

University of Colorado Law School

## Colorado Law Scholarly Commons

---

Innovations in Managing Western Water: New Approaches for Balancing Environmental, Social and Economic Outcomes (Martz Summer Conference, June 11-12)

---

2015

6-11-2015

### SLIDES: Water Planning in California: Past, Present, Future

Ellen Hanak

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholar.law.colorado.edu/innovations-in-managing-western-water>



Part of the Administrative Law Commons, Agriculture Law Commons, Aquaculture and Fisheries Commons, Environmental Law Commons, Environmental Policy Commons, Government Contracts Commons, Hydrology Commons, Natural Resources and Conservation Commons, Natural Resources Law Commons, Natural Resources Management and Policy Commons, Public Policy Commons, State and Local Government Law Commons, Technology and Innovation Commons, Urban Studies and Planning Commons, Water Law Commons, and the Water Resource Management Commons

---

#### Citation Information

Hanak, Ellen, "SLIDES: Water Planning in California: Past, Present, Future" (2015). *Innovations in Managing Western Water: New Approaches for Balancing Environmental, Social and Economic Outcomes (Martz Summer Conference, June 11-12)*.

<https://scholar.law.colorado.edu/innovations-in-managing-western-water/2>

Reproduced with permission of the Getches-Wilkinson Center for Natural Resources, Energy, and the Environment (formerly the Natural Resources Law Center) at the University of Colorado Law School.

