

EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY
Joint Exercise of Powers
Board of Directors Meeting

AGENDA

Wednesday, June 14, 2017

9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

San Joaquin County – Robert J. Cabral Agricultural Center
2101 E. Earhart Avenue – Assembly Room #1, Stockton, California

I. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance & Safety Announcement/Roll Call

II. SCHEDULED ITEMS

A. Introductions

B. Oath of Office – Ken Vogel

C. Election of Officers

D. SGMA Overview

E. Discussion/Action Items:

1. Discussion and Possible Action Authorizing Staff to Submit Required Paperwork Pertaining to Creation of Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement to the Office of the California Secretary of State (See Attached)
2. Discussion and Possible Action Adopting Bylaws for the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (See Attached)
3. Discussion and Possible Action Authorizing Staff to Submit Invoices of \$5,000 per the Authority's Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement
4. Discussion and Possible Action Authorizing Staff to Submit Written Comments in Response to the Department of Water Resources Draft Proposal Solicitation Package for Groundwater Sustainability Plans and Projects (See Attached)
5. Discussion and Possible Action Adopting Mission Statement of Authority (Attached)

F. Informational Items:

1. Authority Budget Considerations
2. Website and Branding of the Authority
3. June 1, 2017, desertsun.com, "California Bill Requiring Well-Drilling Information Sparks Debate: 'Who Could Be Against Transparency?'" (See Attached)
4. June 6, 2017, turlockjournal.com, "Gray's Bill Looks to Provide Fair Water Rights" (See Attached)

(Continued on Page 2)

EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY
Joint Exercise of Powers
Board of Directors Meeting
AGENDA
(Continued)

F. Informational Items (continued):

5. June 7, 2017, Department of Water Resources Email “Public Meetings for Draft Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) for Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) and Projects” (See Attached)
6. June 7, 2017, WaterPolls.org with Mitch Tobin, “Public Support for Water Investment Depends How You Ask the Question” (See Attached)
7. June 8, 2017, newsdeeply.com by Maurice Hall, “The Hidden Opportunity for Water Storage in California” (See Attached)

III. Public Comment

IV. Directors Comments

V. Future Agenda Items

VI. Adjournment

Next Regular Meeting

July 12, 2017

San Joaquin County - Robert J. Cabral Agricultural Center
2101 E. Earhart Ave., Assembly Rm. #1, Stockton, California

Action may be taken on any item

Agendas and Minutes may also be found at <http://www.gbawater.org>

Note: If you need disability-related modification or accommodation in order to participate in this meeting, please contact San Joaquin County Public Works Water Resources Staff at (209) 468-3089 at least 48 hours prior to the start of the meeting.

ATTACHMENT II
E.1.



State of California Secretary of State

FILE NO. _____

NOTICE OF A JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT (Government Code section 6503.5)

Instructions:

- 1. Complete and mail to: Secretary of State, P.O. Box 942870, Sacramento, CA 94277-2870.
2. Include filing fee of \$1.00.
3. Do not include attachments, unless otherwise specified.
4. A copy of the full text of the joint powers agreement and amendments, if any, must be submitted to the State Controller's office. For address information, contact the State Controller's office at www.sco.ca.gov.

(Office Use Only)

Name of the agency or entity created under the agreement and responsible for the administration of the agreement:

Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority

Agency's or Entity's Mailing Address: San Joaquin County Department of Public Works, 1810 E. Hazelton Avenue, Stockton, CA 95205

Title of the agreement: Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement Establishing the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority

The public agencies party to the agreement are (if more space is needed, continue on a separate sheet and attach it to this form):

(1) See attached

(2)

(3)

Effective date of the agreement: February 8, 2017

Provide a condensed statement of the agreement's purpose or the powers to be exercised: Provide for coordination to develop and implement a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) in accordance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

RETURN ACKNOWLEDGMENT TO: (Type or Print)

NAME [Kris Balaji]
ADDRESS 1810 E. Hazelton Avenue
Stockton, CA 95205
CITY/STATE/ZIP []

June 14, 2017

Date

Signature

, Chair
Typed Name and Title

EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement

June 14, 2017

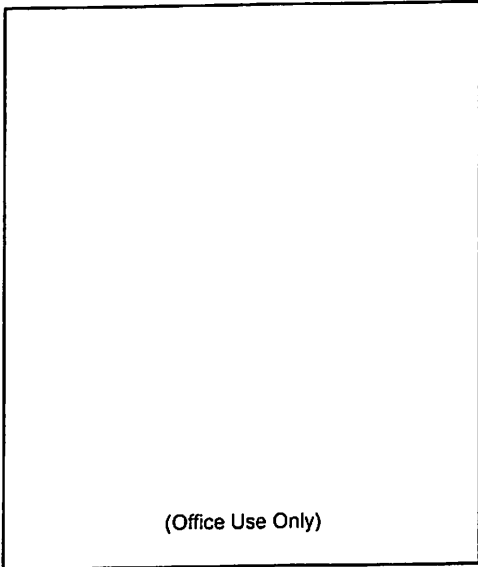
Public Agencies Party to the Agreement:

1. Calaveras County Water District
2. Central Delta Water Agency
3. Central San Joaquin Water Conservation District
4. City of Lathrop
5. City of Lodi
6. City of Manteca
7. City of Stockton (pending)
8. Linden County Water District
9. Lockeford Community Services District
10. North San Joaquin Water Conservation District
11. Oakdale Irrigation District
12. San Joaquin County
13. South Delta Water Agency
14. South San Joaquin Irrigation District
15. Stockton East Water District
16. Woodbridge Irrigation District



State of California Secretary of State

STATEMENT OF FACTS ROSTER OF PUBLIC AGENCIES FILING (Government Code section 53051)



(Office Use Only)

Instructions:

- 1. Complete and mail to: Secretary of State, P.O. Box 942870, Sacramento, CA 94277-2870 (916) 653-3984
2. A street address must be given as the official mailing address or as the address of the presiding officer.
3. Complete addresses as required.
4. If you need additional space, attach information on an 8 1/2" X 11" page, one sided and legible.

New Filing [X] Update []

Legal name of Public Agency: Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority

Nature of Update:

County: San Joaquin

Official Mailing Address: San Joaquin County Department of Public Works 1810 E. Hazelton Avenue, Stockton, CA 95205

Name and Address of each member of the governing board:

Chairman, President or other Presiding Officer (Indicate Title):

Name: Address:

Secretary or Clerk (Indicate Title):

Name: Address:

Members:

Name: Address:

Name: Address:

Name: Address:

Name: Address:

Name: Address:

RETURN ACKNOWLEDGMENT TO: (Type or Print)

June 14, 2017

Date

NAME [Kris Balaji]
ADDRESS 1810 E. Hazelton Avenue
Stockton, CA 95205

Signature

CITY/STATE/ZIP []

, Chair
Typed Name and Title

ATTACHMENT II
E.2.

**EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN
GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY
BYLAWS**

**BYLAWS
OF
EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY**

**ARTICLE I
NAME**

This joint powers agency shall be known as the EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY (“Authority”) and shall exercise its powers within the geographical area of the Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin as set forth in the joint powers agreement entered into by Calaveras County Water District, Central Delta Water Agency, Central San Joaquin Water Conservation District, City of Lathrop, City of Lodi, City of Manteca, City of Stockton, Linden County Water District, Lockeford Community Services District, North San Joaquin Water Conservation District, Oakdale Irrigation District, San Joaquin County, South Delta Water Agency, South San Joaquin Irrigation District, Stockton East Water District, and Woodbridge Irrigation District (“Party” or collectively “Parties”) establishing Authority.

