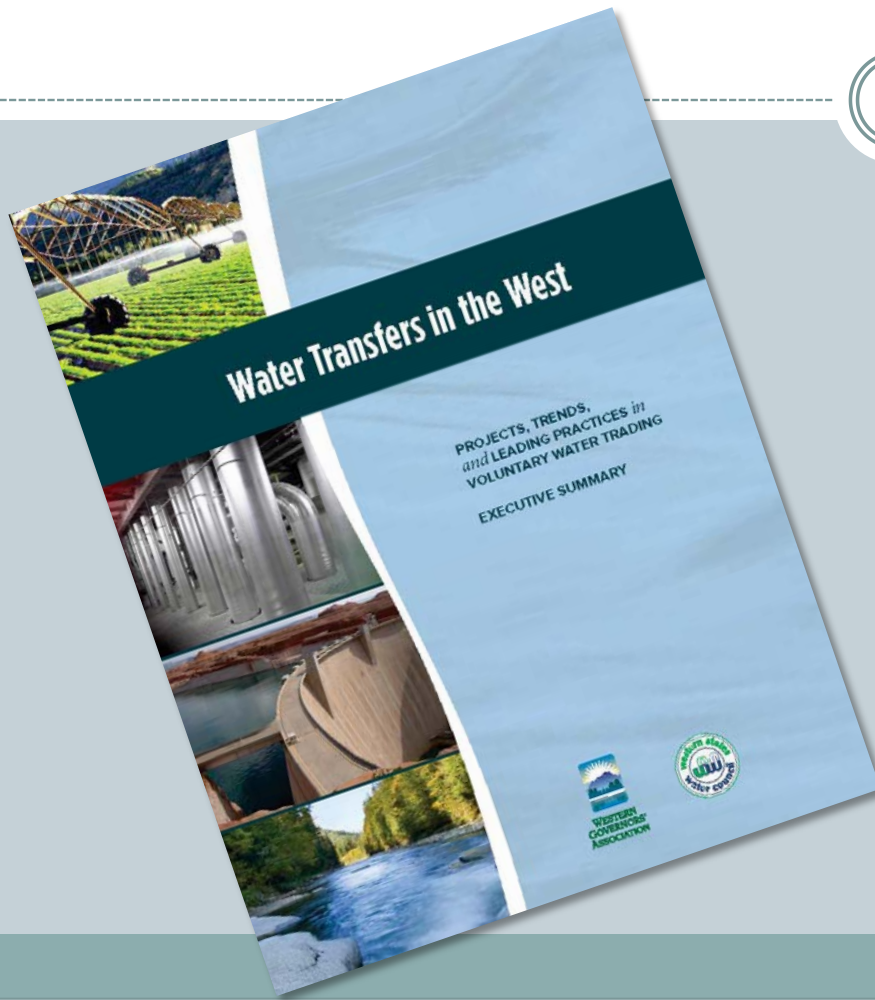


Water Transfers in the West:

A Western States Perspective



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2104 WRRC Conference

Closing the Gap: A Menu of Options

Univ. of Arizona Student Union Memorial Center

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GOVERNORS'
ASSOCIATION



Water Withdrawals in the West



-Freshwater withdrawals in the 17 western states. Source: USGS Report, **Estimated Water Use in the United States in 2005.**

Water Transfers

def.: Water Transfer

A water transfer is a voluntary agreement that results in a temporary or permanent change in the type, time, or place of use of water and/or a water right.