# Water Planning in California: Past, Present, Future

Ellen Hanak, Senior Fellow  
and Center Director

---

June 11, 2015

2015 Martz Summer Conference – Univ. of Colorado Law School  
Boulder, June 11-12, 2015



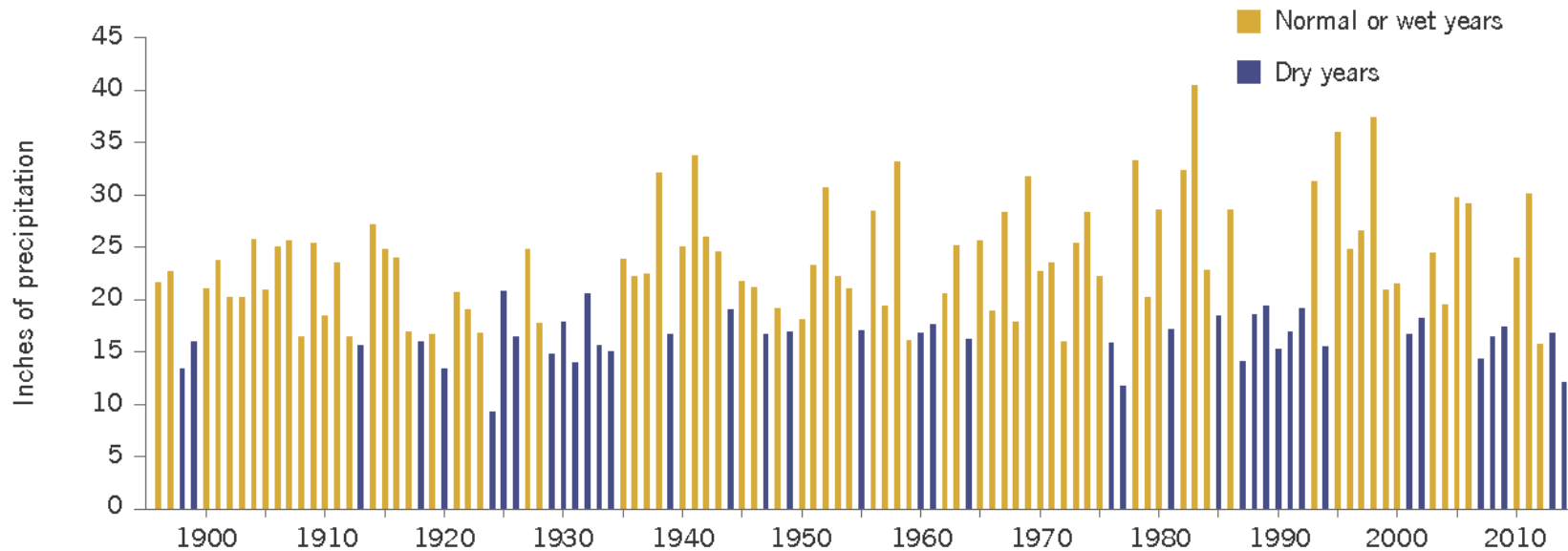
