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I would like to share some thoughts with you from the standpoint of someone who works in the development of citizenship capacities for population through education, both formal and non-formal in Mexico.

Participation of citizens in solving their own community issues is somehow new in Mexico. For so many years people have been accustomed to leaving the community decision making to the government and wait until their conditions are fixed.

That started to change pretty recently and the democracy has been evolving and getting more strength, involving not just the election of government authorities, but the participation in different platforms and structures to give voice to people's needs.

This has been a huge step for the democracy in the country however, as the expert in participation Roger Hart explains, there are different steps in a ladder of participation, and the very highest step is a community that identifies the issues they face and they organize and mobilize to change it, but also they include different stakeholders and sources of knowledge, leverage and resources to make the best decisions possible.

I truly believe that the CSU Center is an extremely useful resource for the community to face the issue of water and to solve it in a sustainable and organized way. I think the community and the organizations involved could include the CSU center as part of the solution instead of part of the problem.

Unfortunately the scarcity of water is an increasing problem not just in Todos Santos however, Todos Santos does have an extraordinary opportunity to work together and find solutions not just for water, but for the coexistence and the well-being of everybody.

If we don't start solving the problems of scarcity of water with new eyes involving research, science, practices, and also common good, generosity and care, letting the new generations with knowledge, skills and attitudes to organize, to sum and to think creatively on solutions for the common good; in other words, if we don't team up and partner with each other, we are only reproducing in this beautiful place what we already are pretty good at in other parts of the world: teaching children and the communities how to get things by fighting, corrupting, increasing the division among each other.

Todos Santos is the greatest opportunity of our time, with incredible resources other than water (commitment, care, dignity, knowledge, people, etc.) to teach a community and the next generations how to destroy themselves and everything around them or, to provide a reference model on how universities, activists, neighbors, communities, business, governments and every stakeholder can hold a common intention and work together for the benefit of all.