



PPIC WATER POLICY CENTER

INSPIRING CHANGE IN WATER POLICY

California has faced drought, floods, and wildfires—all in the past year.

As leaders at the local, state, and national levels strive to address the broad impact of these events, the PPIC Water Policy Center has provided key facts and practical recommendations to spur smart, innovative water management solutions. Because a changing climate makes weather extremes more common in the West, the center is fostering a discussion about long-term approaches, focusing on achieving economic prosperity and environmental sustainability.

The PPIC Water Policy Center has benefited from the generous support and partnership of deeply engaged individuals and organizations. Key impacts in the past year include:

Strengthening the Federal Role in Western Water

The federal government is a major player in water management, but its role is diffuse and poorly coordinated. Our efforts to explain that role and recommend improvements resulted in bipartisan congressional conversations and participation in a 2016 White House summit. A related presidential memorandum included a directive to manage water at the basin level—one of our key recommendations.

Highlighting Drought's Impact on Rural Communities and the Environment

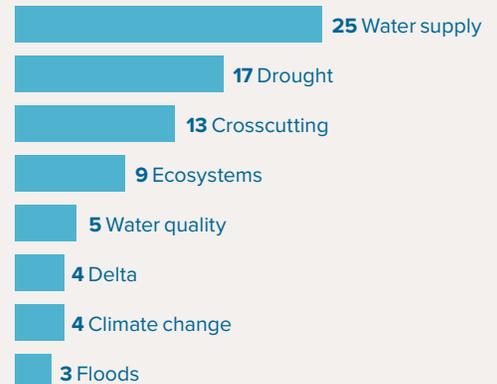
California's drought had devastating effects on disadvantaged rural communities and the environment—areas which have been a low priority. We worked to shine a spotlight on access to and quality of drinking water in rural communities, even before the crisis in Flint, Michigan, gained attention nationwide. We also engaged stakeholders—and federal and state policymakers—in constructive dialogue on drought preparedness for aquatic ecosystems and forests. These efforts encouraged the state to adopt new laws for addressing drinking water issues in disadvantaged communities and spurred interest in developing action plans for California's rivers, wetlands, and forests. Our first annual water policy conference in fall 2016 highlighted concerns about rural communities and the environment for a broad audience in Sacramento.

Modernizing Water Information Systems

To be able to manage water efficiently and effectively, California needs a modern, flexible system to accurately measure its resources and respond to crises. We engaged with a diverse range of stakeholders from around the state—including Western Growers, The Nature Conservancy, and the Association of California Water Agencies—to develop recommendations for improvements. Our work helped motivate policymakers to take action and informed a new law that will modernize California's water accounting system.



CENTER PRODUCTS COVERED A WIDE RANGE OF WATER ISSUES



Number of reports, blogs, videos, fact sheets

For information on supporting the PPIC Water Policy Center, please contact Lisa Cole, PPIC Director of Development, at cole@ppic.org or 415.291.4495.



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