

A Primer for California Water Policy Impacting Business

This paper is intended to serve as a primer for businesses on water policies that exist at the state and Los Angeles county level, with particular attention to the elements that impact business operations. The full report serves as a snapshot in time of current policy, instead of an exhaustive list of all legislation and regulation.

The Current Context in California

In April of this year, Governor Jerry Brown lifted a three year drought emergency declaration. During this time, **California reduced its water usage by 22%**. To maintain that momentum post drought, Governor Brown mandated that conservation remain a way of life in California. **There are several pending bills in Sacramento that would place mandatory measures impacting business.**

A recently enacted Los Angeles City Ordinance requires existing buildings greater than 20,000 sq. ft. to undergo annual energy and water benchmarking. Once a benchmark is established, these **buildings must achieve 15% energy savings and 20% water savings over a five-year period.**

Water Distribution Networks & Policy are Complex



Water passes through many entities before it comes out of your pipes. This paper summarizes the complex infrastructure of water distribution in California and defines the alphabet soup of involved entities. A business' water retailer is determined by its geographic location and cannot be changed. Nonetheless it can be important to understand how it fits in the larger network and opportunities to utilize the programs available from that provider.

Regulation is balanced with incentive and rebate programs offered to companies. The Metropolitan Water District offers a wide variety, including those for high-efficiency toilets, irrigation, food equipment, turf removal and water systems retrofits.

Authors: Lindsey Perry (M.S.'17), Tiffany Wu (B.S.'17)