

WATER DEMOCRACY IN CALIFORNIA

COMMUNITY RIGHTS NOT CORPORATE CONTROL

TRANSFORMING STATE WATER POLICY TO SERVE PEOPLE AND NATURE.

Faced with the severe effects of drought and climate change, the people of California have a unique opportunity to turn around state water policy so it is aligned with the principles of water justice and democracy. Such policy must establish all water as a public trust to meet the needs of people and nature to the 7th generation.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR A NEW WATER POLICY SHOULD INCLUDE:

- Right to water for people and nature
- Reconsideration of “reasonable” and “beneficial” use
- Surface and groundwater sources managed with full accountability and oversight
- Sustainable water plan based on actual available water supply
- No commodification/selling of bulk water
- Water conservation required and enforced for all economic sectors
- Adequate funding for infrastructure and conservation measures
- Water quality protected and enhanced for people and nature
- Pollution stopped, polluters held accountable and pay full cost of impacts
- Public health standards based on cumulative impacts and multiple exposures using data relevant to population groups
- Environmental justice for tribes and farming communities
- Engage all communities in water decision-making
- Water democracy—Let the people decide
- Metering of water use by all sectors: urban, agriculture, business, military and government
- Land use tied to water availability, not promised “paper” water
- Water not subject to trade rules

For more details, go to:

Thirsty for Justice: A People's Blueprint for California Water www.ejcw.org

“Principles for Comprehensive California Water Policy” www.pcl.org/files/waterbondpetition08052008.pdf

"Principles for a Sustainable Water Future" www.c-win.org/sustainability-principles.html

and watch for an interactive site at www.defendingwaterincalifornia.org ■