**PPIC**

PUBLIC POLICY  
INSTITUTE OF CALIFORNIA

PPIC WATER POLICY CENTER

# California's variable climate requires us to prepare for droughts and floods

Average annual precipitation

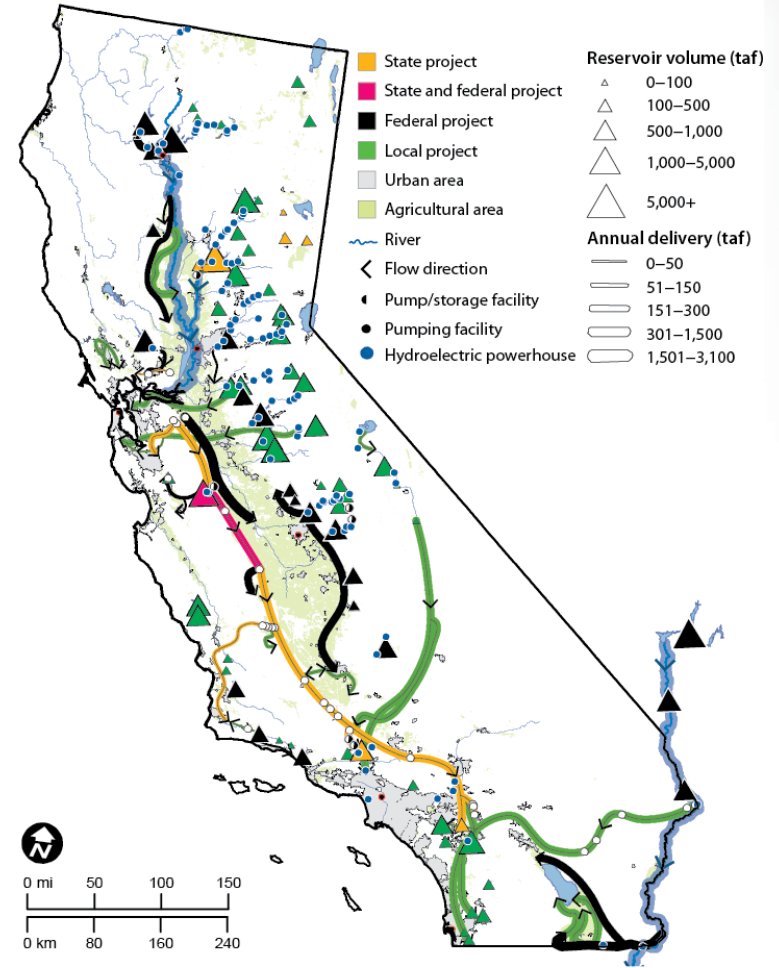
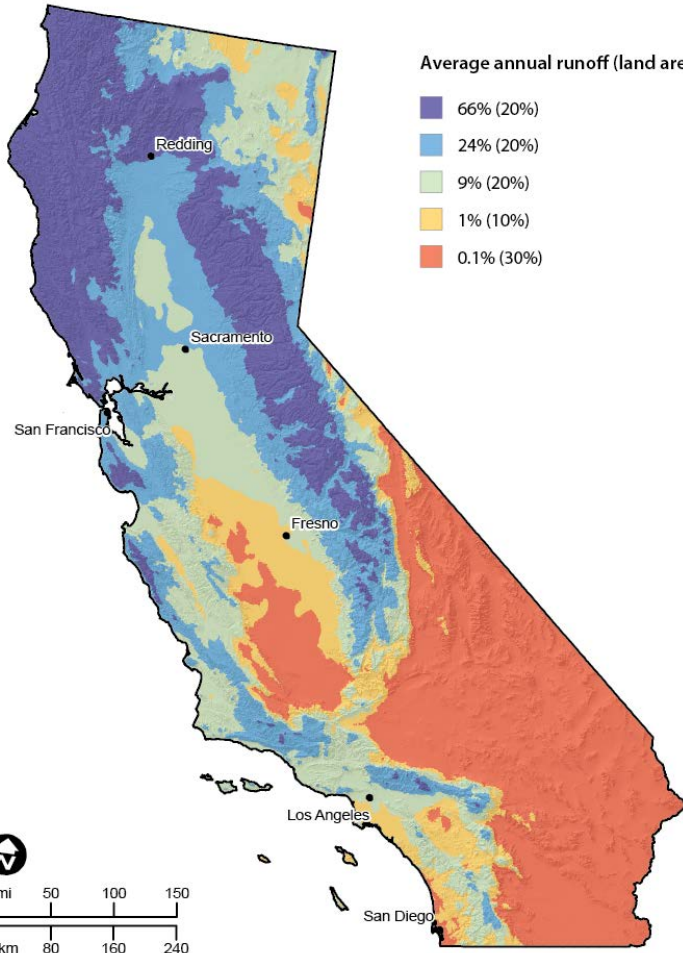


