The Governance of Water in California
Regional Agencies

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What is GOVERNANCE?

- It’s IMPORTANT! Affects:
  - How the agency is FORMED
  - What the agency can DO
  - Who makes DECISIONS
    - No. Board members, election, compensation
  - How business is CONDUCTED
    - Bylaws/admin code, applicable laws, contract formation
  - How funds are RAISED
    - Taxes, fees, bonds, rates
  - How given authority can be CHANGED
Regional Agency Governance

Most established under state law
Generally wholesale service

- **Municipal Water Districts** – Water Code §71000 et seq.
  - ~25, typically in urban areas
  - May acquire, control, distribute, store, spread, sink, treat, purify, recycle, recapture, and salvage any water, including sewage and storm waters, for beneficial use + recreation, power generation, sewer services

- **Water Conservation Districts** – Water Code §74000 et seq.
  - ~10, generally rural areas
  - May appropriate, acquire, and conserve water and water rights for any useful purpose + recreation
Regional Agency Governance (cont.)

- **Water Storage Districts** – Water Code §39000 et seq.
  - ~8, generally rural areas
  - May acquire, improve, and operate the necessary works for the storage and distribution of water

- **County Flood Control Districts** – Water Code §8110 or special
  - Governed by county board of supervisors
  - May provide for the improvement and prevention of obstruction of rivers and streams
  - Also often undertake water conservation functions
Special Districts

- Also formed under State law, but each law unique
- Urban, ag, special purpose
  - Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
    - Supplemental water 19 million; 26 member agencies, 37 Board members, Colorado R. & SWP
  - Kern County Water Agency
    - Ag & urban, 7 Board members, SWP & groundwater
  - San Diego County Water Authority
    - 24 member agencies, 36 Board members, urban & ag
Special Districts (cont.)

- **Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency**
  - 24 member agencies + 2 pvt utilities, 26 Board members, represents purchasers from Hetch Hetchy
- **El Dorado County Water Agency**
  - 5 Board members, rural and ag, water supply planning, facility construction
- **Water Replenishment District of Southern California**
  - 5 Board members, monitors groundwater in Central & West Basins (SoCal)
- **San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority**
  - 7 Board members, coordinates & implements groundwater cleanup
Joint Powers Authorities

- Forms a new, separate & independent public entity comprised of JPA members
- Governance as specified in JPA contract
- Requires:
  - Two or more public agencies (private if specially authorized, one under special circumstances)
  - Shared common power
  - Joint implementation of programs, constructed facilities, or delivered services
Joint Powers Authorities (cont.)

- Significant benefits
  - Increase efficiency by reducing/eliminating service overlap
  - Share resources, achieve critical mass
  - Reduce costs
- Tremendous flexibility
  - Pick and choose projects
  - Easier to float bonds (local ordinance approval)
  - Select favorable administrative provisions
  - Change governance through JPA contract amendment
- Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority – plans & builds facilities to protect SAWPA watershed, 5 member agencies
- Kern Water Bank Authority – administers Kern Water Bank, 6 member agencies
- Central Coast Water Authority – delivers, treats & distributes SWP water to Santa Barbara & San Luis Obispo county area, 8 agencies
Mutual Water Companies

- Subject to jurisdiction of the Cal. Public Utilities Comm.
- For profit, provide retail service
- Regional mutual water companies include:
  - California Water Service Company
  - California American Water Company
  - American States Water Company
Regional Water Quality Control Boards

- 9 regional boards, appeals to State Water Resources Control Board
- 7 Board members, appointed by Governor, confirmed by Senate
- Responsible for protection of water within the region for all beneficial uses
- Formulate & adopt water quality plans for specific ground or surface water bodies
- Prescribe & enforce requirements on domestic and industrial water discharges
- Jurisdiction over stormwater
TAKE-AWAY

- Many water entities in state
- Overlapping territories, authority
- Less water
- More regulatory requirements
- Do more with less

Cooperation + Collaboration = SUCCESS!!