

# Water Priorities for California's Next Governor

November 13, 2018

Ellen Hanak

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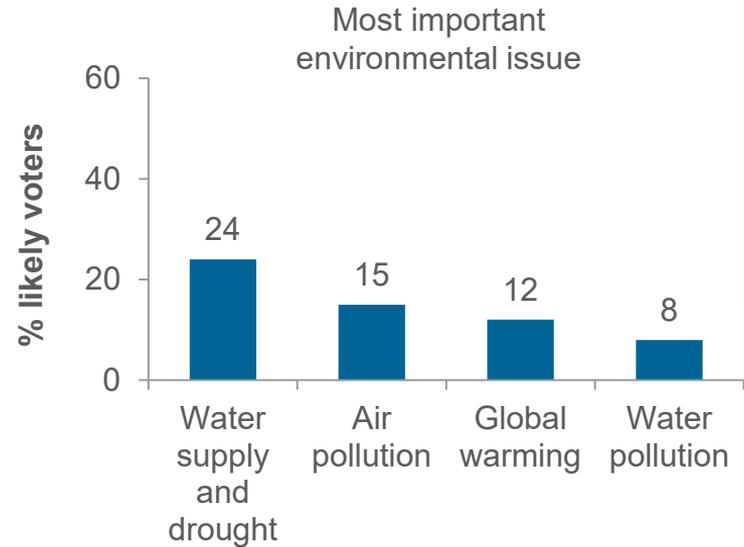
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# This is a crucial time for California water

- Water is the state's greatest natural resource challenge
- Water intersects with some of the state's other major issues:
  - Population and economic growth
  - Housing affordability
  - Aging infrastructure
  - Climate change



Source: PPIC Statewide Survey, July 2018.

# Managing water is at the forefront of climate change adaptation in California

- Drought and floods reveal strengths and weaknesses in water systems
- Preparation for the future will benefit water management today

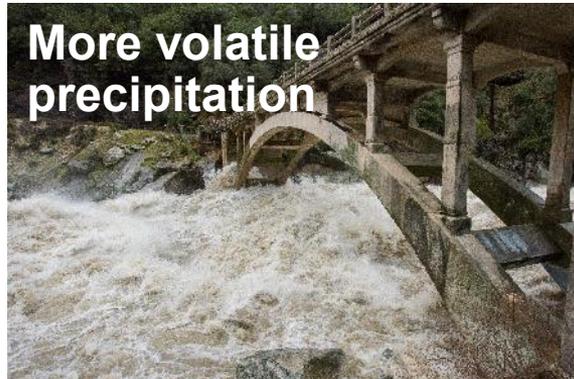


Folsom reservoir in drought



Oroville Dam spillway, 2017

# Five climate pressures are affecting the state's water system

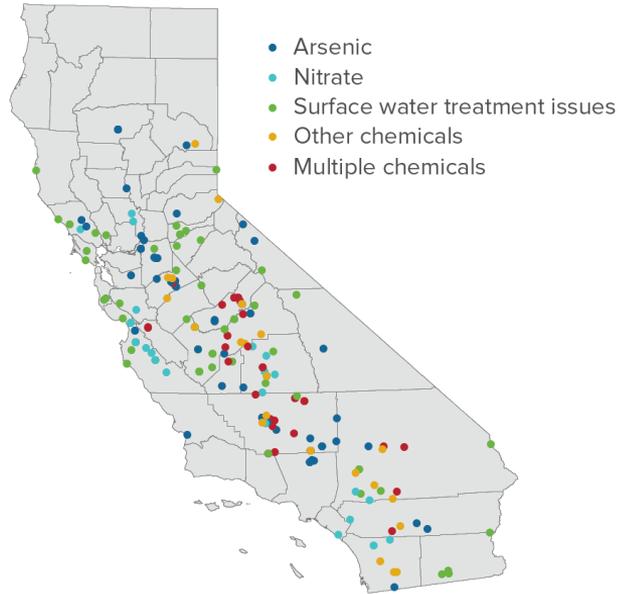


# California's extreme climate requires innovative, forward-looking water policies

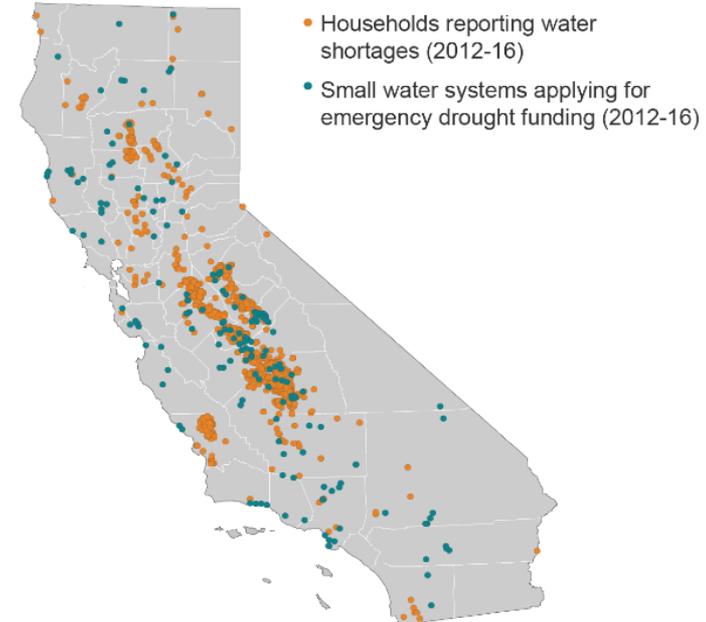
- State's dams designed, operated for past climate patterns
- Systems inadequate to recharge aquifers with floodwaters
- Ecosystems on the brink with current management
- Severe and devastating fires becoming more common

