

**PROPOSED FRAMEWORK FOR STORAGE
IN THE CENTRAL AND WEST COAST GROUNDWATER BASINS**

HIGHLIGHTS

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- **Helps Address a Critical Need:** Provides additional reliable water supplies for the region in the face of recent drought and cutbacks in imported water supplies from the Bay Delta and Colorado River. The Framework ensures the use of 450,000 acre feet of currently unused groundwater storage space in the Central and West Coast Basins.
- **Provides a Complete Package:** All components of the Framework must be considered and either accepted or rejected together; includes agreement for no litigation/legislation in order to create the long-term certainty needed to invest in storage. This agreement is for twenty years and would be open for reconsideration at that time.
- **Provides for Producer Choice and Flexibility:** Allows each groundwater producer to store up to 200% of adjudicated rights through various mechanisms while protecting groundwater basins by limiting extraction to 120% of adjudicated rights unless no material physical harm is verified by Watermaster.
 - A. Increases adjudicated carryover from 20% to 100% (less any amount in storage)
 - B. Guarantees each producer access to storage capacity equivalent to 20% of the producer's extraction right with water in storage freely transferable
 - C. Creates a substantial Community Storage Pool to be available for additional storage capacity on first come, first serve basis
 - D. Allows for the delivery of Temporary Surplus identified by the Water Replenishment District (WRD) to groundwater producers for their use or storage under certain conditions
 - E. Provides for creation of new long term water supply through either a regional project or as an augmentation of existing water rights (subject to review by Watermaster), with the parties who benefit exclusively bearing the cost
- **Improves Basin Management and Provides for Local Control of Groundwater:**
 - A. Creates local Watermaster with defined functional areas
 1. Administrator (WRD): recordkeeping, monitoring, reporting
 2. Water Rights Panel (water rights holders only): enforcement of existing rights
 3. Storage Panel (WRD + Water Rights Panel): joint review/approval of certain projects
 - B. Provides WRD discretion in meeting replenishment needs through flexibility in Basin Management Reserve; designates WRD as liaison for the spreading grounds; continues WRD responsibility for replenishment obligation and groundwater quality programs
 - C. Automatic approval of most storage with specific criteria for certain storage projects
 - D. Clarifies that no replenishment assessment applies to extraction of stored water
 - E. Provides a "line" between "replenishment" and "storage"
- **Benefits of Implementing Framework:**
 - A. Avoids protracted, expensive litigation with uncertain outcomes
 - B. Encourages local investment in groundwater programs by providing legal certainty
 - C. Provides opportunities and incentives for groundwater storage
 - D. Saves money now spent on Watermaster functions
 - E. Establishes a strong foundation for obtaining state and federal funding