

Funding for Pre-Disaster Resiliency Environmental Financial Advisory Board



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The Charge from EPA

In January of 2018, the Office of Water developed a charge for EFAB to *"investigate effective investment and funding strategies that reduce risks to essential water infrastructure and post-disaster costs attributable to extreme natural events and chronic flooding and which achieve net savings on a probabilistic adjusted Net Present Value given historic and expected incidence."*



Pre-Disaster Resiliency Investment & Finance Workgroup

- To define “resilience,” EFAB considered concepts from several resources.
- Focused mainly (but not exclusively) on the impacts of flooding and drought.
- Focused on issues related to both funding and financing in the United States.
- The Report highlighted opportunities and barriers associated with pre-disaster resiliency at the local and Federal levels.
- The Report discussed investments in flood control and stormwater infrastructure, and analyzed how such investments can help with infrastructure resiliency.

- The costs of disasters are increasing, but communities remain unprepared for such events.
- These impacts have significant economic, social, and environmental implications; from the household level to nationally.
- It costs less to prevent and minimize damage and to strengthen our communities than it does to spend resources on recovery afterward.
- Outlined the primary barriers to communities when it comes to addressing key infrastructure pre-disaster resilience.

Key Problems & Needs Identified in the Report

Recommendations

- EFAB presented the following recommendations, in order of priority:
 - Encourage long-term planning and the use of asset management planning tools for both municipal and investor-owned utilities.
 - Develop a Coordination Team to foster communication among Federal agencies, set priorities, and reduce gaps in funding pre-disaster resiliency for public infrastructure.
 - Consider the creation and authorization of a new Stormwater SRF and/or expansion of existing SRF or WIFIA programs to include additional stormwater/flood control eligibilities.
 - Suggest EPA's Water Infrastructure and Resiliency Finance Center (WIRFC) develop a compendium of information to measure resiliency costs, benefits, and best practices.

Related EPA Actions & Initiatives

- Activities under AWIA that relate to pre-disaster resiliency
- SRF Programs and success stories
- The SRF-FEMA MOU (June 2019)
- Water Finance Clearinghouse
- Water Reuse Action Plan – Decision Support Tool (Action 2.6.1)
- Technical Support
- Other cross program activities and workgroups

Thank You