# Not all Californians have access to safe and reliable drinking water

Non-compliant water systems by pollutant (July 2018)

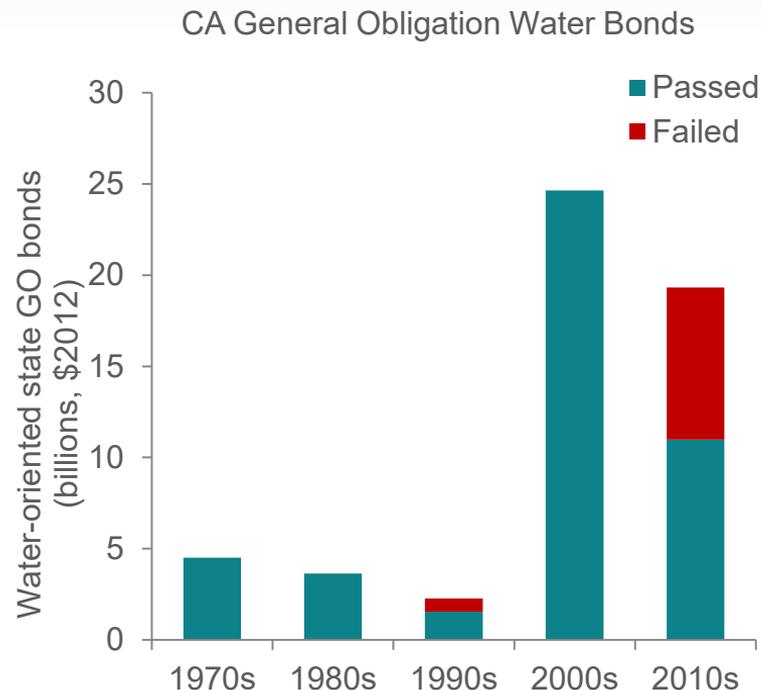


Drinking water shortages during the latest drought (2012–16)



# Reliable sources of funding are crucial for adapting to climate change

- Water users pay for most water supply infrastructure
- Fiscal orphans are increasingly vulnerable
- State bonds can help, but they can't do it all



# Water priorities for California's governor

- Promote innovation and collaboration
- Build momentum on protecting rural communities
- Adopt new approaches for ecosystems and forests
- Modernize the water grid

# Promote innovation and collaboration

- Cities and farms have been adapting and investing in efficiency and new, more flexible supplies
- Priorities:
  - Invest in data and technology
  - Make it easier to trade water
  - Support local groundwater plans
  - Encourage regional collaboration



An efficient micro-irrigation system

# Build momentum to protect rural communities' water



East Porterville gets safe drinking water

- Solutions to this critical issue will require concerted state support
- Priorities:
  - Accelerate solutions for safe drinking water
  - Take leadership on the Salton Sea

# Adopt new approaches for ecosystems and forests

- Efforts to date haven't stopped species decline or improved forest health
- Priorities:
  - Use more flexible, ecosystem-based approaches
  - Increase pace and scale of forest management
  - Elevate solutions that work for people and nature

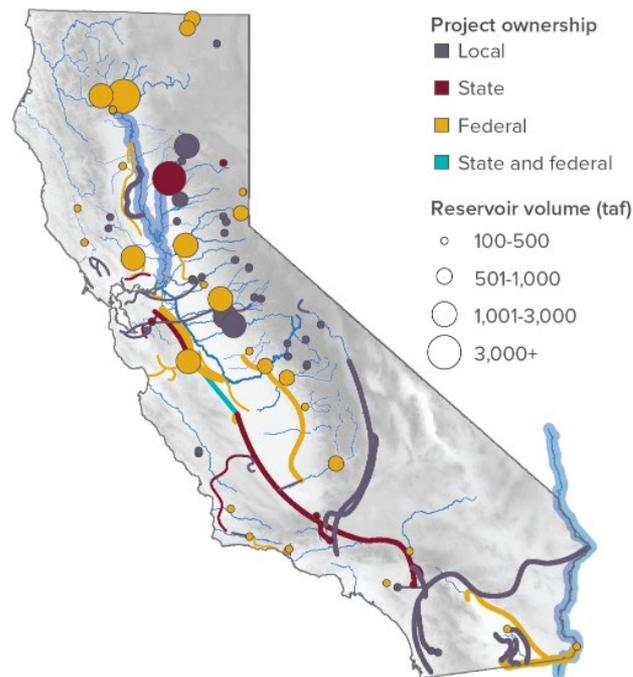


Kern Water Bank

# Modernize the water grid

- Adapting to climate change requires a more robust, better-integrated water grid
- Priorities:
  - Improve conveyance, storage capacity
  - Modernize and integrate operations
  - Manage surface and groundwater together
  - Remove barriers to groundwater recharge

The state water grid



# Together we can change the conversation and spur smart, creative solutions



## About 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:

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Thank you for your interest in this work.

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