

Local Governance of Water

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Who is Responsible for Local Water Service

- * City Water Departments
 - * Governed by City Council, sometimes an appointed water commission
- * Investor-Owned Utilities
 - * Governed by the California Public Utilities Commission
- * Mutual Water Companies
 - * Not for profit Companies like co-ops governed by property owners/ shareholders
- * Special Districts
 - * Governed by publicly elected boards of directors

Responsibilities of Local Water Providers

1. Provide drinking water that meets requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act
2. Maintain pipelines, treatment plants and meters in working order
3. Work under state and regional directives encouraging residents to conserve water
4. Set rates for the cost of service with prop 218 requirements
5. Read meters and administer billings

Issues of Local Water Systems

- * California's drinking water regulations make it difficult to control costs in a predictable manner
- * Drought complicates how one keeps an adequate and affordable water supply
- * Aging infrastructure is expensive to replace and many smaller and poorer local water providers are falling behind
- * Challenges to water rates increases

City of Watsonville



Unfunded Mandate

- * On July 1, 2014 state reduced limit for chromium from 50 parts per billion down to 10 ppb.
- * Meet compliance by July 1, 2015
- * 8 of 12 city wells will be out of compliance
- * \$20 million in treatment costs locally/ \$4 billion statewide
- * Coalition work