Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue:
Opportunities for integrative planning across water, energy, and food sectors in the San Antonio Region
A 90-minute Thematic Session on the Water-Energy-Food Nexus
to be held at the 2018 Texas A&M Conference on Energy
1:00 –2:30 PM, September 25, 2018

Background

Water, energy, and food securities are central to healthy and sustainable economies. Growing pressures to meet water, energy, and food demands are driven by a rising global population, rapid urbanization, changing diets, and economic growth. These pressures are exacerbated by growing interdependencies between the three tightly interconnected resource systems, yet these systems continue to be managed separately in most instances. Unless we account for these interdependencies as we plan for the future allocation of these resources, we risk facing an unintended consequence of creating new challenges as we address existing ones. San Antonio demonstrates a complex resource hotspot within Texas. With its rapidly growing population, proximity to the Eagle Ford shale play, and as home to major agricultural activity, the San Antonio area has many competing demands for water and energy. In January 2018 we held a stakeholders forum in San Antonio to examine the nexus of water, food, and energy. At that time we looked at questions to be addressed, and the incentives, limitations, and opportunities of working across disciplines. In this panel, we aim to extend those discussions by addressing state of the art technological, social, and policy interventions that can be applied, and their role in catalyzing the implementation of integrated solutions for better management and allocation of water, energy, and food resources.

The main objective of the session is to discuss how to catalyze a dialogue around state of the art technological, social, and policy interventions that different stakeholders need to develop, advocate, or take in order to increase the level of coordination as they plan for or work toward future resource allocation in San Antonio and nearby areas.

During their 5 minute presentation, in addition to addressing the discussion point immediately above, each panelist is requested to also address the following:

1. What possible solutions to address water scarcity challenges do you believe should be modeled by the project team?
2. What criteria should be used to assess and compare solutions?

Session Moderated by:
Rudy Rosen, Director of the Institute for Water Resources Science & Technology at Texas A&M Univ. in San Antonio

- ***Framing:*** *Rabi H. Mohtar/ Bassel Daher, Texas A&M Water Energy Food Nexus Initiative* *(10 min)*
- ***Water:*** *Isabel Martinez, Coordinator of Conservation Programs, Edwards Aquifer Authority* *(5 min)*
- ***Energy:*** *John Kosub, Director of Energy Portfolio Analytics, CPS* *(5 min)*
- ***Food:*** *Darrell Brownlow, Cattle Rancher, Region L Water Planning Group, SARA* *(5 min)*
- ***Planning:*** *James Andrews/Samantha Schwarz, Overland* *(5 min)*

Moderated Discussion and Dialogue *(40 min)*
Q/A *(20 min)*

Outcomes

Document the state of the art technological, social, and policy interventions that can be applied, and their role in catalyzing the implementation of integrated solutions for better management and allocation of water, energy, and food resources in San Antonio and nearby areas. Results will be recorded in a summary brief.

WebEx Teleconferencing will be available to allow for attending the session remotely.