KNOWLEDGE TOOLS

VOICE
We recognize, include and elevate the voices of diverse water users.

DATA
We partner with a broad spectrum of water users to define a range of possible futures.

TOOLS
We co-develop tools to represent alternative scenarios, visualize outcomes, and assess trade-offs.

KNOWLEDGE
Through collaborations to create shared data and tools, we broaden perspectives and learn together.

ACTION
By creating a collaborative network, COEQWAL highlights novel solutions and empowers communities to take action.

**What is COEQWAL?**

To ensure a healthy water future for all, California needs to consider diverse perspectives about how we use our water. To meet this need, we launched COEQWAL, a COllaboratory for EQuity in Water ALlocations.

With partners and collaboration, we co-create tools that help us understand trade-offs among many possible water futures. Our data and tools will be shared online for anyone to envision a just and equitable water future.

**How will COEQWAL empower Californians to influence water management decisions?**

COEQWAL allows us to explore more equitable water futures.

By building tools with diverse California communities, we elevate unheard voices, learn from each other, and build relationships.

By connecting people and ideas, we open opportunities for new solutions to emerge.

“So much water is moved around California by so many different agencies that maybe only the movers themselves know on any given day whose water is where.”

Joan Didion, The White Album (1979)
Why do we need COEQWAL?

**CLIMATE CHANGE**
Climate change brings more extreme weather to California. We get less water than we need or more than we can manage. Rising sea levels push salt water into the California Delta, a growing risk to our water supply. Ecosystems face increasing stress.

**How can we adapt?** COEQWAL will evaluate how our water system will respond to climate change and identify pathways to a sustainable, equitable, and resilient water future.

**INSUFFICIENT WATER, DIVERSE DEMANDS**
California has one of the largest systems in the world for moving water where and when we need it. However, between agriculture, cities, and the environment, we rarely have sufficient water to meet all demands.

**What is the best way to divide and distribute our limited supply?** COEQWAL will explore new ways to balance competing needs. By co-creating data and tools with diverse water users, COEQWAL will promote inclusive and comprehensive evaluation of trade-offs.

**EVERYONE NEEDS A VOICE**
Computer models allow us to explore different possible futures. They help us make informed decisions about who gets water, where and when.

**But who decides what scenarios to consider?** COEQWAL opens access to data and tools that have been the domain of experts. Using a collaborative approach, we combine existing and new computer models that are tailored to the values and priorities of diverse community members.

How to get involved?

COEQWAL is a two-year project. Launched in 2023 at public universities across the state, we invite Californians to collaborate with us through interviews, surveys, and workshops. Share your voice! Use the contact form on our website. Learn more at coeqwal.berkeley.edu.

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