**ARTICLE II
PURPOSE**

The purposes of Authority as set forth in the joint powers agreement are for the following reasons:

- A. Provide for coordination among the Members to develop and implement a GSP and/or facilitate a coordination agreement, to the extent necessary;
- B. Provide for the joint exercise of powers common to each of the Members and powers granted to SGMA (subject to the restrictions contained in the joint powers agreement);
- C. Cooperatively carry out the purposes of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA);
- D. Develop, adopt and implement a legally sufficient Ground Water Sustainability Plan covering those portions of the Basin that are within the jurisdictional boundaries of the Members, subject to the limitations set forth in the joint powers agreement; and
- E. Satisfy the requirements of SGMA for coordination among Groundwater Sustainability Agencies.
- F. Allocation of Resources. The Members share common mission and issues, and at the same time, have different needs and priorities and are affected in different ways by these issues. The resources of Authority should be allocated in a manner so that the needs of any portion of the area are not ignored, recognizing, however, that resources are limited and that not all needs can be met, nor all portions of the area assisted equally at any one time.

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Board. Authority shall be governed by a Board of Directors, herein referred to as the Authority Board, which shall be comprised of:

A. One (1) member appointed from each of the Member's. Members of the Board of Directors are not required to be members of the governing board of the appointing Member; however, it is the strong preference that members of the Board of Directors be members of the governing board of the appointing member.

B. In the event multiple Members establish a single Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) pursuant to a separate agreement, the GSA so established will thereafter have one representative on the Board of Directors and the vote of the GSA member will be exercised in accordance with the separate agreement.

Section 2. Appointment. Members shall be appointed by the governing body of each Party and shall serve at the pleasure of their appointing body or until their respective successors are appointed. If a Member of the Board of Directors is a member of the governing body of the appointing member, termination of that member's mayor, councilperson, supervisor, director or trustee status shall constitute automatic termination of that person's membership on the Authority Board. The appointing body of a Party may appoint a new member or alternate immediately upon any vacancy in the Party's representation.

Section 3. Alternates. The governing body of each Party shall appoint an alternate member to the Authority Board. The alternate need not be a member of the governing board of the appointing member. During the absence of a regular member from any meeting of the Authority Board, the alternate shall be entitled to participate in all respects as a regular member of the Authority Board.

ARTICLE IV OFFICERS

Section 1. Elected Officers.

The elected officers shall be chosen by the Board from the members of the Board and shall consist of a Chair and a Vice-Chair.

Section 2. Terms of Elected Officers.

Elected officers of the Board shall be elected by the Board at the June meeting and shall serve for **one (1) year**, said term to commence upon election.

Section 3. Duties of Elected Officers.

A. Chair.

1. The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the Board and such other meetings approved by the Board.
2. The Chair shall serve as official spokesperson for the Board.
3. The Chair shall appoint such committees and other working groups as prescribed by the Board.
4. The Chair shall designate Directors or others to represent the Board at various meetings, hearings, and conferences.
5. The Chair shall perform such other duties as necessary to carry out the work of the Board.
6. The Chair shall perform such duties as prescribed by law.

B. Vice-Chair.

1. The Vice-Chair shall serve in the absence of the Chair.

C. Absences.

1. In the absence of both the Chair and Vice-Chair, a majority of the Board shall select a Director to serve as Chair Pro Tem.

**ARTICLE V
MEETINGS**

Section 1. Regular and Special Meetings.

A. The Authority Board shall hold a regular meeting on the second Wednesday of each month, at 9:30 a.m., or at a time, specified by the Authority Board. Such regular meetings shall be for considering reports of the affairs of Authority and for transacting such other business as may be properly brought before the meeting. Any regular meeting may be rescheduled on an individual basis as to date, time and place, by motion of the Authority Board or at the direction of the Authority Secretary, in the event of a conflict with holidays, Directors' schedules, or similar matters, or, in the event of a lack of a quorum, as specified below.

B. Special meetings may be called in accordance with the California Ralph M. Brown Act. Special meetings may be called by the Chair, or by any nine Directors.

C. All meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act.

Section 2. Closed Sessions.

A. All information presented in closed session shall be confidential.

B. Under Government Code section 54956.96, Authority adopts a joint powers agency limited disclosure policy as follows:

1. All information received by the legislative body of the local agency member in a closed session related to the information presented to Authority in closed session shall be confidential. However, a member of the legislative body of a member local agency may disclose information obtained in a closed session that has directed financial or liability implications for that local agency to the following individuals:

(a). Legal counsel of that member local agency for purposes of obtaining advice on whether the matter has directed financial or liability implications for that member local agency.

(b). Other members of the legislative body of the local agency present in a closed session of that member local agency.

C. Any designated alternate member of the legislative body of the Authority who is also a member of the legislative body of a local agency member and who is attending a properly noticed meeting of the joint powers agency in lieu of a local agency member's regularly appointed member may attend closed sessions of Authority.

Section 3. Quorum.

A. A quorum for conducting all matters of business shall be a majority of the Members.

Section 4. Voting.

A. Voting shall only be conducted at properly noticed meeting where a quorum has been established and members are physically present, except as provided in Government Code section 54953 for teleconferencing.

B. Voting shall be by voice, show of hands, or roll call vote. Any Director may request a roll call vote.

C. In all cases, a vote to "abstain" shall be counted as an "aye" vote unless there is a majority vote to defeat the motion and then the vote to abstain shall be counted as a "no" vote.

D. Supermajority Vote Requirement for Certain Actions. The following actions will require two-thirds (2/3) vote by the directors present:

1. Approval or modification or amendment of the Authority's annual budget;

2. Decision related to the levying of taxes, assessments or property-

related fees and charges;

3. Decisions related to the expenditure of funds by the Authority beyond expenditures approved in the Authority's annual budget;

4. Adoption of rules, regulations, policies, bylaws and procedures related to the function of the Authority;

5. Decisions related to the establishment of the Members' percentage obligations for payment of the Authority's operating and administrative costs as provided in Article 5.1 of the joint powers agreement;

6. Approval of any contracts over \$250,000 or contracts for terms that exceed two (2) years;

7. Setting the amounts of any contributions or fees to be paid to the Authority by any Member;

8. Decisions regarding the acquisition by any means and the holding, use, sale, letting and disposal of real and personal property of every kind, including lands, water rights, structures, buildings, rights-of-way, easements, and privileges, and the construction, maintenance, alteration and operation of any and all works or improvements, within or outside the Authority, necessary or proper to carry out any of the purposes of the Authority;

9. Decisions related to the limitation or curtailment of groundwater pumping; and

10. Approval of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

Section 5. Notice of Regular and Special Meetings.

A. Notices of regular meetings shall be sent in writing to each Director at the Director's address at least seventy-two (72) hours prior to such meetings. Directors may choose to receive notices of regular meetings electronically and such electronic notices shall also be sent at least seventy-two (72) hours prior to such meetings. Such notices shall specify the place, the day, and the hour of the meeting and accompanying the notice shall be a copy of the agenda for that meeting.

B. In the case of special meetings, the written or electronic notice shall specify the specific nature of the business to be transacted.

Section 6. Lack of Quorum.

A. If less than a quorum of the Directors are present at any properly called regular, adjourned regular, special, or adjourned special meeting, the member(s) who are present may adjourn the meeting to a time and place specified in the order of adjournment. A copy of the order or notice of adjournment shall be conspicuously posted on or near the door of the place where the meeting was to have been held within 24 hours after adjournment.

B. If all the members are absent from any regular or adjourned regular meeting, the Administrator of the Authority may so adjourn the meeting and post the order or notice of adjournment as provided, and additionally shall cause a written notice of the adjournment to be given in the same manner as for a notice of a special meeting.

C. If the notice or order of adjournment fails to state the hour at which the adjourned meeting is to be held, it shall be held at the hour specified for the regular meeting of Authority.

Section 7. Agenda.

Any Director or the Administrator may cause an item to be placed on the agenda.

Section 8. Adjournment.