SOURCE: Western Regional Climate Center

# The Past: A long history of statewide planning, focused on strategic state infrastructure

- 1930 State Water Plan – basis for the Central Valley Project
- 1959 California Water Plan (Bulletin 160) – basis for State Water Project
- Subsequent Bulletin 160 Updates had similar orientation: 1966, 1970, 1974, 1983, 1987, 1994, 1998
- Technical process, little public input
- In later years, behind the curve of new reality on the ground

# 20<sup>th</sup> century planning legacy: A highly engineered water system

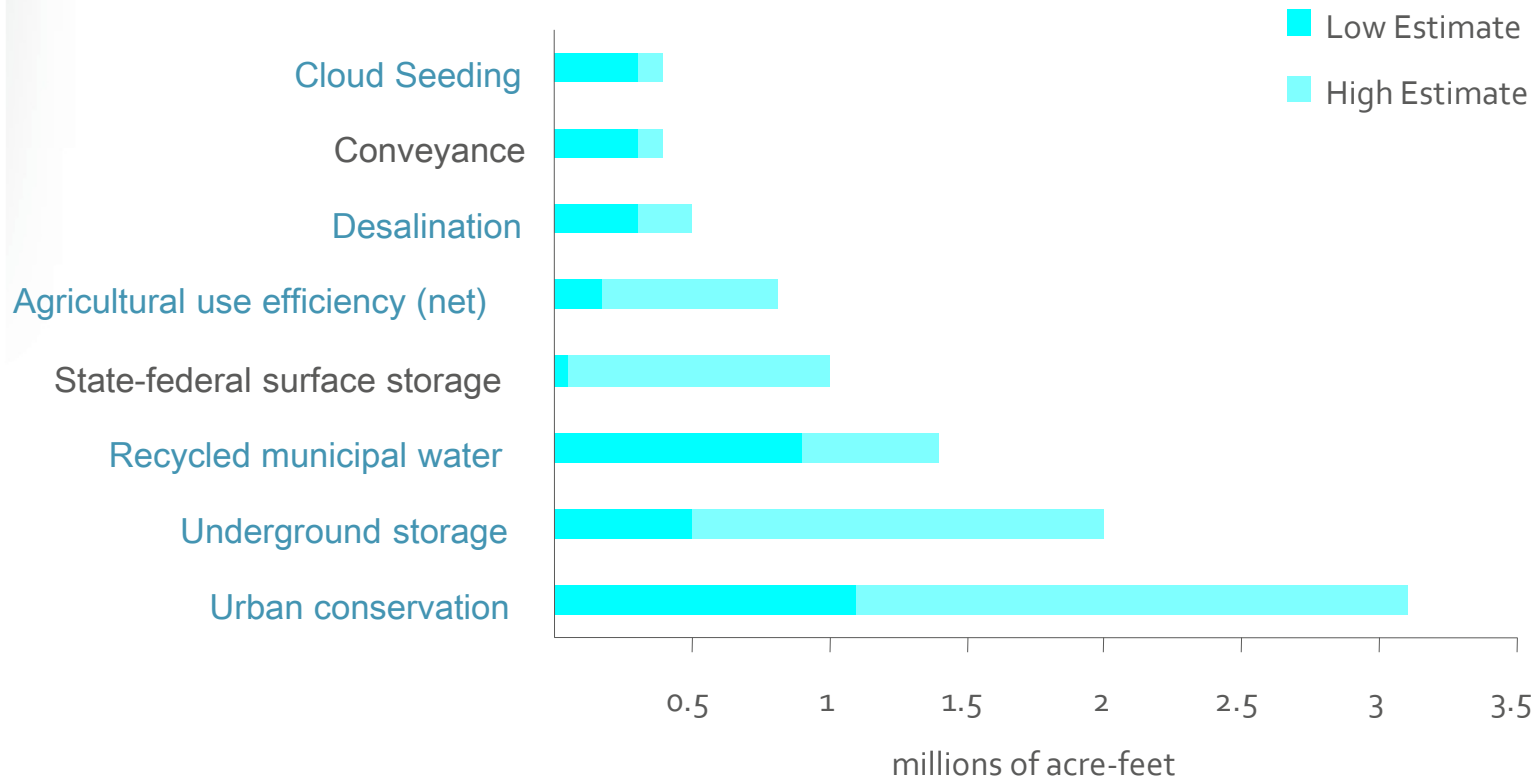


# The Present (1): Statewide planning is now both stronger and weaker

- 2005, 2009, 2013 Bulletin 160s have adapted to new realities:
  - Focus since 2005 on broadening portfolio of options (non-traditional supplies, demand management)
  - Focus since 2009 on regional integrated management
  - Strong public advisory component, extensive consultation
  - **But** no strategic focus for state policy
  - And no integrated technical analysis of options

