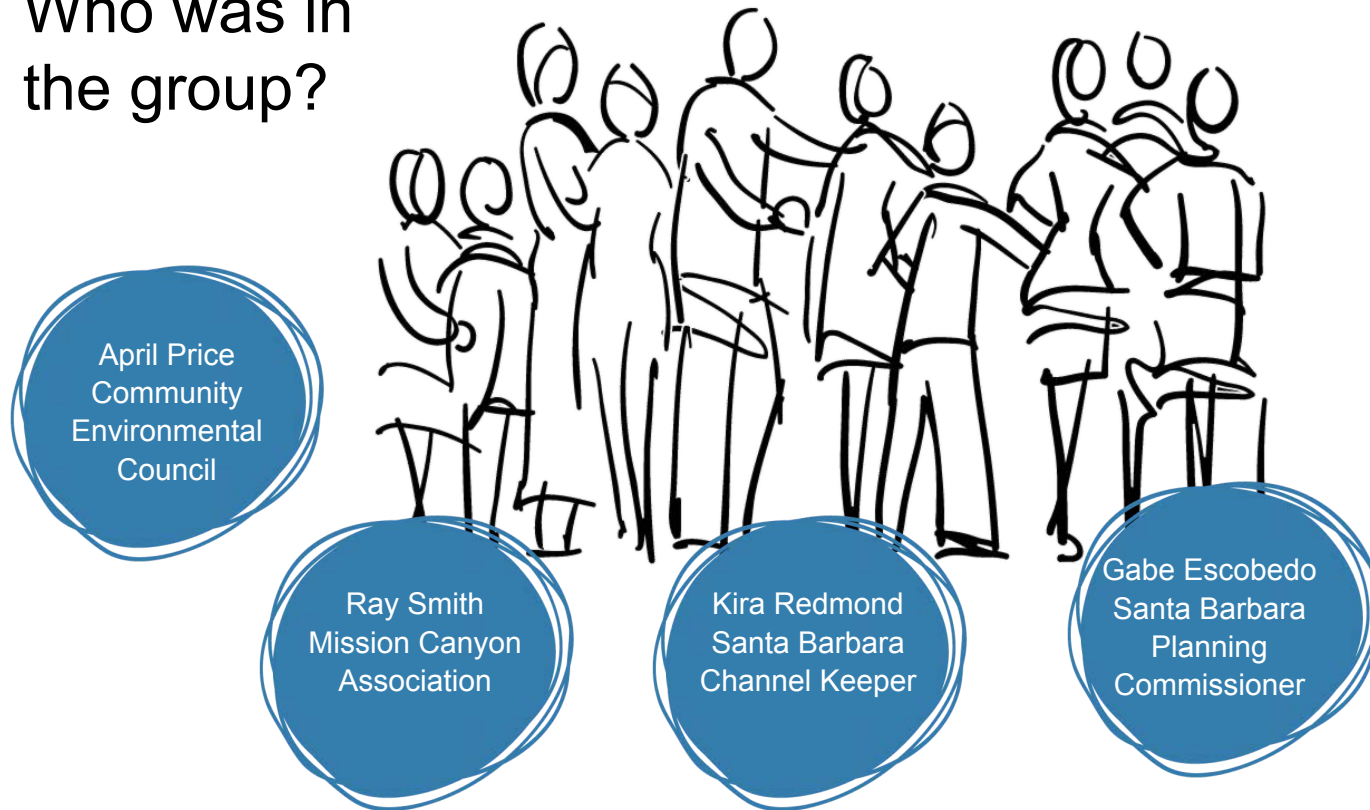
Key considerations:

- 80% of water operating costs are fixed
- Drought-resistant supplies have varying operational cost, infrastructure cost, and environmental impact
- Opportunities to conserve further while maintaining quality of life

This group's big question:

How could we **optimize the role of conservation** in our future water supply?
(conservation as a way of life)

Who was in the group?