Except as provided in Section 6 above, a meeting may be adjourned by the presiding officer's own action; however, any Director may object to such adjournment by the presiding officer and then a motion and action is required in order to adjourn the meeting in accordance with Rosenberg's Rules of Order.

Section 9. Decorum.

All Directors, and staff, shall conduct themselves in accordance with Rosenberg's Rules of Order and in a civil and polite manner toward other board members, employees, and the public. Using derogatory names, interrupting the speaker having the floor, or being disorderly or disruptive, are prohibited actions. If any meeting is willfully interrupted by any individual so as to render the orderly conduct of that meeting infeasible, that individual may be removed from the meeting. If any group or groups of persons willfully interrupts a meeting so as to render the orderly conduct of that meeting infeasible, the presiding officer, or a majority of the Board, may clear the meeting room in accordance with Government Code section 54957.9.

ARTICLE VI COMMITTEES

Section 1. Advisory Committee.

A. The Board may establish an Advisory Committee which contains no more than 8 representatives from the Board of the Authority. The Advisory Committee shall consist of twenty-three (23) total members.

B. The members of the Advisory Committee shall elect one (1) of their members to serve as Chairperson.

C. A majority of the Advisory Committee members attending a meeting of the Committee, given notice in writing not less than 72 hours in advance, shall constitute a quorum for discussion and action delegated to the Committee.

D. The Advisory Committee shall conduct the preliminary review of all Federal and State mandates. In conducting such reviews, the Advisory Committee will draw upon the expertise and assistance of any persons, committees, groups, or agencies it deems appropriate.

E. The Advisory Committee shall ensure maximum inter-agency coordination and consistence with adopted comprehensive plans.

F. The Advisory Committee shall carry out any duties as assigned by the Authority Board.

Section 2. Other Committees.

The Authority Board may appoint other committees as necessary. The Chair may appoint ad hoc committees.

**ARTICLE VII
REFERRALS**

The San Joaquin County may accept by letter or resolution referrals for study and report from any duly constituted advisory or legislative body or their representatives. Reports will be made and returned to the referring body within a reasonable time.

**ARTICLE VIII
PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY**

Rosenberg's Rules of Order, current edition or such other authority as may be subsequently adopted by resolution of the Board is to apply to all questions of procedure and parliamentary law not specified in these Bylaws or otherwise by law.

**ARTICLE IX
AMENDMENTS**

The Bylaws may be repealed or amended, or new Bylaws may be proposed, by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Board on a resolution presented at any regular meeting of the Board, provided notice of such proposal shall have been mailed to each Director at least five (5) calendar days prior to the meeting at which the matter is to be acted upon.

ATTACHMENT II
E.4.

Via email to: Heather Shannon, DWR_IRWM@water.ca.gov

The Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority is grateful for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Proposal Solicitation Package for Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) and Projects. The following comments reflect the Authority's collective commitment to proactively engage the Department of Water Resources in the implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).

Section III, A – “an applicant with jurisdiction over multiple basins must submit one consolidated application and may request up to \$500,000 for the additional basins”.

Comment: SGMA requires sustainability at the subbasin level recognizing that each subbasin may have distinct issues. Given that in most cases, Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) at the subbasin level have gone thru a separate process and with a separate set of stakeholders. Requiring subbasins to further coordinate for grant administration purposes is viewed as a penalty rather than an attempt at efficiency. This requirement potentially limits the total funding available for a subbasin which could impact the quality and effectiveness of a GSP. The Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin is designated as critically overdrafted and surrounded by a mix of high and medium priority basins. The timing of the GSP adoption thus varies by two-years. It has not yet been decided who would be the applicant in the Tracy or Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin. The requirement for consolidating an application for multiple basins should be eliminated.

Page 17 – “Final product for Category 2 Projects shall be complete GSP(s) approved by DWR that complies with all GSP Regulations for the respective applicants' basin”.

Comment: Per the GSP Regulations, DWR has two years to review the GSP before determining adequacy, completeness, and approval. With the lengthy review process, the PSP should be revised to reflect a more suitable criteria for the final deliverable.

Page 14,15 – DWR has expanded the Eligibility Documentation requirements to include all members of a JPA.

Comment: The Authority was formed specifically for SGMA purposes and is a separate local public agency. While individually the Authority members may supply urban or agricultural water, act as a purveyor, hold surface or groundwater rights, provide water management, or own or operate water facilities; however, the Authority itself does not. DWR's requirement that the eligibility of the Authority be based on individual agency compliance with groundwater management plans and urban water management plans, is excessive and inconsistent with Proposition 1 statutory requirements.

Category 2, Phase 1 Grant Application filing date.

Comment: The timeframe for local agencies to bring on consultants, establish the work plan and complete the application is very short. It allows only two to three weeks to prepare all the documents and obtain stakeholder input and buy in. The Authority recommends the filing deadline be changed from October to November to allow time for the Authority adequate time to deliberate and develop a competitive, comprehensive, and affordable work plan and scope of work for the GSP.

ATTACHMENT II
E.5.

Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority

Mission Statement 2017

The mission of the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority is to develop a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) in compliance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) for the Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin. The Authority will strive to reach consensus on its decisions and actions.

The Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority shall develop the GSP with the following Community Values as follows:

- Achievable: The GSP shall be achievable in the timeframe prescribed by SGMA and as adopted by the Authority.
- Securable: The GSP shall strengthen the security of surface water and groundwater rights of the Authority's members and their constituents.
- Affordable: The GSP shall be developed affordably without exceeding the ability to pay of the Authority or its members.
- Viable: The GSP shall provide for the long-term cultural, economic, environmental, and social viability of the Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin.
- Equitable: Costs of the GSP shall be apportioned equitably to the Authority's members and their constituents.

ATTACHMENT II
F.3-7.

California bill requiring well-drilling information sparks debate: 'Who could be against transparency?'

Ian James, The Desert Sun Published 9:46 a.m. PT June 1, 2017 | Updated 7:51 p.m. PT June 1, 2017



(Photo: Ian James/The Desert Sun)

California farmers have long been able to get permits to drill new wells in areas where groundwater levels are falling without publicly saying how much water they intend to pump. That would change under a bill approved this week by the California Senate.

The legislation would require those drilling new wells in groundwater basins that are in "critical overdraft" to notify neighbors they're applying for a well-drilling permit and provide information about the proposed well to the local agency in charge of approving the permit.

"For so long, water wells have just been able to be drilled with little or no information. And this is why we have the problems in our groundwater basins today," Sen. Bill Dodd, a Napa Democrat who introduced the bill.

Dodd said the legislation's purpose is to bring transparency to the well-drilling permit system and let neighbors know before a new well is drilled.

He pointed to the many household wells that went dry in the San Joaquin Valley during the drought, and to areas where the ground is sinking due to overpumping – causing costly damage to canals, roads and other infrastructure.

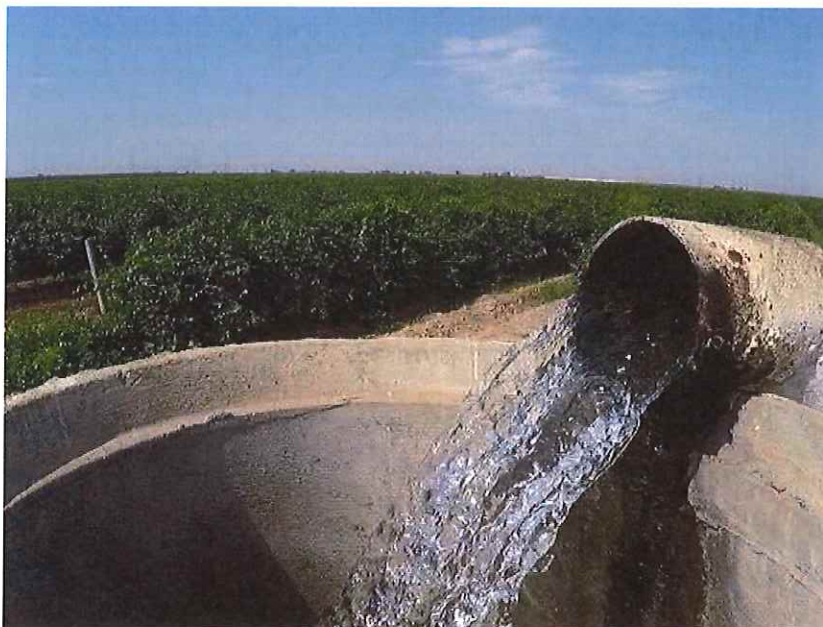
"Doing nothing, it's just simply not sustainable," Dodd said. "Anybody else who has a well right now in one of these critically overdrafted groundwater basins should really want to know what's going on there."

