

Governor Davis and the water issue

Governor Gray Davis is not directly involved but rather oversees departments such as the Department of Water Resources Cal Fed, and the Water Resources Control Board. He appoints people to handle our drinking water and the distribution of water for the use of agriculture He is indirectly involved yet he supports propositions, loans and grants to help such agencies

Governor Gray Davis is not totally involved with water projects. He can not devote all his time to water projects so he has appointed Mary D Nichols as Secretary of resources and she is now head of the resources agency. As Secretary of state, Mary Nichols handles the budgets, policies, and activities of 27 departments. Mary Nichols also oversaw the implementation of proposition 12 and 13.

Proposition 12 and 13 are bond measures passed on March 7,2000. Both propositions provide money for state, local and non-profit agencies. In proposition 12 there is 2.1 million dollars available for programs such as the San Joaquin River conservancy This money is all provided to the Secretary of resources for rivers, watersheds, and funds for clean water. Money also goes to Cal Fed projects in Bay-Delta and flood control projects.

In proposition 13,2 million dollars is provided for state drinking water, clean water, etc. 7% of the money is for loans and grants to local agencies, such as the Water Resources Department. The main purpose is to improve safety, quality, and reliability of water supply and improving flood protection. State Water Resources Programs and ground water storage projects by Cal Fed receive some of the money from proposition 13.

There is an urgent need for a policy that observes the principles of water resource planning and management under a watershed framework. This would relieve the conflicting

objectives and jurisdictions at federal, state and local government levels. It would also address regional differences, competitions between cities and agriculture for water.

Cal Fed, created by the 1994 Bay Delta Accord, proposed a multi-billion dollar construction project to create more water infrastructure, dams, and canals. While Governor Pete Wilson, and Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt signed the Bay Delta Accord, which authorized the creation of Cal-Fed; Governor Gray Davis followed their original plans and went one step further. Cal-Fed was designed to develop a long-term water supply plan for California as well as address environmental problems in the Sacramento- San Joaquin Bay Delta. The Delta is the nation's largest estuary system; it provides two-thirds of the state's drinking water and irrigates most of the central- valley.

In November of 1998 Governor Davis pledged to accelerate progress on the Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program, and move forward on key elements Governor Davis directed Cal-Fed agencies to work with stakeholders to achieve a series of milestones Governor Gray Davis strongly supports the Colorado River Agreement. He believes the Colorado River Agreement is critical to California's overall water strategy. "This agreement is a vital step toward enabling California to provide a solid foundation for the Cal-Fed program," said Governor Davis.

Governor Gray Davis has worked tirelessly with the federal government to secure a reliable future for California's farmers, their families, and most importantly the environment. In June of last year, Davis set in motion a 7 year, \$8 billion program to secure the water supplies for 22 million Californians. He launched the largest Eco-restoration program on earth to restore the environment of the Bay Delta. The Governor has been making tough executive decisions with the federal Government and with Cal-Fed since he was elected. Cal-Fed framework for action has been one of his main focuses throughout the last couple of years.

In April of 2001 Governor Davis proclaimed May 2001 as "Water Awareness month"

This was due to his belief that water is an essential part of California's quality of life and record of economic success. Our success as a people depends on our ability to keep an ample water supply that is clean and drinkable. California Water Awareness Campaign has helped educate Californians about our vital natural resources; and made them aware about the quality of our state's water supply Therefore, during the month of May, the California Water Awareness Campaign had worked to increase public understanding of water issues and to make water conservation a way of life.

The Department of Water Resources is responsible for evaluating and assessing California's urban, agricultural and environmental water needs.

The Department is also responsible for evaluating the present water supplies and enforcing reduction measures in order to manage the growing water demands in California They also evaluate future water supplies and suggest reduction actions to help manage future demands DWR runs continuous evaluation of surface water resources and rainfall and runoff to help update the states and water resources information Most of that information is put into watershed maps of the entire state

The Department of Water Resources coordinates the mapping of watersheds all over the state. This project is called Cal Water. There are state, federal, and private agencies that have joined forces for the Interagency Watershed Mapping Committee Many agencies are involved including the Department of Forestry, Department of fish and game, DWR, Water Resources Control Board, US Geological Survey and the Environmental Protection Agency. There are some problems that come along with trying to map the state's watershed though. There is no one agency that has the technical ability or expertise and there is no designated funding for the effort.

The DWR is also responsible for producing the California Water Plan Update every five years. There are approximately 60 people selected to serve on the public Advisory Committee to provide input for the preparation of California Water Plan Update. The water plan update will describe statewide water supplies, water uses and actions that can be taken by water agencies to improve future water supply reliability.

There is also the State Water Resources Control Board that is generally responsible for overall policy setting and consideration of petitions contesting Regional Board actions. It is also responsible for allocation of surface water rights. The State Board is currently organized into four divisions, the division of water programs, the division of water quality, the division of water rights, and the division of administrative services

The Division of water programs is responsible for the implementation of the state board's financial assistance programs, for the construction of municipal sewage facilities, water-recycling facilities, and the remediation of effects of releases from underground storage tanks. It also provides implementation assistance in the regulation of waste discharges to land.

The division of water quality is responsible for providing the state wide perspective on a wide range of water quality planning and regulatory functions such as. monitoring for compliance with permit requirements, inspections of treatment facilities and pretreatment of industrial waste water discharge to municipal systems. The division of water rights; processes water right permit applications, assists in protest resolution, holds hearings as necessary and it issues permits. The division of Administrative Services provides a wide range of support services to employees including accounting, contracting, personnel, and data management and business services.

Even though Governor Davis is not totally involved in Water Projects such as Cal Fed, Department of water Resources, and the state water Resources control board, he appoints certain people to handle all of these departments to keep our water clean enough for future generations.