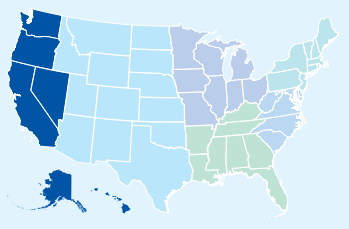


State Establishes Open Water Data Policy and Supports New Consortium to Ensure Data Informs Planning and Operations

West Region



Overview

California was the first state to pass comprehensive open data legislation as applied to water. To help implement the legislation, the state worked with local government and non-governmental organizations to create the California Water Data Consortium. The Consortium provides an independent space for ongoing collaboration and sustained engagement between state agencies and non-state representatives, including water agencies, industry, NGOs, tribes, academia, and others.

Notable Features

- **The legislation was introduced in response to drought** and supported by a coalition that included [businesses](#). The act calls for the creation of systems for data sharing, documentation, quality control, public access, and promotion of open-source platforms and decision support tools related to water data.
- **It is user-centered.** A [set of use cases](#) defines and clarifies user needs for water data, and principles developed by the [Internet of Water](#) anchors the work.
- **It advances projects like groundwater trading, regulatory reporting, and the use of LiDAR technology.** LiDAR technology can help forecast the snowmelt entering reservoirs, improving drought preparation and response planning.
- **It promotes economic development.** Open water data in California has an estimate of between \$160 million and \$780 million economic benefits for the water management sector, which improve efficiency, decision-making, and infrastructure investment.
- **It has cost-share benefits.** The Consortium structure allows for sharing costs between local, state, federal governments and private entities, which helps withstand budget shortfalls.

People Involved

- Senator Bill Dodd, California State Senate.
- Tara Moran, CEO, Water Data Consortium.
- Debbie Davis Franco, Governor's Office of Planning and Research.
- Joone Lopez, General Manager, Moulton Niguel Water District.
- Johnathan Cruz, Director of Financial Planning & Innovation, Moulton Niguel Water District.
- Deven Upadhyay, Chief Operating Officer and Assistant General Manager Metropolitan Water District.
- Eric Averette, General Manager, Rosedale Rio Bravo Water Storage District.
- Adrian Covert, Vice President of Public Policy, Bay Area Council.
- Mike Myatt, Program Officer—Healthy Watersheds Team, Water Foundation.

Additional Resources

- [Open and Transparent Water Data Act of 2016](#).
- [Overview](#) of open water data programs outside of California.
- [State letter of support and commitment to coordinate](#), signed by the State Secretary for Natural Resources Agency and the Secretary for Environmental Protection, as well as the senior leadership from the partner agencies.
- [California Water Data Consortium website](#).
- [Water Data Advisory Council Recommendations](#).
- [Open and Transparent Water Data Act—Implementation Journal](#).

To learn more, visit us at:

www.uswateralliance.org
[@USWaterAlliance](#)