The measure, which was passed by the Senate on Tuesday, focuses on 21 groundwater basins across the state that are classified as being in a state of "critical overdraft," from Kern County to Paso Robles.

A list of influential farm groups have opposed the legislation, which will next go before the state Assembly.

If the bill passes, cities and counties that receive applications for well-drilling permits would be required to make information publicly available about each proposed well, such as the location, depth and pumping capacity. Cities and counties would also have to issue a notice and accept public comments before issuing a permit.

The bill is intended to temporarily step up regulation until local agencies establish plans for combating aquifer overdraft under California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, which was signed by Gov. Jerry Brown in 2014.



Water flows from a well into a standpipe on a farm in Tulare County. (Photo: Steve Elfers/USA TODAY)

Under that law, the 21 groundwater basins with the most severe overdraft problems have until 2020 to adopt 20-year plans for achieving sustainable management – defined as managing aquifers in ways that avoid chronic declines or saltwater intrusion.

Dodd's legislation, Senate Bill 252, would expire once the state approves local groundwater plans in 2020.

"My bill is just an interim step, really, to make sure that we don't continue to overdraft at a higher level than we already are," Dodd said. "It just puts people on notice every time a new agricultural or commercial water well is put in place."

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[&utm_medium=agilityzone&utm_source=bounce-exchange&utm_campaign=agilityzone\)](http://offers.desertsun.com/specialoffer?gps-source=BEAZ{month_abbreviated}&utm_medium=agilityzone&utm_source=bounce-exchange&utm_campaign=agilityzone)

Residential wells would be exempt under the measure. Wells that have gone dry could also be redrilled without any new requirements.

Last year, a bill that would have imposed stricter regulation died in the Legislature. Sen. Lois Wolk introduced that bill, which would have prohibited the drilling of most new wells in "critical overdraft" basins.

READ MORE: [This bill would have banned new wells in parts of California \(/story/news/environment/2016/06/04/bill-would-ban-new-wells-parts-california/85371060/\)](#)

Dodd's new bill would apply in coastal areas such as Oxnard and Soquel Valley, Borrego Valley in the desert, and areas including Madera, Kaweah and Eastern San Joaquin in the Central Valley. It wouldn't apply in other areas deemed high- or medium-priority – such as the Coachella Valley, where state regulators have listed three aquifer sub-basins as being medium-priority.

Groups backing the legislation include The Nature Conservancy, Environmental Defense Fund and the Community Water Center, among others.

"This information is important. It's important because we know that groundwater well-drilling has actually seen a really significant increase over the last few years," said Juliet Christian-Smith, a water expert with the Union of Concerned Scientists. "Who could be against transparency? Unfortunately, the answer is a lot of really powerful people."

The coalition of agriculture groups lobbying against the legislation includes the California Farm Bureau Federation, the Western Growers Association, the Almond Alliance of California and the California Association of Winegrape Growers, among others.

The farm groups said in a statement to lawmakers that the bill would take management decisions "out of the hands of the locals in critically overdrafted basins." They said the legislation would infringe on property rights, impose a burden on applicants for drilling permits and increase the potential for costly adjudications of groundwater basins in the courts.

READ MORE: [California water regulators expand focus on climate change \(/story/news/environment/2017/03/09/california-water-regulators-expand-focus-climate-change/98961566/\)](#)

Other groups opposing the bill in its current form include the League of California Cities, the California State Association of Counties, and the Rural County Representatives of California. They said in an April letter to Sen. Mike McGuire (D-Healdsburg) that SB 252 would place an additional burden on local agencies.

The Association of California Water Agencies, which represents more than 400 public water agencies, also voiced opposition.

in a letter, the association said "there are privacy issues concerning public disclosure or private well information." It urged lawmakers to allow time for the 2014 groundwater law to work properly at the local level.

Dodd argued that it doesn't make sense to wait until 2020.

To make his case for urgent action, he cited a number in a recent [report \(http://www.ppic.org/main/publication.asp?i=1224\)](http://www.ppic.org/main/publication.asp?i=1224) by the Public Policy Institute of California: nearly 2 million acre-feet, or 650 billion gallons. The report said that's been the average overdraft per year in the San Joaquin Valley over the past three decades.

California's five-year drought was the most severe in the state's modern history. Brown declared the end of the drought emergency in most of the state in April after one of the wettest winters on record, which refilled reservoirs and sent water pouring over the tops of dams from Oroville to Shasta Lake.

Groundwater levels, however, have declined to record lows in many parts of California. And efforts to replenish badly depleted aquifers, which have receded over decades through wet and dry spells, will take much longer. Scientists say the state's efforts to manage groundwater will be increasingly important because climate change is projected to lead to diminishing snowpack and more extreme weather swings.

Christian-Smith said it's a problem that thousands of new wells have been drilled in recent years in areas where aquifers are in decline and that permits are continuing to be issued without any public notification for even more wells.

If that trend continues, she said, it will be even harder for communities to bring their aquifers to a sustainable balance by 2040, as required by California's groundwater law.

"It's very important over the next three to five years," she said, "that we don't dig the groundwater hole so deep that there's no way we can get out of it over the 20-year time period."

Ian James writes about water and environmental issues for The Desert Sun. Email: ian.james@desertsun.com Twitter: [@TDSIanJames](https://twitter.com/TDSIanJames) (<https://twitter.com/TDSIanJames>)

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Gray's bill looks to provide fair water rights

Angelina Martin
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209-634-9141 ext. 2003
June 6, 2017

California lawmakers took a step toward restructuring water rights hearings throughout the state last week when Assembly Bill 313, introduced by Assemblyman Adam Gray (D-Merced), overwhelmingly passed the Assembly, moving the bill which aims to fix the state's broken water management structure closer to becoming law.

"Anyone who deals with California water knows the system is broken," said Gray following the vote. "Today's vote sends a clear message that we realize it's time to get to work, starting with restoring the fairness our water rights holders expect and deserve."

According to Gray, state agencies often treat water rights issues unfairly and act with unchecked power. AB 313 proposes to restructure water rights hearings, creating a new Water Rights Division in the Office of Administrative Hearings to handle all water rights matters, removing conflicts of interest and built-in biases in the current system.

"The current system isn't just inadequate – it's imbalanced," said Gray. "This bill begins a critically necessary reform of the state's water management, removing inherent biases and conflicts of interest."

Currently, the State Water Resources Control Board exercises quasi-judicial authority to hold water rights hearings, writing regulations, initiating enforcement actions and conducting hearings in which Board staff act as prosecutors and the SWRCB itself acts as the judge and jury.

"The end result of the current system is like the State Water Board asking the State Water Board if it agrees with itself," said Gray. "There's a reason there are umpires in baseball: we need a neutral party to enforce water rights so everybody gets a fair shot."

Under the bill's newly-formed Water Rights Division, administrative law judges would preside over water rights matters. This would include conducting hearings and making recommendations to the Executive Director of the SWRCB which may then be accepted, rejected or modified, ensuring objectivity while still allowing state water agency experts to give input. This will provide a neutral body for hearings regarding complicated and often controversial issues.

