

Water Governance & Power Dynamics: Special Districts in the San Joaquin Valley

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Community Collaborator: Community Water Center

CWC is a non-profit environmental justice organization. Since 2006, their initiatives for accessible and affordable drinking water have been at the forefront of statewide efforts for clean water as a human right.



About the Team

Ivan Soto: Ph.D. student of Interdisciplinary Humanities with a B.A. in Environmental Studies from Humboldt State University.

Adriana Renteria: Regional Water Management Coordinator with a B.A. in Environmental Studies and Economics from UC Santa Cruz.

Erica Fernandez: Director of Organizing with a B.A. in Urban Studies, a B.A. Iberian and Latin American Cultures and Master's degree in Policy, Organization and Leadership Studies from Stanford University.

Research Objectives

The goal of this project is to better understand the current state of water-related special districts in California's northern San Joaquin Valley.

To analyze power dynamics in water governance, this research considers: levels of contestation in elections; vacancies; race, ethnicity, and gender dynamics of board members.

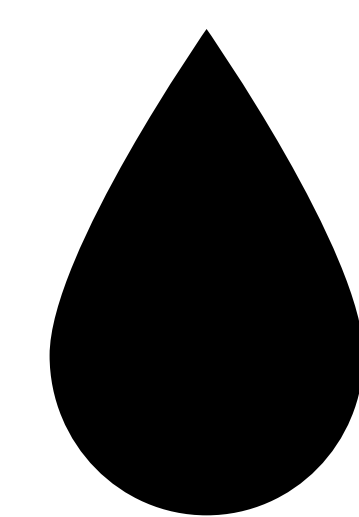
Keywords & Concepts

Water Governance:

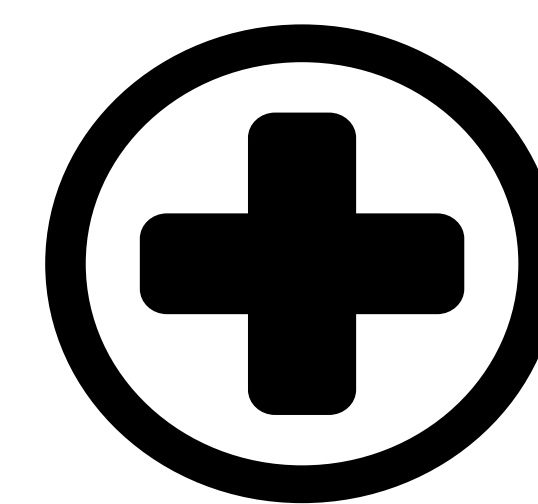
Administrative system that influences drinking and non-drinking water use and management. Often governed by five directors on a board.

Special Districts:

Local government agencies formed and governed by local residents that provide essential services to millions of Californian residents. Their services include, but are not limited to: water, cemeteries, fire protection, mosquito abatement, and healthcare.



Water



Health



Justice

Community Organizing & Advocacy Work

After generating data, the project team will develop fact sheets to disseminate information with key communities. Because Latinx and low-income communities are disproportionately impacted by California's drinking water crisis,* public presentations and *platicas* will help recruit water board candidates from these communities to prioritize community drinking water needs.

Securing long-term, safe, & affordable water

Overall, this project seeks to shift representation in water-related special district boards to adequately represent rural communities of color.



Acknowledgements

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Clean water is a human right, not a privilege.