Interactive comment on “Brief communication “Likelihood of societal preparedness for global change”” by R. M. Vogel et al.

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The authors are indebted to the anonymous reviewer for raising numerous important issues which will improve our final manuscript. The following revisions will be made in response to those comments:

1. The reviewer points out the tremendous challenge in distinguishing autocorrelation from trends in hydrologic series, especially given that different types of hydrologic processes exhibit very different types of trends and autocorrelation structures. This point will be elaborated upon in several places in the revised manuscript to highlight the tremendous significance of this issue. The paper by Cohn and Lins (2005) already cited in the paper, addresses these issues directly and will be cited more heavily and
explicitly throughout the manuscript to drive these points home. In particular, the degra-
dation in the power of hypothesis tests resulting from the presence of autocorrelation
will be highlighted.

2. Similar to Reviewer 1 (Salvatore Grimaldi), Reviewer 2 also suggests elaboration
of new methods which would lead to improvements in our ability to detect, predict and
attribute trends. As suggested by reviewer 2, Kropp and Schellnhuber (2011) provide
a great deal of information relating to new methods for detection of nonstationarities in
hydrologic extreme value series in the presence of change points, autocorrelation and
other stochastic annoyances. Our revised manuscript will include a summary of those
developments. We are indebted to the reviewer for pointing out the important work
of Kropp and Schellnhuber (2011), a reference which will surely improve our revised
manuscript.

Reference to be added to revised manuscript:

Kropp, J. and H. Schellnhuber, In Extremis: Disruptive Events and Trends in Climate

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