“State agencies aren’t supposed to have unchecked power. They shouldn’t be able to act with impunity and little accountability to the public,” said Gray. “Creating a level playing field, as this bill does, ensures water rights holders receive the same due process and objectivity that our justice system promises everyone – nothing more, nothing less.”

The Turlock Irrigation District works closely with the SWRCB, and TID Director Michael Frantz welcomes the potential reorganization of the Board.

“I think it makes sense for a different body to review and ultimately decide than the initial passing body. I like the aspect of breaking it into two so you have a true appeals process,” said Frantz. “I think it’s always appropriate in government to have a multiple-bodied appeal process.”

AB 313 previously passed through the Assembly policy and fiscal committees without a single “no” vote, and passed the California Assembly with an initial 55-0 vote. The bill will now move to the Senate, where it will be considered in the coming weeks.

<http://www.turlockjournal.com/section/14/article/34506/>

Villalpando, Kelly

From: SGWP <SGWP@WATER.CA.GOV>
Sent: Wednesday, June 07, 2017 11:30 AM
To: DWR_SGWP_INFO@LISTSERV.STATE.CA.GOV
Subject: Public Meetings for Draft Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) for Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) and Projects

Dear Interested Party,

As a reminder, DWR will host three public meetings to discuss the Draft Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) for Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) and Projects.

DWR will post presentation materials by Friday, June 9th to the SGWP Grant Program website at: <http://water.ca.gov/irwm/grants/sgwp/upcomingevents.cfm> for the following upcoming public meetings.

June 12, 2017, 10:00 AM
Bonderson Building
901 P Street, Hearing Room
Sacramento, CA 95814

June 13, 2017, 1:00 PM
Fresno Irrigation District
2907 S. Maple Avenue, Boardroom
Fresno, CA 93725

June 14, 2017, 1:00 PM
Irvine Ranch Water District
15600 Sand Canyon Avenue, Sand Canyon Room
Irvine, CA 92618

The June 12th meeting will be web broadcast via Skype. Join the meeting by clicking the link below and or joining by phone.

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If you have any questions, please e-mail to SGWP@water.ca.gov.

Thank you,



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Sustainable Groundwater Planning Grant Program

901 P Street

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Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

SGWP@water.ca.gov

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Water Polls

Public Support for Water Investment Depends How You Ask the Question

Americans are concerned about their infrastructure, including water, but recent public opinion research has revealed specific concerns and exposed which issues resonate most.

WRITTEN BY
Mitch Tobin

PUBLISHED ON
 Jun. 7, 2017

READ TIME
Approx. 6 minutes



Water bubbles through holes in a street following a water main break, July 2015, in Des Moines, Iowa. Recent polls have found the majority of Americans are not satisfied with their water infrastructure. AP/Charlie Neibergall

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In partnership with Mitch Tobin at WaterPolls.org, we provide insight and analysis about the latest public opinion polls related to water.

7 Things I Learned Studying Public Opinion on Water

May. 1, 2017

Public Opinion Expert Reveals What Americans Think About Water

MANY OF PRESIDENT Donald Trump’s campaign promises have sparked controversy, but one of his proposals – spending \$1 trillion to fix the nation’s decrepit infrastructure – has broad, bipartisan support, according to numerous public opinion surveys.

Water projects are only expected to be a small part of that potential infrastructure spending, but polling data suggests that the public is willing to pay for such improvements – up to a point.

Some of the most detailed looks at public opinion related to water infrastructure were conducted by organizations that have a vested interest in seeing more investment in those water works. A cynic might say it’s like asking a barber if they think you need a haircut, but these surveys were conducted by professional pollsters using accepted methodologies, so I think they provide useful data.

Below are five takeaways from recent research on public opinion related to water infrastructure.

1. **Americans aren’t happy with the state of the nation’s infrastructure.**

A global survey conducted in 2016 by Ipsos sought to “obtain a pulse on satisfaction levels related to roads, rail, air networks, utilities and broadband communications.” In the United States, 63 percent of respondents said they weren’t satisfied with their infrastructure, and they ranked water and sewage systems as their top priorities.

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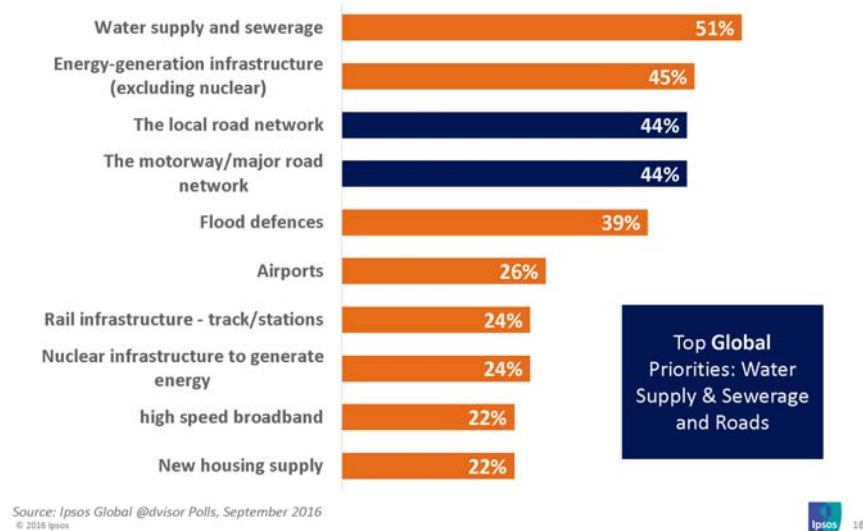
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“Americans prioritize water system, road and energy infrastructure as their preferred focus for development,” Ipsos reported. The poll also found that 76 percent of Americans believe investing in infrastructure is vital to future economic growth and 69 percent think community views on projects should be heard properly, even if it means delays.

A March 2017 Gallup poll also found that both Republicans and Democrats favor infrastructure spending, broadly defined. The graphic below shows that only family leave had more bipartisan support than the \$1 trillion infrastructure program that Trump proposed in the campaign. Aside from infrastructure and family leave, Trump’s other proposals trigger big partisan divisions between Republicans and Democrats.