# In recent state water plans, nontraditional sources dominate portfolio

Potential increases in annual supplies, 2000-2030



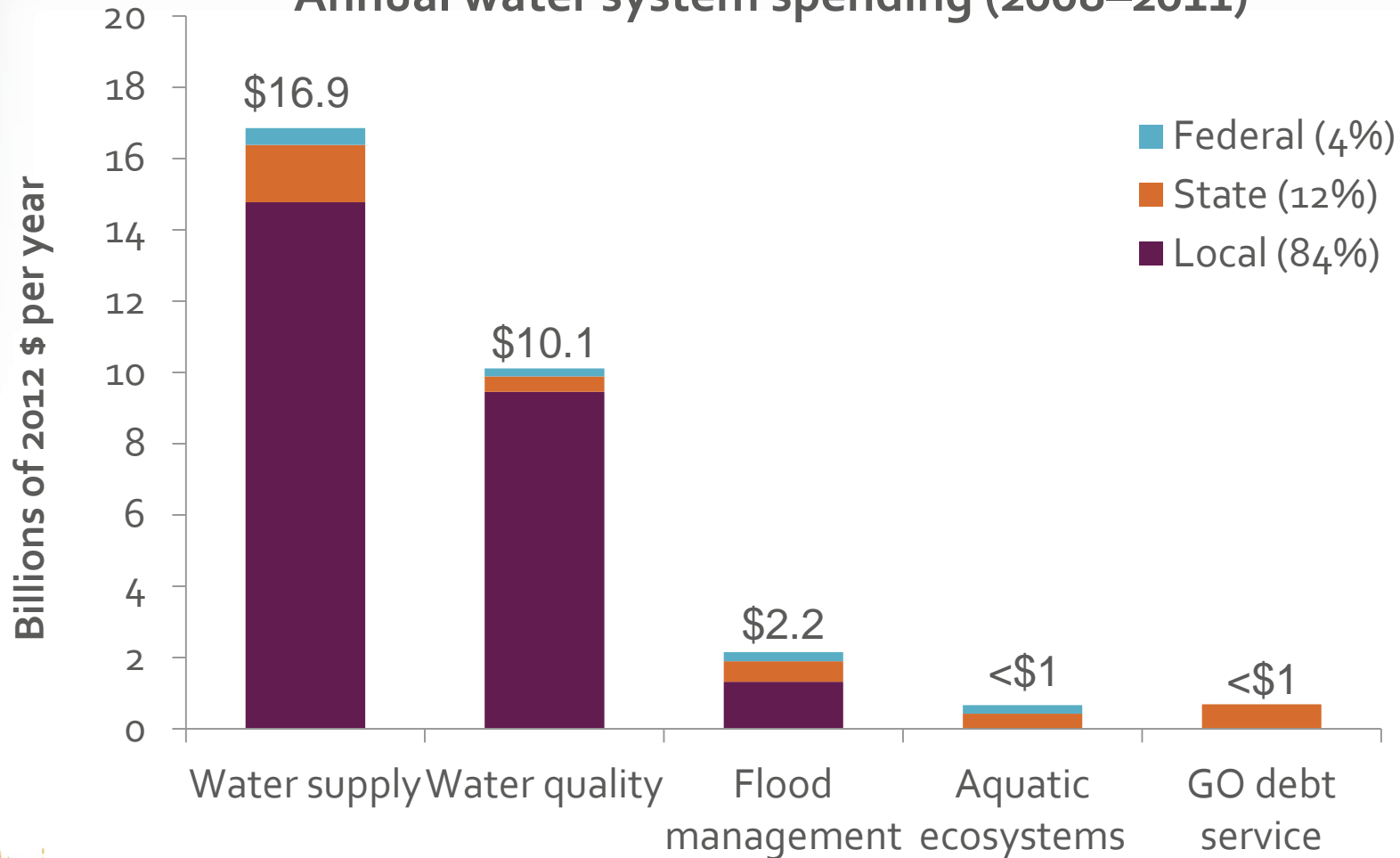
# The Present (2): State's key role is nudging local/regional action

- Most water sector investments now local, regional
- State has played a very useful role by:
  - Requiring local planning (with citizen enforcement)
    - Regular water planning (progressively strengthened since early 1980s)
    - Connection between water supply and land use (effective since 2001 legislation)
  - Tying state grants to desired behavior (the carrot approach)
    - Urban water planning
    - Collaborative groundwater planning
    - Integrated water management



# Local agencies raise most of the \$30+ billion spent annually on water

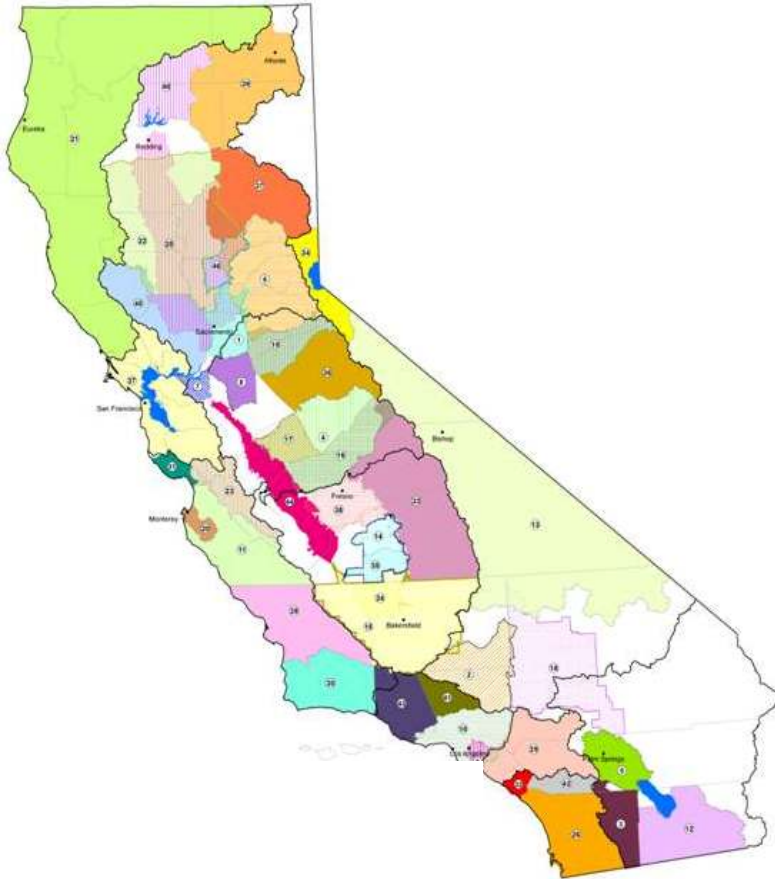
## Annual water system spending (2008–2011)