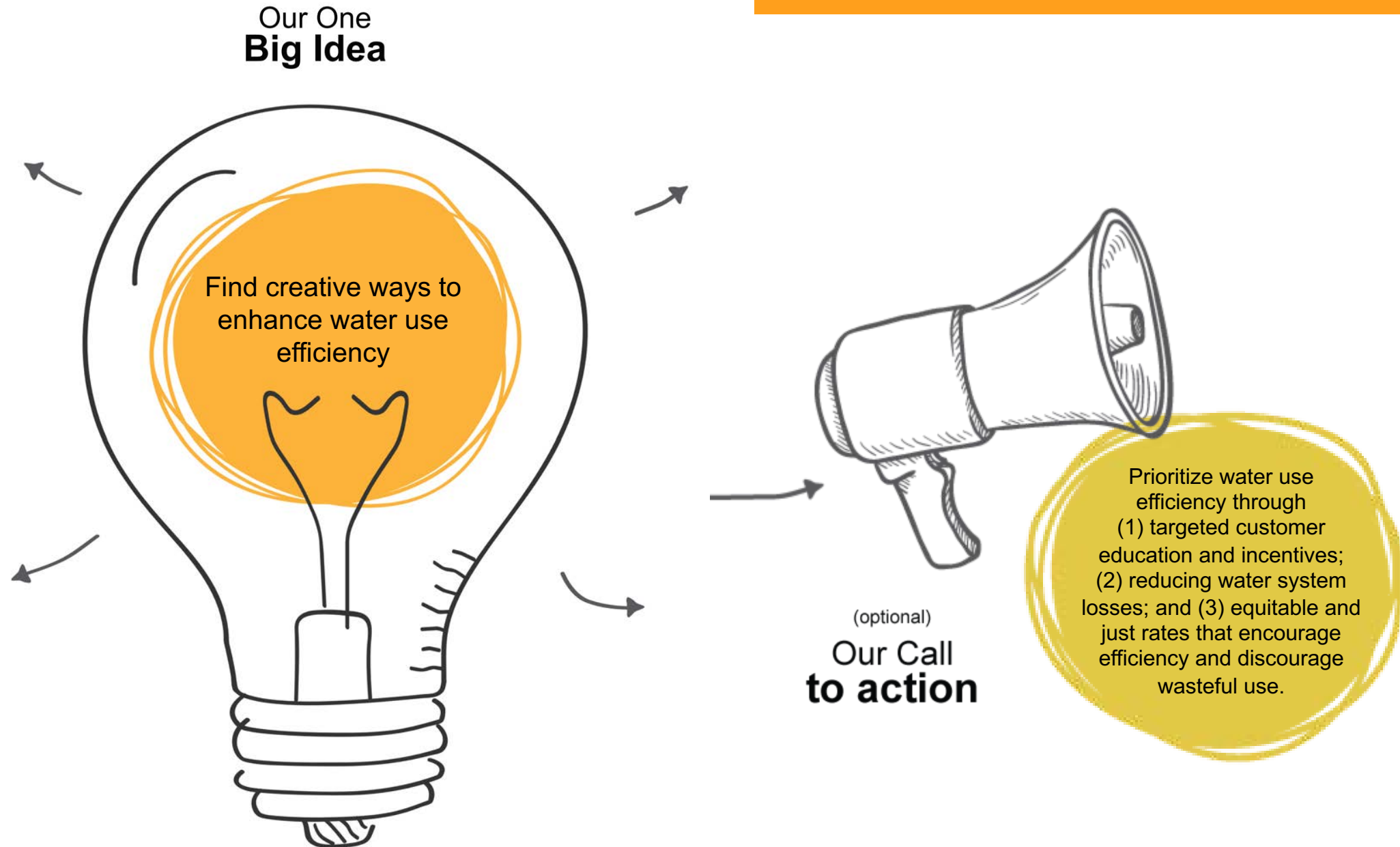


**This group's
big question:**

How could we
**optimize the role of
conservation** in our future
water supply?
(conservation as a way of life)

Group Brainstorm with sticky notes





3.

Our community's water decisions could have an **inequitable impact on vulnerable populations.**

(People of color, low income people, youth and elderly, recent immigrants and people with limited English proficiency, people with disabilities, homeless people, LGBTQ, veterans)

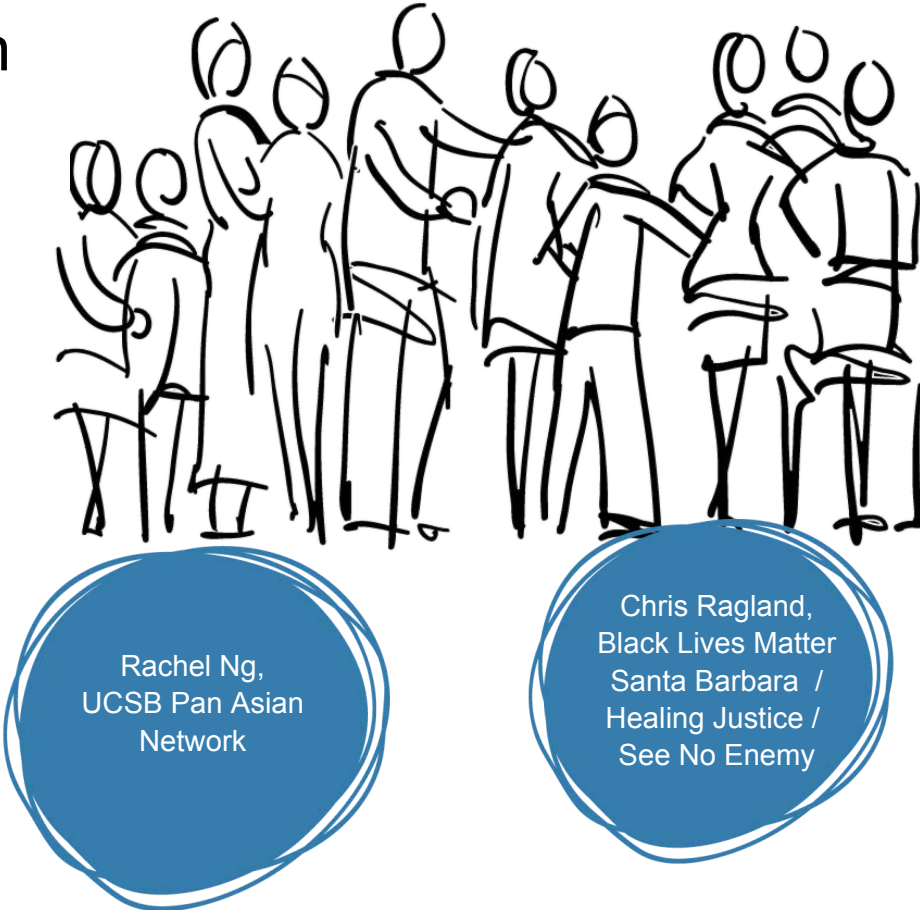
Key considerations:

- Cost of water
- Access to water use/cost information
- Water quality
- Natural disaster resilience

This group's big question:

How could we **better serve vulnerable populations** with our water decisions?

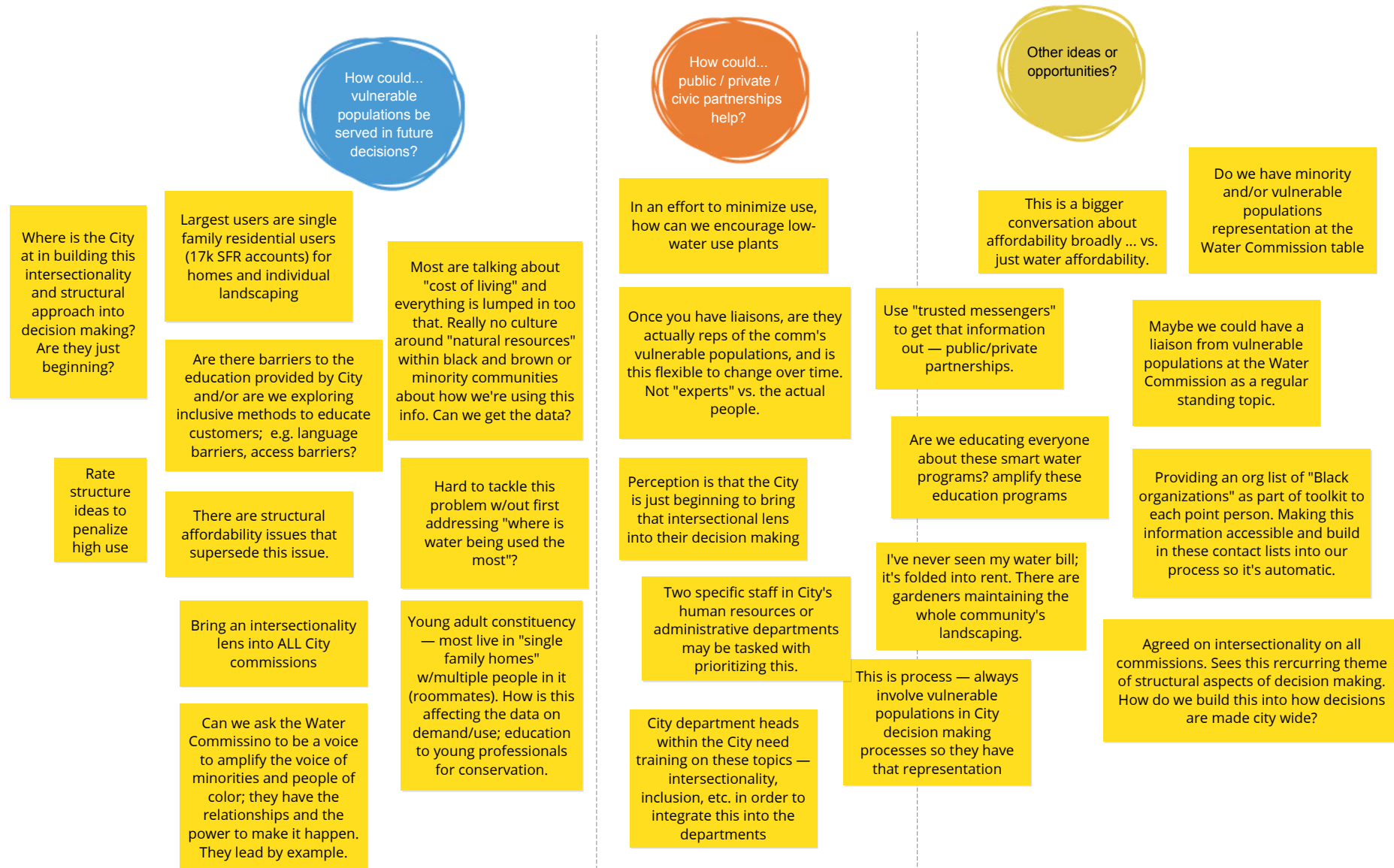
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Group Brainstorm with sticky notes



Our One Big Idea