1

Oroville Dam in Miniature: Scale Model Helps Repair Damaged Spillway

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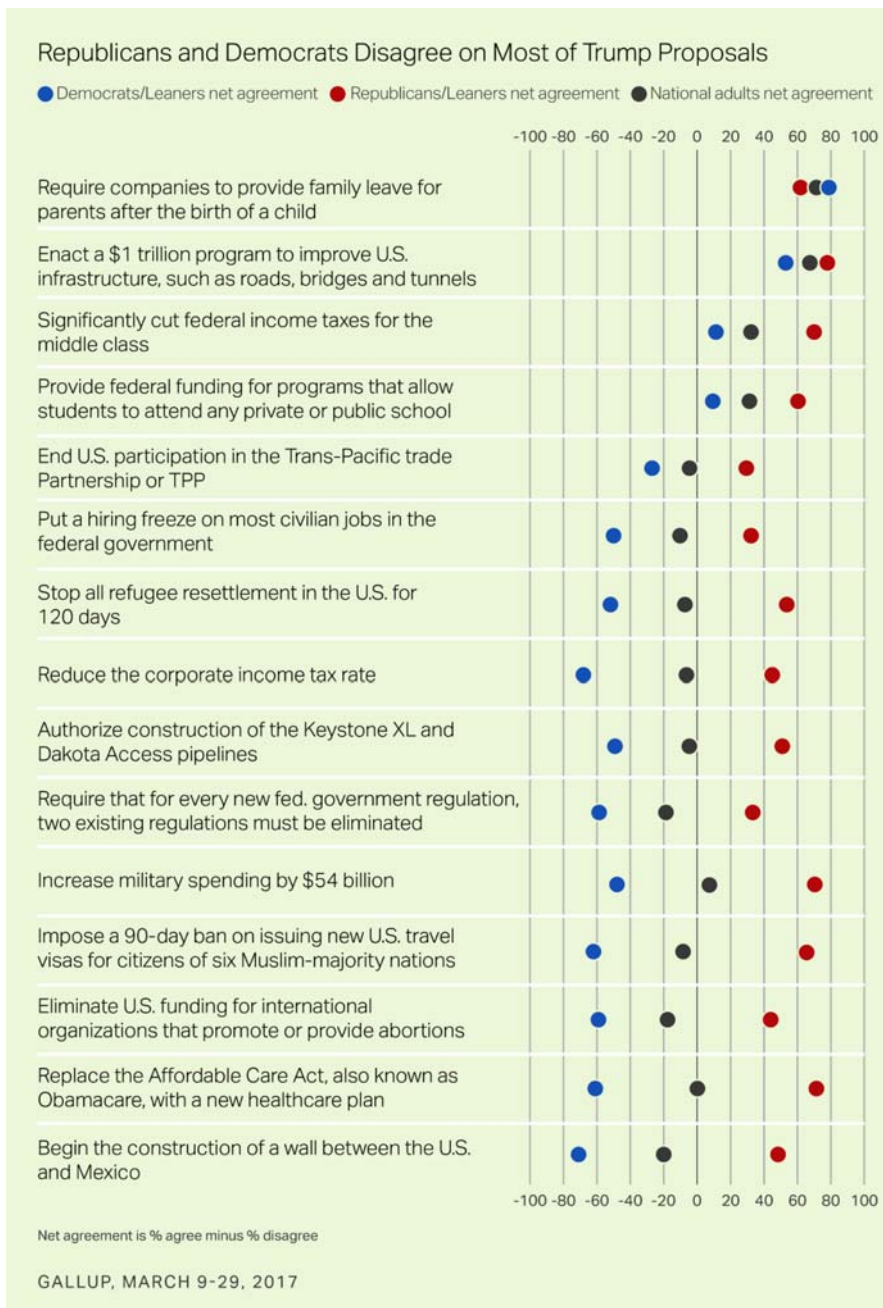
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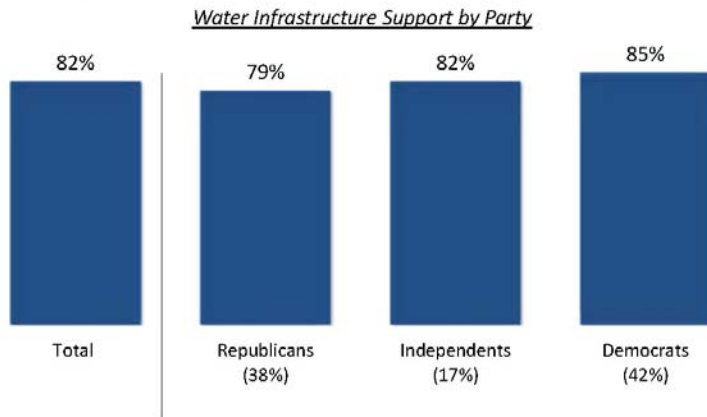
Jun. 1, 2017



2. Support for water infrastructure spending is strong and bipartisan.

A poll released in May by the Value of Water Campaign found “overwhelming support for increasing federal investment in water infrastructure, which cuts across party and demographic lines.” The graphic below from the survey, which was conducted by FM3 Research and Public Opinion Strategies, is one of the reasons why pollsters called support for water infrastructure spending “ubiquitous.”

Voters across the political spectrum say water infrastructure is very important for the President and Congress to address.



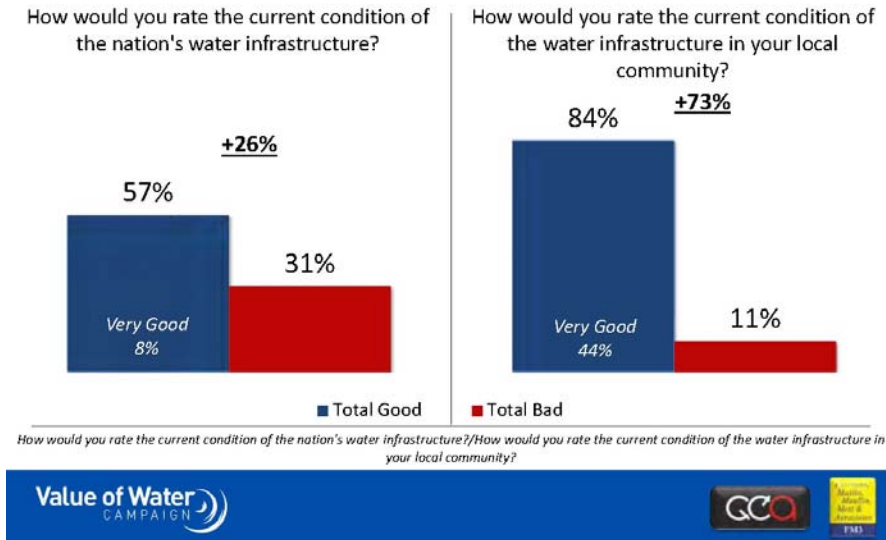
We mentioned American's infrastructure in the last question. Specifically, how important do you think it is to rebuild our water infrastructure that brings clean drinking water to your home and removes and treats wastewater



“The public thinks we’re under-investing in infrastructure of all kinds right now and water infrastructure is no exception,” pollster Dave Metz said in an interview.

This is the second year in a row that the Value of Water Campaign, an initiative of the U.S. Water Alliance, has released results from a national poll on infrastructure. Once again, the telephone survey of registered voters found that Americans are considerably less worried about the fate of their own local water infrastructure than the nation’s overall waterworks. As shown in the graphic below, pollsters Metz and Lori Weigel think the overwhelming support for water infrastructure is striking given that Americans believe their own water infrastructure is in pretty good shape.

Support for increasing investment is even more striking given that majorities rate their local and the nation's water infrastructure as being in relatively good shape.

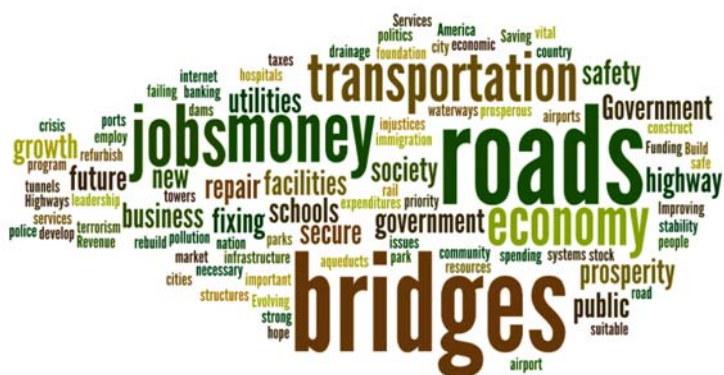


Another water infrastructure poll, released in 2016 and supported by MWH Global, a water resources engineering firm, painted the issue in somewhat darker terms. In that survey, conducted by Wakefield Research, 35 percent of Americans said their community's current infrastructure wouldn't last for more than five years, and 48 percent said not having easy-low-cost access to clean water was an issue faced by communities.

3. When asked about infrastructure, people may not immediately think of waterworks.

The word "infrastructure" means different things to people, so when looking at polls on the issue, it's important to understand what, exactly, pollsters are asking about. In the Ipsos survey, people were asked what infrastructure meant to them. The graphic below, a word cloud that sizes the terms according to how frequently they were offered, shows that water-related infrastructure didn't exactly spring to mind for many people.

