### ECACEP Scenario – Surface Tension

**Planning Factor: Governance**

**Force/ Driver** | **Scenario Assumptions (developed by workshop participants)** | **Forces/drivers /outcomes from Consolidated Report that could support this scenario (developed by workshop participants)** | **Supportive Information from Topic and Focus papers**
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Regional planning | • Shared governance at all levels  
• Environment is protected through government regulation, creating a more stable future for the environment  
• Water licenses lead to corporate market order  
• Zoning of the two types of agriculture (small diverse farms and large corporate farms)  
• Public environment benchmarks and regulations (updated with new technology)  
• Too much control impacts economic viability?? | • Province shares responsibilities and provides more resources to local government so they can play a role in more complex programs and initiatives (land use, resource extraction, etc.)  
• Government regulated costs (such as fuel, housing, food, etc.) that control the location for industry and population  
• Increased revenue sharing from higher government to local government  
• More information and direction is provided to local government  
• More citizens are engaged/included in the political process  
• Shared governance is used to manage competing interests  
• Government regulation seen as stifling economic creativity and freedom  
• There is tension between local communities/government and global markets  
• Land use choices focus on long-term sustainability and reclamation  
• Government policy encourages economic diversification in rural areas  
• Government supports local economic initiatives  
• Government becomes more proactive on environment, not just reactive to issues  
• Regional governance becomes an alternative  
• Decision-makers are unable to make unpopular decisions until crisis occurs  
• Reaching decisions becomes impossible, leading to deadlock  
• Special interests hi-jack the governance process leading to either reduced environmental sustainability or to reduced economic sustainability | • Trends are towards more decentralized and participatory styles of governance  
• Examples – Water for Life and Land-use frameworks

Maintaining local control | • Local government and the desires of the local people versus global markets versus global markets | • Role of international and venture capital – and its impacts on local communities is harder to control  
• Citizens demand transparency and collaboration in government decisions (involvement in decision-making and not just consultation)  
• More citizen activism | |

Generational change | • | • A new generation comes into power  
• Next generation is more educated, environmentally conscious; more globally connected; more responsive and quick to implement change  
• More exciting elections and a mobilized electorate  
• More citizen activism leads to more accountability and more consultation prior to decisions | |