

WATER IS LIFE

WESTERN WATER, CLIMATE CHANGE, AND PUBLIC HEALTH

FLOODS



Severe wildfire damages soil's ability to absorb precipitation, leading to post-fire flooding and debris flows. This debris clogs reservoirs and can lead to increased power and water treatment costs.



When urban flooding occurs, systems can fail, vector-borne diseases can proliferate, structures are damaged, and public health is put at risk from contaminated and uncertain water supply.

MEGA-WILDFIRES



Air pollution skyrockets after a major wildfire event. Increased levels of particulate matter, smoke, chemicals and toxins exacerbate asthma/respiratory problems.



Wildfires take lives and destroy structures, including homes and places of work. Displacement creates stress - financial, mental, and physical.

LAND-BASED CULTURES & COMMUNITIES



Sacred water sites are being devastated by climate change, which can lead to loss of identity and negative impacts on mental health.



Displacement robs land-based cultures of their traditional subsistence methods, leading to reliance on government-subsidized foods high in sugar and fat, increasing rates of diabetes.

DROUGHT



Less surface water means an increased reliance on groundwater. Low-income communities are often forced to choose between clean water and other life essentials.



Dust from dry land is blown far and wide, spreading valley fever, diminishing air quality, and shutting down public transit. This disproportionately affects low-income communities.

HEAT



Rising water temperatures lead to an increase in toxic algal blooms which put species at risk of extinction and impacts the health of human water supply.



Urban heat islands increase risks of dehydration, heart attacks, and heat strokes for urban dwellers, with some of the most direct impacts on low-income communities.

