

Integrated Water Governance: Discussion of Tools and Potential Legislation

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Napa County Watershed Symposium, Napa, CA
May 15, 2015



Outline

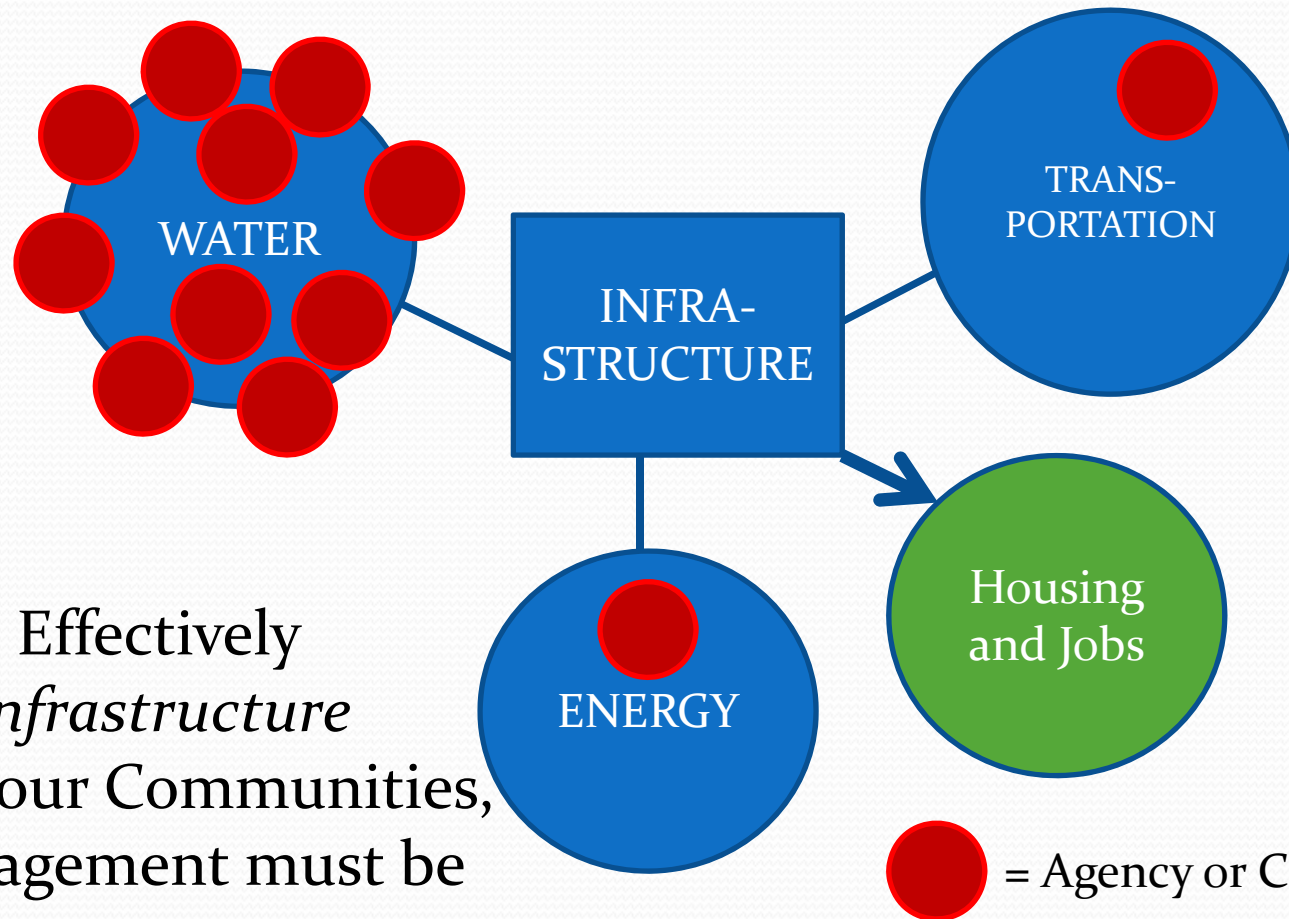
- Voluntary Unified Water Authorities (legislative concept)
- California Water Action Plan – Actions 2 and 10
- SGMA – Formation of GSA's by June 2017
- Next Steps

Legislative Concept: Voluntary Unified Water Authorities

- Domestic Water Supply
- Agricultural Water Supply
- Wastewater/Recycled Water
- Stormwater
- Flood Management
- Groundwater
- Streams/Wetlands
- Fish and Wildlife Protection
- Recreational Water Uses



Q: Why Unify Water Management?