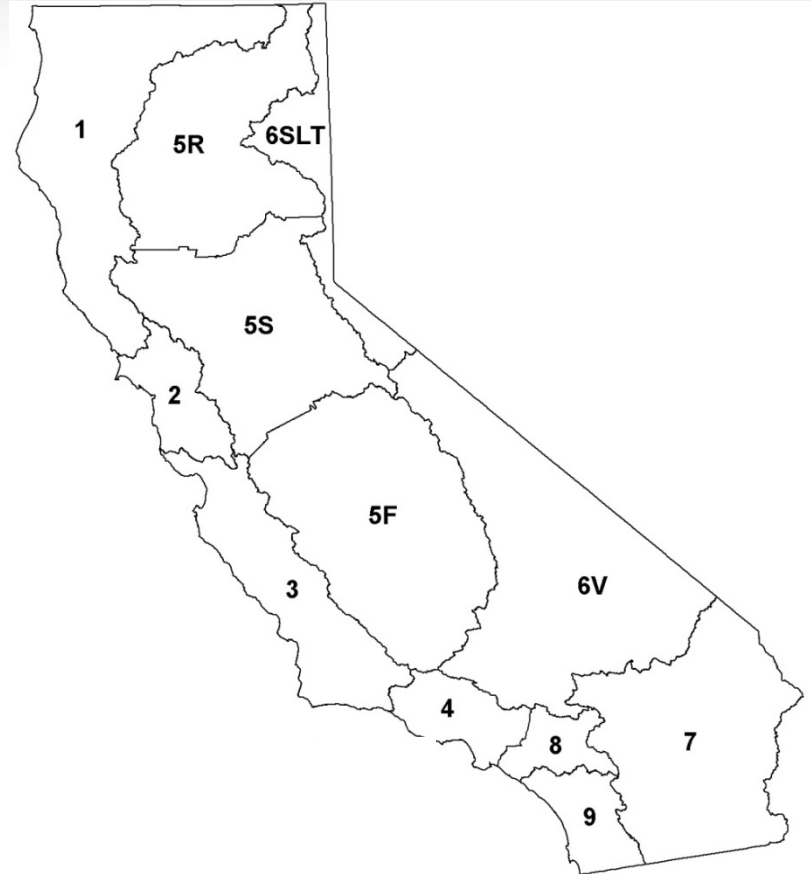
# The Future: What's still missing

- Set strategic state priorities
  - Brown administration's *Water Action Plan* a good start
- Build a more complete, transparent water information system
  - Fill data gaps and organize it; make models transparent
- Conduct transparent, integrated state-level analysis of options for strategic investments
  - Esp. for storage, conveyance
- Promote real integrated regional planning
  - Water supply, quality, floods, ecosystems, land use

