

In Brief

Build a modern information system of water rights and water use that will enable deliberate, real-time decision making on the allocation of water in California.

The Team

Center for Law, Energy & the Environment (CLEE), UC Berkeley School of Law
 Michael Kiparsky
kiparsky@berkeley.edu

Water and Power Law Group (WPLG) Richard Roos-Collins,
rrcollins@waterpowerlaw.com

Partnering Organisations



The Plan

<p>1. Public Workshop</p> <p>Convene SWRCB and other stakeholders to inform design and functionality of the information system</p>	<p>2. Whitepaper</p> <p>Draft will address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed Standards • Implementation Plan • Funding Strategy 	<p>3. Pilot Project</p> <p>Develop and test water information system with LADWP covering Mono Basin water rights</p>	<p>4. Public Comments</p> <p>Call for comments on adoption of proposed policies advancing statewide implementation</p>
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The Impact on Water Data Technology

Successful development and widespread adoption of the proposed information system will lead to increased demand for real time data. This will stimulate technological innovation and adoption of hardware (e.g., devices for measuring diversions with mandated accuracy; tools for recording and relaying measurement data; accuracy assessment), software (tools for assimilating, reporting, and validating measurement data) and analytical methods

Join Us: We are seeking funding and a broader range of partnerships to support efforts to develop the system.

The Issue

California law requires that water rights be put to reasonable and beneficial use. Effective administration of this requirement depends on an information system that includes all water rights and their terms. Such a system doesn't exist.

Currently, legal records pertaining to this precious resource are housed as 10 million pages of paper files at the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). The records are not indexed for search by author, date, or topics, and records for pre-1914 water rights are scattered throughout 58 county courthouses and other repositories. Thus, the SWRCB and stakeholders cannot effectively review legal records necessary to evaluate relative priorities among water rights in a given watershed, to resolve conflicts or to manage shortages.

Further, SB 88 enables the SWRCB to require real-time reporting of water use and diversion data by water users but will only enforce this requirement if it is able to assimilate and analyze the data collected.

The Result

An accurate accounting of water rights will empower more effective and sustainable management of statewide water resources.

The proposed water information system is the enabling capacity necessary for enforcement of SB 88, permitting decision making informed by real-time data in an era in which California frequently face systemic shortages and conflicts.