A: To More Effectively Engage in *Infrastructure Renewal* in our Communities, Water Management must be Integrated.

Institutional Scale: Water Management in California Today

- 3,085 Water Service Providers
- 1,092 Wastewater Collection Agencies
- 141 Reclamation Districts
- 61 Flood Control agencies
- 58 Counties
- 127 Groundwater Basins
- 48 IRWM Programs
- 478 Cities/Towns



WATER ACTION PLAN NO. 2

Increase Regional Self-Reliance and Integrated Water Management Across All Levels of Government

- Support and Expand Funding for Multi-Benefit IWM Planning and Projects
- Update Land Use Planning Guidelines
- Legislation for Local and Regional Self-Reliance
- Provide Assistance to Disadvantaged Communities
- Encourage State Focus on Projects with Multiple Benefits



WATER ACTION PLAN NO. 10

Identify Sustainable and Integrated Financing Opportunities

- Remove Barriers to Local and Regional Funding for Water Projects
 - “The administration will work to clarify the 1996 Right to Vote on Taxes Act (Prop 218) applicability to water related fees and taxes ***including sponsoring legislation if necessary.***” (emphasis added)
- Develop Water Financing Strategy
 - “...proposes options for eliminating funding barriers, including those to co-funding multiple benefit projects...”

Prop 218 reform alone doesn't address fragmentation

Voluntary Formation of Unified Water Authorities
(water, wastewater, stormwater, flood, groundwater, streams/wetlands)

- Facilitates Institutionalized IWM and Multi-Benefits
- Watershed and/or Groundwater Basin-Based
- Address Small, Disadvantaged
 - “White spots” – gaps in management
- Address Watershed Stewardship
- Address Prop 218, 26, 13 Constraints



Voluntary Unified Water

Authorities: Would Locals Opt In?

1. Revenue generation authority
2. Revenue expenditure flexibility and authority
3. Regulatory and funding advantages
4. Maintenance of water rights
5. VUWA has applicable authority of member agencies
6. Empower & fund watershed stewardship by NGOs
7. Address water management for small and/or disadvantaged communities (SDACs)
8. Address lead agency and subgrantee management challenges (IRWM issue)
9. Public transparency, accountability, representation
10. Allow participation for private entities

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act - Milestones

DATE	ACTIVITY
1/31/2015	DWR: Initial Priority for Each Basin
1/1/2016	DWR: Adopt regs. for criteria to modify Groundwater Basin Boundaries
6/1/2016	DWR: Adopt regs. for acceptable Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs)
6/30/2017	Groundwater Sustainability Agency must be identified for Basins (<i>State Board can step in if entity not formed</i>)
1/31/2020	Adoption of GSP for Overdrafted Basins (<i>DWR refers deficient plans to State Water Board</i>)
1/31/2022	Adoption of GSP for Non-overdraft Basins(<i>DWR refers deficient plans to State Water Board</i>)

Water Bond – Prop 1

- Clean, Safe & Reliable Drinking Water \$ 522 M
- Watersheds & Coastal Waters Protection \$1,495 M
- Regional Water Security – IRWMs \$ 810 M
 - Stormwater \$ 200 M of the \$ 810 M
- Statewide Water System Storage \$2,700 M
- Water Recycling \$ 725 M
- Groundwater Sustainability \$1,080 M
- Flood Management \$ 295 M

Still Fragmented, but perhaps a final bond-funded step toward integration?



Discussion

Voluntary Unified Water Authorities: water institutional reform to accomplish California Water Action Plan, with Regional Planning Entities like Transportation Commissions

- Incorporate Groundwater Sustainability Agencies according to better-defined basin boundaries,
- Improved IRWMs that address DACs, drinking water, and stormwater,
- Provide linkage to surface water as part of “groundwater sustainability goals”,
- Empower multi-objective management of water resources according to watersheds.
- Effective Entity to Interact with Transportation, Energy



Next Steps

- Track and Encourage Use of New Tools and Authorities
 - IRWM, Stormwater Resource Plans, MS4 watershed plans
 - GSA's
 - EIFD – Enhanced Infrastructure Financing Districts - Urban
 - Prop 218 Reforms
- Continue to discuss legislation to institutionalize IWM Principles and provide another tool
 - PPIC, Stanford Woods Institute Reports on Reform
 - Voluntary unified water authorities
 - Special Act District examples (Santa Clara, Orange Co., etc.)
 - Regional Transportation Entities examples
 - North Georgia (Atlanta) example
 - UNESCO River Basin Planning Report – 2013 – CHECK IT OUT!