# Our pipedream: Integrate actions within large watersheds



 Current integrated regional water management areas

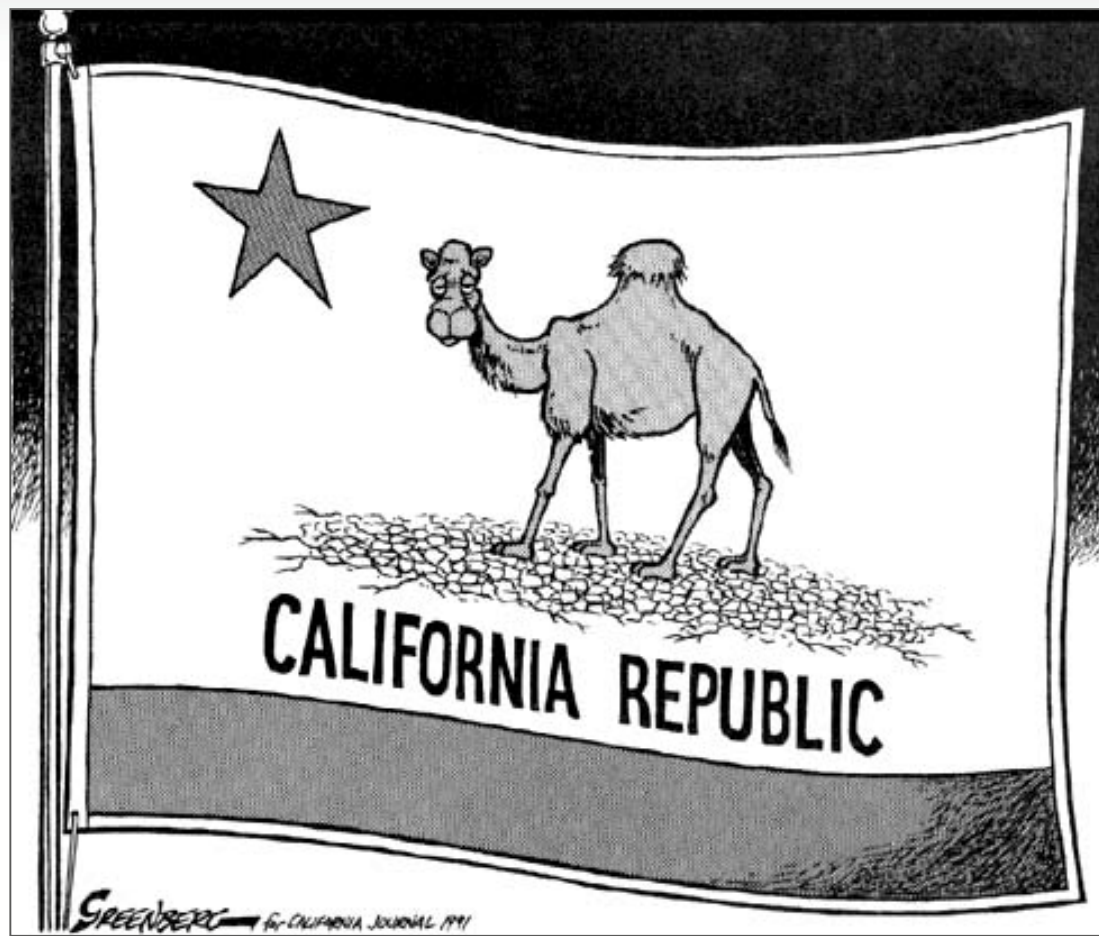


Proposed regional stewardship authorities

## More information:

- Hanak (2007) Finding Water for Growth: New Sources, New Tools, New Challenges. *J. of Am. Water Res. Assn.* (43, 4)
- Hanak (2010) Show Me the Water Plan: Urban Water Management Plans and California's Water Supply Adequacy Laws. *Golden Gate Univ. Env. Law J.* (4)
- Hanak et al. (2011) *Managing California's Water: From Conflict to Reconciliation*. Public Policy Inst. of CA
- Thompson (2012) A Federal Act to Promote Integrated Water Management: Is the CZMA a Useful Model? *Environmental Law* (42)

# Thank you!



*California Journal, 1991*

# Notes on the use of these slides

These slides were created to accompany a presentation. They do not include full documentation of sources, data samples, methods, and interpretations. To avoid misinterpretations, please contact:

Ellen Hanak: 415-291-4433, [hanak@ppic.org](mailto:hanak@ppic.org)

Thank you for your interest in this work.