Financing Watershed Protection

Evolving perspectives in evolving economic times

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Watershed Protection Funding

- About Raleigh Public Utilities
- Salt Lake City
- Metropolitan Water District of Salt Lake & Sandy
- 2002 Olympics
- UNCWI Funding
  - Past Approach
  - Future Considerations
- Concluding remarks
Solvent and Liquid

Because everything in her home is waterproof, the housewife of 2000 can do her daily cleaning with a hose.

* From 1950’s era Popular Mechanics magazine
Raleigh Public Utilities

- Water, wastewater and reuse
- 270 square mile service area
- 5 purification facilities
- ~ 4500 miles of water/wastewater pipe
- 156 M$ budget
- Managing ~ 10B$ in replacement cost assets
Salt Lake City Watershed Protection

- Watershed purchases since 1885
- City owns 24,000+ acres of watershed
- Extraterritorial jurisdiction for watershed protection granted in State Law
- Program for watershed purchases funded by $ 0.50 on each bill
MWDSLS

- Wholesale supplier of water to SLC and Sandy
- Multiple watersheds including Colorado River tributaries
- Stakeholder based approach to watershed protection - JTAC
- Funded largely by water users through rates
2002 Olympic Games

- Salt Lake City had several watershed areas ideal for Olympic venues
- None of the watersheds managed directly by SLC were used as venues
- Strong opposition to placing these venues in SLC watershed caused them to be located in MWDSLS watersheds
UNCWI - Past

- Raleigh Public Utilities provides water and sewer service to about 475,000 residents in seven different communities
- Water nutrient fee is collected when new land is developed within our service area
- Approximately 1.5 Million dollars per year before economic downturn
- Essentially, new growth funds our portion
UNCWI – present and future

- Economic downturn = reduced water nutrient fee
- Funding for watershed procurement continued using bond money to keep program afloat
- Going forward, a more stable and equitable funding source is desirable
Conclusion Questions

- Who benefits from watershed protection?
- Who pays for watershed protection?
- Who decides?