What Infrastructure Means to People



Source: Ipsos Polls, 10/7/2016 n=1,005

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In his presentation on the survey, Ipsos pollster Cliff Young notes that roads, bridges and jobs may be the first ideas that people think of when asked about infrastructure, but people also express concern about water and energy systems when prompted by surveyors (as the Value of Water Campaign's poll also demonstrates).

4. Many people say they're willing to pay to fix infrastructure.

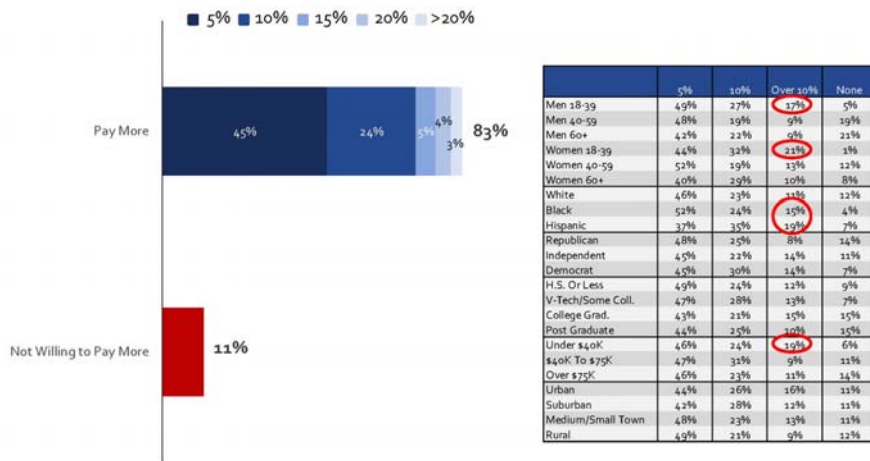
Plenty of polls have found support for more spending on water infrastructure and other public works. But it's one thing to say you favor a government- or utility-sponsored program, and another to say you favor higher water bills or taxes. As with most public opinion research, how questions are worded matters greatly.

That said, there does appear to be some public support for reasonable increases in their water costs to pay for infrastructure upgrades. A 2015 survey by MWH Global found that 61 percent of those surveyed "support higher utility rates for the development and enhancement of water infrastructure in their communities."

The 2016 Value of Water Coalition poll, conducted by American Viewpoint and Hart Research, found that Americans are willing to pay higher water bills if they're informed about infrastructure issues. When asked initially if they were willing to pay more, survey respondents were evenly split: 47 percent in favor and 47 percent opposed. But after pollsters provided more information about water issues, support for higher bills increased to 60 percent.

“An overwhelming majority would be willing to consider an increase of at least 5 percent, with a quarter of respondents even willing to pay a 10 percent increase,” pollsters Linda DiVall and Geoffrey Garin note in their slide deck summarizing the 2016 results. “Somewhat curious is the pattern of groups willing to pay over 10 percent: Younger adults, minorities, and those with lower incomes.”

INITIAL MONTHLY % INCREASE THRESHOLD
 When encouraged to consider tangible percentage increases in their water bill, opinions are much more encouraging. An overwhelming majority would be willing to consider an increase of at least 5%, with a quarter of respondents even willing to pay a 10% increase. Somewhat curious is the pattern of groups willing to pay over 10%: Younger adults, minorities, and those with lower incomes.

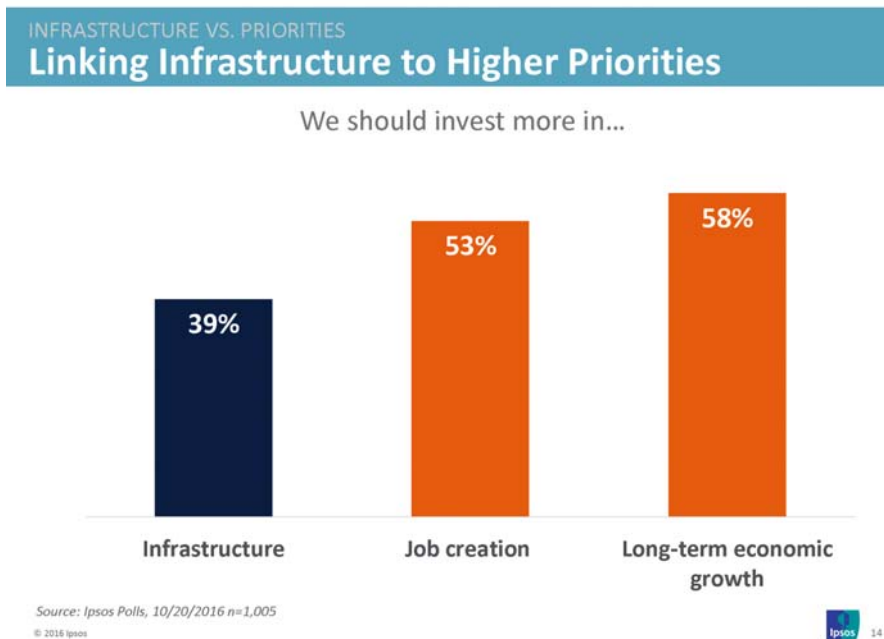


The average household spends 8% of their monthly utility costs on water, wastewater, and storm water services, compared to 47% on phone, internet, and cable. Given this, what percent more would you be willing to pay to improve and modernize the water systems in your community? 10

It's worth remembering that many people cannot even tell you how much their water costs them. In its 2015 poll, the Value of Water Campaign found that 57 percent of those surveyed couldn't state their yearly water bill, with the researchers noting that varied payment schedules make it hard for many consumers to quantify their costs.

5. Messages should stress vulnerability and ties to economy.

Some polls on water infrastructure have tested messages and probed what issues resonate with the public. As with any funding issue, pollsters recommend talking about “investing” rather than “spending.” Ipsos’s Young argues that infrastructure advocates could help their cause by linking the issue to other higher-priority concerns, such as employment and economic security. As shown below, framing infrastructure spending as a way to create jobs and pave the way for higher growth can hitch the issue to even more popular ideas.



Last year’s Value of Water Campaign poll asked respondents to react to a series of messages related to rebuilding water infrastructure. As shown in the graphic below, people thought messages related to our dependence on water, threats to public health and the age of the infrastructure were most convincing.

SUPPORTING MESSAGES – Ranked by Very Convincing

Respondents were given a series of messages about the importance of water and the need to invest in our water systems. Across the country, three primary themes emerged for the majority of Americans.

	Total	East 38%	Midwest / Plains 22%	South 38%	West 22%
1	We are all dependent on a strong and reliable water infrastructure 64%	We are all dependent on a strong and reliable water infrastructure 71%	We are all dependent on a strong and reliable water infrastructure 61%	We need to avoid public health tragedies 68%	We are all dependent on a strong and reliable water infrastructure 59%
2	We need to avoid public health tragedies 64%	We need to avoid public health tragedies 69%	We need to avoid public health tragedies 59%	We are all dependent on a strong and reliable water infrastructure 66%	We need to avoid public health tragedies 58%
3	Water infrastructure is aging 53%	Water infrastructure is aging 62%	We owe it to our children to maintain and update the investment in water infrastructure 49%	Water infrastructure is aging 57%	Water infrastructure is aging 46%
4	We owe it to our children to maintain and update the investment in water infrastructure 50%	Without water, our economy would grind to a halt 58%	Water infrastructure is aging 47%	We owe it to our children to maintain and update the investment in water infrastructure 53%	Without water, our economy would grind to a halt 42%
5	Without water, our economy would grind to a halt 48%	We owe it to our children to maintain and update the investment in water infrastructure 58%	Without water, our economy would grind to a halt 44%	Without water, our economy would grind to a halt 50%	We owe it to our children to maintain and update the investment in water infrastructure 41%
6	Water utilities are investing in new innovation and technology 43%	More extreme weather events are stressing our water infrastructure 47%	Major metropolitan areas and agricultural communities are at risk of water scarcity 39%	Water utilities are investing in new innovation and technology 44%	Water utilities are investing in new innovation and technology 39%
7	Major metropolitan areas and agricultural communities are at risk of water scarcity 43%	Major metropolitan areas and agricultural communities are at risk of water scarcity 45%	Water utilities are investing in new innovation and technology 37%	Major metropolitan areas and agricultural communities are at risk of water scarcity 43%	Major metropolitan areas and agricultural communities are at risk of water scarcity 37%
8	More extreme weather events are stressing our water infrastructure 38%	Water utilities are investing in new innovation and technology 44%	More extreme weather events are stressing our water infrastructure 36%	More extreme weather events are stressing our water infrastructure 37%	More extreme weather events are stressing our water infrastructure 34%

12

Metz said the most compelling messages highlight the vulnerability of our water infrastructure. “Things may be working fine today, but we’re one earthquake or severe weather event away from that infrastructure failing – with devastating consequences,” he said. “Even raising the specter that you could be without water for three or four days while people work to repair or replace it – people can instantly understand how disruptive that could be.”

