



Priorities for California's Water

CFEE Water Convening, February 4-5, 2021

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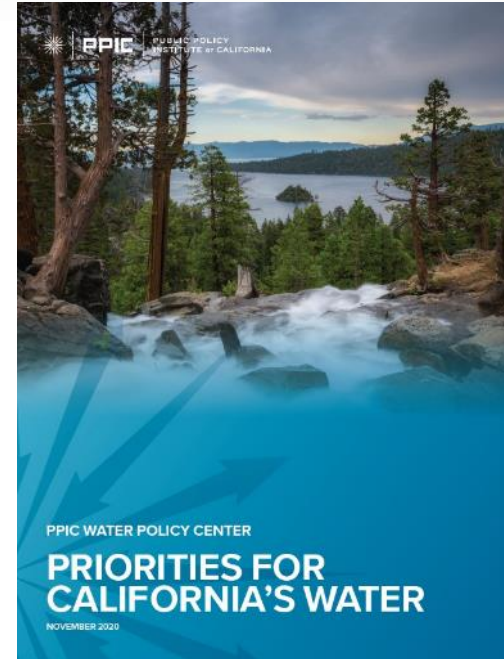
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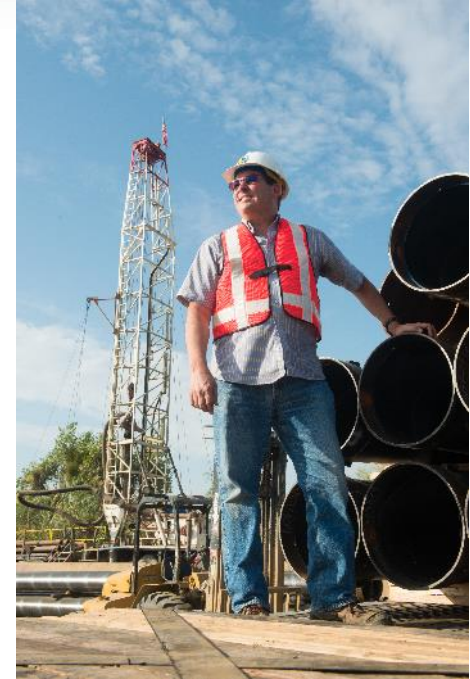
New disruptions in 2020 and ongoing challenges

- Pandemic:
 - Water & wastewater essential worker challenges
 - Health crisis for farms, disrupted supply chains
- Recession
- Changing climate, drought, wildfires
- Conflict, increasing litigation



These disruptions highlight major priorities for 2021

- Ensure safe, affordable drinking water
- Collaborate to reduce uncertainties in agricultural water supply
- Invest in forest health to reduce wildfire risk, ensure water supply, spur economic recovery
- Make the most of every \$ and drop invested in the environment



Priorities for safe, affordable drinking water



East Porterville gets reliable water. Photo: DWR

- Use federal stimulus funds to support water system solvency
 - Fund projects that address safety gaps, build climate resilience in underserved communities
- Expand options to address affordability
 - Seek changes to Props 218, 26
 - Fed/state assistance for lifeline rates
- Pursue collaborative approaches to provide safe drinking water

Priorities for agricultural water



Photo: Western Growers

- Foster protections for farmworker communities
- Adopt collaborative approaches to manage groundwater sustainably
 - Fed, state could support planning & pilots for multi-benefit infrastructure
- Seek agreement on environmental flows in Delta
 - Ag could lead on cooperative management agreements

Priorities to reduce wildfire risk in headwaters

- Collaborate between federal, state, local landowners in pursuit of shared management goals
- Broaden the funding portfolio for forest health projects
 - Water utilities with headwaters supplies have helped fund projects
- Invest in forest health to support economic recovery



Controlled burn to reduce fire risk.

Priorities to manage freshwater ecosystems

- Increase the efficiency, effectiveness of environmental investments
 - Align permitting
 - Restore more natural seasonal flows
- Diversify funding portfolios
 - Land assessments, surcharges on water use have been effective options
- De-escalate conflicts
 - Create coalitions of the willing, repair relations w/ feds, expand collaboration w/ stakeholders



Salmon fishing is a key food supply for Klamath tribes.
Photo: Yurok tribe

Let's not lose momentum on key water problems

- Postponing action is not an option for some urgent water issues. Key principles:
 - **Efficiency:** Make the most of every drop and dollar, getting multiple benefits for multiple stakeholders
 - **Collaboration:** Cooperative approaches and alignment of objectives across agencies
 - **Leadership:** This is key to innovating, taking risks, working across “aisles,” nurturing new leadership

Learn More

- “Priorities for California’s Water” report:
<https://www.ppic.org/publication/priorities-for-californias-water/>
- Videos from our fall water conference:
<https://www.ppic.org/blog/video-building-a-water-resilient-california/>



Session 1: Funding water systems while ensuring affordability and equity



Session 2: Collaborative approaches to foster groundwater sustainability



Session 3: Priorities for a water-resilient California

Notes on the use of these slides

These slides were created to accompany a presentation. They do not include full documentation of sources, data samples, methods, and interpretations. To avoid misinterpretations, please contact:

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Thank you for your interest in this work.