

2021 California Water Law Symposium
Panel 3: Achieving Water Justice in a Changing Climate

January 30, 2021

REFERENCES AND BACKGROUND MATERIALS

Key state water legislation and programs:

- **“Human Right to Water” Statute**

CAL. WATER CODE § 106.3 (added by [AB 685](#), 2012)

See https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/hr2w/

- (a) It is hereby declared to be the established policy of the state that every human being has the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes.
- (b) All relevant state agencies, including the department, the state board, and the State Department of Public Health, shall consider this state policy when revising, adopting, or establishing policies, regulations, and grant criteria when those policies, regulations, and criteria are pertinent to the uses of water described in this section.
- (c) This section does not expand any obligation of the state to provide water or to require the expenditure of additional resources to develop water infrastructure beyond the obligations that may exist pursuant to subdivision (b).
- (d) This section shall not apply to water supplies for new development.
- (e) The implementation of this section shall not infringe on the rights or responsibilities of any public water system.

- **Low-Income Water Rate Assistance Act**

CAL. WATER CODE § 189.5

(added by [AB 401](#), 2015)

See Water Conservation Portal – Low-Income Water Rate Assistance Program,

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/conservation_portal/assistance/

- **Mandatory Consolidation or Extension of Service for Disadvantaged Communities**

CAL. HEALTH & SAFETY CODE §§ 116680–116684

(added by [SB 88](#), 2015)

See https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/programs/compliance/

- **Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience (SAFER) Program**

This program was established under the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund. (from [SB 200](#), 2019)

See https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/programs/safer_drinking_water/

- **Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)**

CAL. WATER CODE §§ 10720–10737.8

(added by [AB 1739](#), [SB 1168](#), [SB 1319](#), 2014)

See <https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/SGMA-Groundwater-Management>

- **Water Shutoff Protection Act**

CAL. PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE §§ 116900–116926

(added by [SB 998](#), 2018)

See Water Shutoff Protection Act FAQs, State Water Resources Control Board (last updated Jan. 10, 2020),

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/conservation_portal/assistance/docs/SB_998_FAQs_1.10.20.pdf

Reports, guidance documents, etc.

- **Achieving the Human Right to Water in California: An Assessment of the State’s Community Water Systems**, Carolina Balazs et al., CalEPA Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (Jan. 2021) <https://oehha.ca.gov/water/report/human-right-water-california>
- **Climate Change in the San Joaquin Valley: A Household & Community Guide to Taking Action**, J. Pablo Ortiz-Partida, Coreen Weintraub, Angel Santiago Fernandez-Bou, & Mahesh Lal Maskey (October 2020), <https://www.ucsusa.org/sites/default/files/2020-10/climate-change-in-SJValley.pdf>
- **Collaborating for Success: Stakeholder Engagement for Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Implementation**, Kristin Dobbin, Jennifer Clary, Laurel Firestone, & Juliet Christian-Smith (July 2015) https://www.cleanwateraction.org/files/publications/ca/SGMA_Stakeholder_Engagement_White_Paper.pdf
- **Forty Years of California Water Policy: What Worked, What Didn’t and Lessons for the Future**, Timothy Quinn (Winter 2020), <https://purl.stanford.edu/dj435dw5816>
- **Implementing SGMA: Results from a stakeholder survey**, Linda E. Méndez-Barrientos, Darcy Bostic, & Mark Lubell (August 2019), <https://environmentalpolicy.ucdavis.edu/news/implementing-sgma-results-stakeholder-survey>
- **Recommendations for Implementation of a Statewide Low-Income Water Rate Assistance Program**, State Water Resources Control Board (Max Gomberg et al.) & UCLA Luskin Center for Innovation (Gregory Pierce et al.), (February 2020), https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/conservation_portal/assistance/docs/ab401_report.pdf
- **SGMA and the Human Right to Water: How do submitted Groundwater Sustainability Plans address drinking water?** Kristin Dobbin, Darcy Bostic, Michael Kuo, & Jessica Mendoza, CALIFORNIA WATERBLOG, (August 9, 2020), <https://californiawaterblog.com/2020/08/09/sgma-and-the-human-right-to-water-how-do-submitted-groundwater-sustainability-plans-address-drinking-water/>
- **The Struggle for Water Justice in California’s San Joaquin Valley: A Focus on Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities**, Jonathan London et al. (February 2018), <https://regionalchange.ucdavis.edu/publication/water-justice>

Bilingual educational video series on “San Joaquin Valley Water and Land Use”

- **English Series: San Joaquin Valley Water and Land Use Series**, CaliWaterAg YouTube Channel (By Vicky Espinoza), <http://www.tinyurl.com/calewateragseries>
 - Part 1.1. Introduction to the New Groundwater Law (Aug. 12, 2020)
 - Part 1.2. Local Management Under SGMA (Aug. 12, 2020)
 - Part 1.3. SGMA’s Challenges and Opportunities (Aug. 12, 2020)
 - Part 1.4. Strategic Agricultural Land Repurposing (Dec. 1, 2020)
- **Spanish Series: Serie de uso del agua y la tierra del Valle de San Joaquín**, CaliWaterAg YouTube Channel (By Vicky Espinoza), <http://www.tinyurl.com/calewateragespanol>