Beyond poll numbers, it also helps to have visuals that illustrate the dilapidated state of the infrastructure. “Being able to show them something that looks like it’s close to collapse – that can be worth more than any fact- or statistic-packed verbal message you might craft,” Metz said.

A version of this story first appeared on WaterPolls.org. ■

About the Author

Mitch Tobin

Mitch Tobin is editor of WaterPolls.org and a Denver-based communications consultant. You can interact with data and download free visualizations at WaterPolls.org. Contact Mitch at mitch@seatosnow.com or via Twitter at @mitchtobin.

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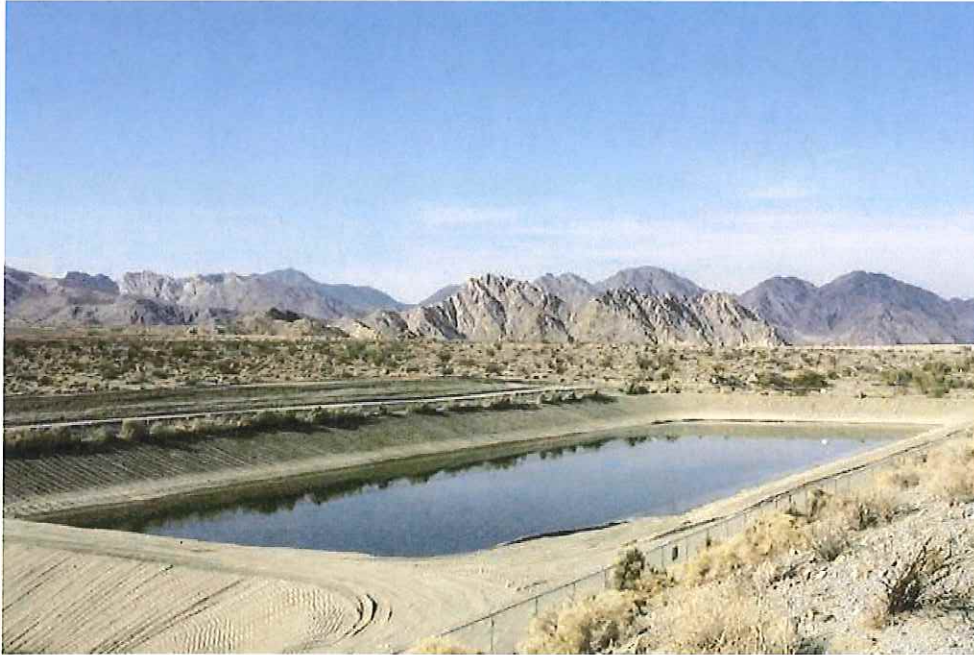
The Hidden Opportunity for Water Storage in California

California's recent wet year was an important reminder that the state needs to plan for not just drought, but years of abundance as well, says Maurice Hall of the Environmental Defense Fund.

WRITTEN BY
Maurice Hall

PUBLISHED ON
 Jun. 8, 2017

READ TIME
Approx. 3 minutes



The Dike 4 Groundwater Recharge Facility is shown Monday, Dec. 17, 2007, in Coachella, Calif. The facility is one of the major groundwater replenishment projects. California has great capacity for underground water storage in aquifers that the state has yet to fully take advantage of. AP/Ric Francis

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How Wet Weather Impacted California's Groundwater Deficit

CALIFORNIA'S HISTORIC WINTER ended the drought in many parts of the state and piled up record levels of snowpack in the Sierra Nevada mountains. With so much precipitation, surface water infrastructure – our network of dams, reservoirs and levees – has been called into action like never before, and in some cases has struggled to handle the influx of flows.

With spring temperatures on the rise, snowmelt and runoff have accelerated, adding another wave of stress to the system. And with statewide snowpack still at 190 percent of average at the beginning of June, there is even more runoff on the way.

So where will all this water go?

With many reservoirs near capacity already, water managers have had to allow spring snowmelt to flow out through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and into the ocean. This is inevitable given the sheer amount of water in the system this year, and in fact, these occasional high flows provide multiple benefits to ecosystems and coastal communities.

But wouldn't it be nice if water managers could keep a bit more of this water in the system – not just to ensure delivery to agricultural and urban water contractors, but to hedge against future dry years and prolonged droughts?

Many are calling for increased surface water storage by building new dams and increasing reservoir capacity across the state. And while some of these projects make sense, others will likely prove too costly for the marginal benefits they provide.

The Answer Beneath Our Feet

One underused opportunity for storage is putting more water into groundwater aquifers. During the drought these aquifers were significantly depleted across the state, and even before

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Why California Can't Go Back to 'Normal' After Drought

the drought, many of our groundwater basins were overpumped. Some estimates show that we've lost more than 150 million acre-feet of groundwater in Central Valley aquifers over the past century. This has had devastating effects, such as water supply contamination and land subsidence.

The silver lining to this depletion? There is now plenty of room to store water in these aquifers. They are essentially vast underground reservoirs that can accommodate excess water and ease the pressure on our surface water reservoirs during wet years like this one. And, importantly, water stored in underground aquifers could be used to supplement supplies during periods of drought.

The groundwater storage potential is massive – much more than the approximate 42 million acre-feet of total surface storage capacity.

Planning for the Future

While groundwater recharge occurred in many basins across the state through natural processes, we unfortunately missed opportunities to take full advantage of underground storage this year.

Recharging aquifers basically means spreading water out on land that has porous soils and letting it soak in. During wet years, our facilities and rules are designed to send water downstream to prevent flooding rather than spreading it out so that it can seep back into our aquifers. So to take full advantage of wet years like this one, we need to look at our water system and policies in new ways.

Luckily we are moving in the right direction and recharging our aquifers at a higher rate. Local water districts and even individual farmers have demonstrated a growing interest in

groundwater recharge. Some have started to implement projects and repurpose land to create more recharge basins.

When we talk about the need for water storage in California, we must take full inventory of the tremendous opportunity of our underground natural storage infrastructure. If we focus on this now, we'll be able to take advantage of the next wet winter.

And, importantly, we'll be better prepared for the next inevitable drought when it comes – and it will come. ■

Maurice Hall is the associate vice president of Environmental Defense Fund's Western Water Program. An engineer by training, Maurice has worked closely with water managers, farmers and policy makers to develop sustainable water management strategies that meet human needs while protecting ecosystems.

The views expressed in this article belong to the author and do not necessarily reflect the editorial policy of Water Deeply.

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Maurice Hall is the associate vice president of Environmental Defense Fund's Western Water Program. An engineer by training, Maurice has worked closely with water managers, farmers and policy makers to develop sustainable water management strategies that meet human needs while protecting ecosystems.

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