



# Media Release

## State Water Board Adopts Open Data Resolution

*Commits to Improved Access to Water Data that Informs  
Regulatory and Operational Decisions on the Future of Water in California*

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**SACRAMENTO** – The State Water Resources Control Board adopted a resolution today on open data principles committing it and the Regional Water Boards to providing broader access to the data used to make local, regional and statewide water management and regulatory decisions in California.

The resolution commits the board to completing a thorough review of its current data enterprise and charting a new path for more comprehensive access. The commitment to make data easily accessible and understandable will assist the State Water Board and Regional Water Boards in making informed, inclusive, and transparent decisions.

“The Water Boards were founded with commitments to transparency, public process, and fact-driven decision making to manage our state’s water resources,” said State Water Board member E. Joaquin Esquivel. “This resolution focuses our agency on open data principles that further strengthen that foundation.”

“The Boards request, collect, process, and provide vast amounts of data and information on the state’s water quality, quantity, and uses. These data can be used to better serve the public through open and accessible information,” Esquivel added.

“When our numerous data sets are understandable, accessible, and contextual, it strengthens a transparent, fact-based, and collaborative decision-making process —pillars of a 21<sup>st</sup> century regulatory agency,” Esquivel said.

The passage of the Open and Transparent Water Data Act ([AB1755, Dodd](#)) in 2016 put the Water Boards on a path towards publishing more data. Currently, the Water Boards have more than 30 datasets and over 50 data resources published at the State of California’s [open data portal](#) (data.ca.gov).

The most recent open data from the Water Boards show [urban water use](#) and [water rates](#) by public water systems, published in support of the [2018 Safe Drinking Water Data Challenge](#).

The Water Boards are a data-driven organization that utilizes data to inform [operational](#), regulatory and water resource decisions. The Water Boards have more than 60 software



applications, including 15 core enterprise [applications](#), to manage data critical to our mission as well as data describing environmental conditions and regulatory compliance. A long time Water Boards goal has been to adopt strategic actions to improve open data accessibility and innovation in its use.

Examples of current projects to make data more accessible and use it in our decision-making include [relaying data about lead in schools](#), and the Water Board's [harmful algal bloom incident](#) reporting and risk communication project.

For more information on how the State Water Boards use data and their plans for the future, visit the Data and Databases webpage [here](#).

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