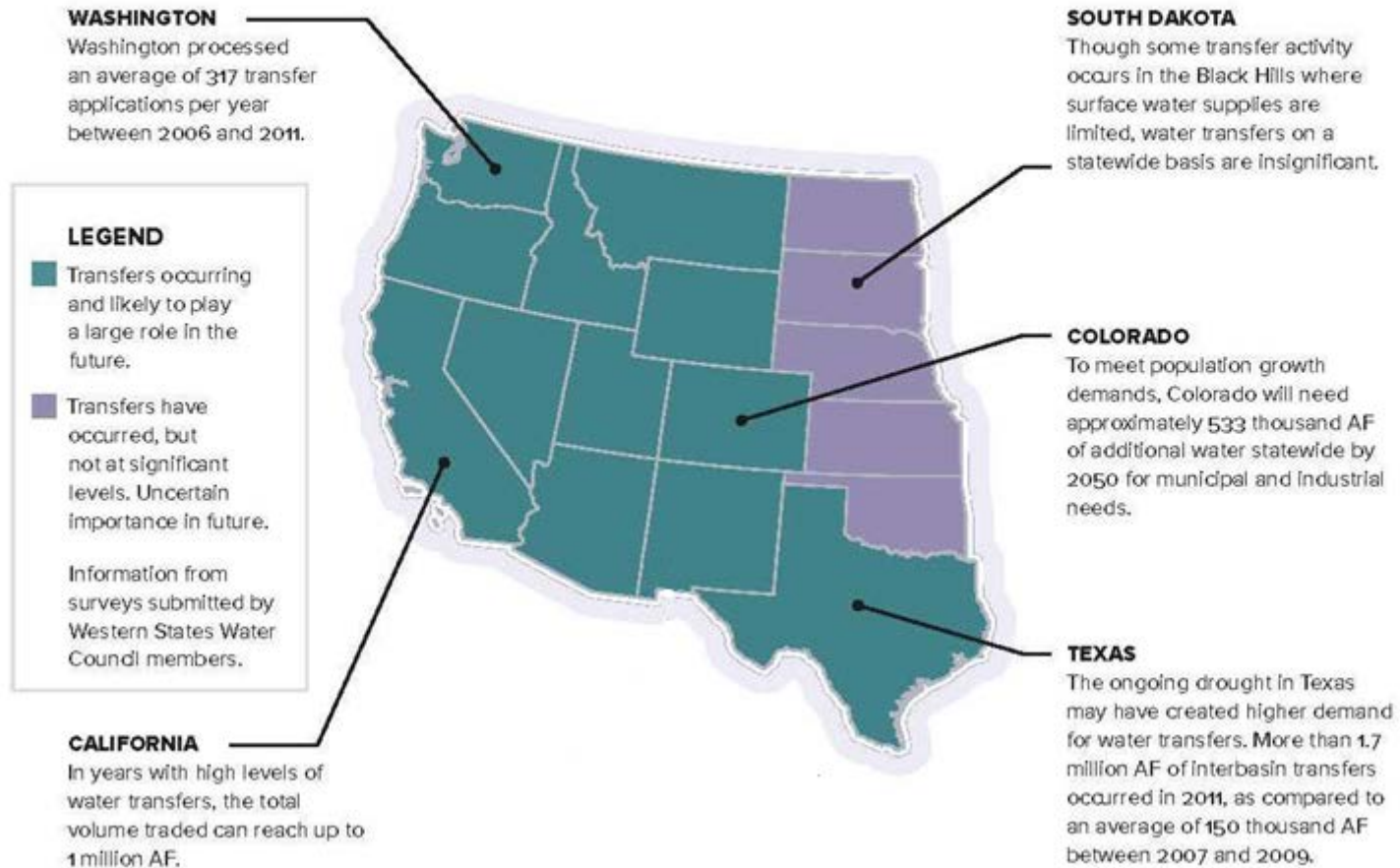
Water transfers can be local or distant; they can be a sale, lease, or donation; and they can move water among agricultural, municipal, industrial, energy, and environmental uses.

- **Sale, lease or donation**
- **Voluntary**
- **Intra-state**
- **No value judgments**



figure 1

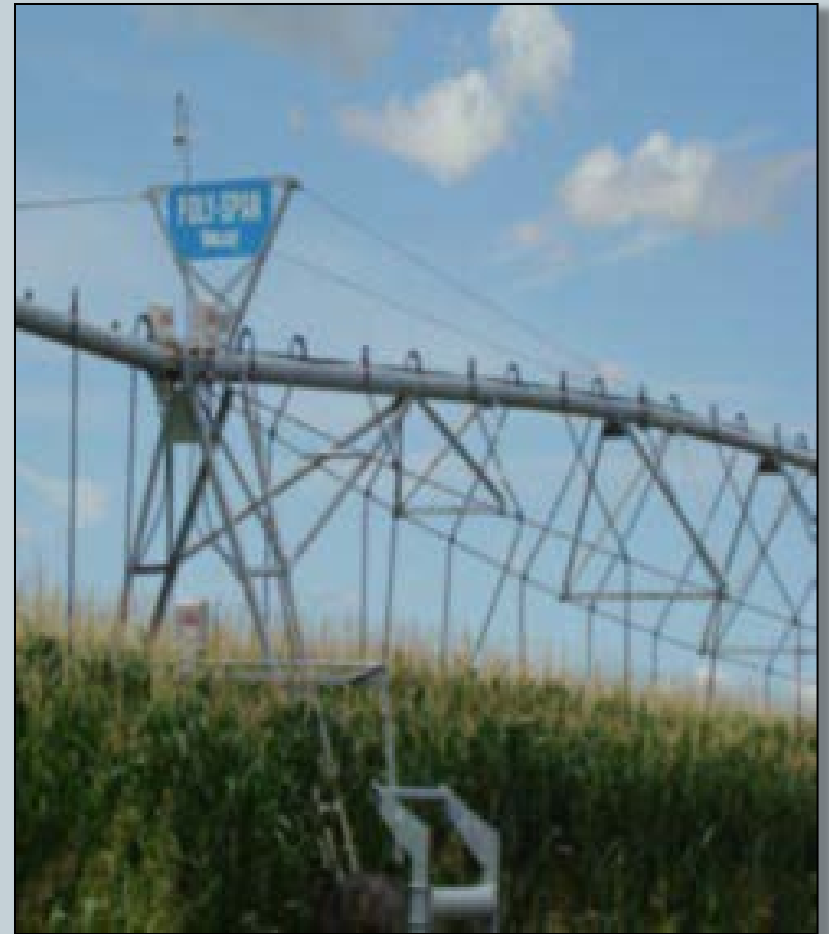
CURRENT AND FUTURE ROLE OF WATER TRANSFERS IN THE WEST



-The current and future role of water transfers in the West. Figure by WGA/WSWC.

Issues and Challenges

- Information/data needs
- Regional issues
- Abandonment/Forfeiture
- New approaches
- Third party impacts



Abandonment and Forfeiture



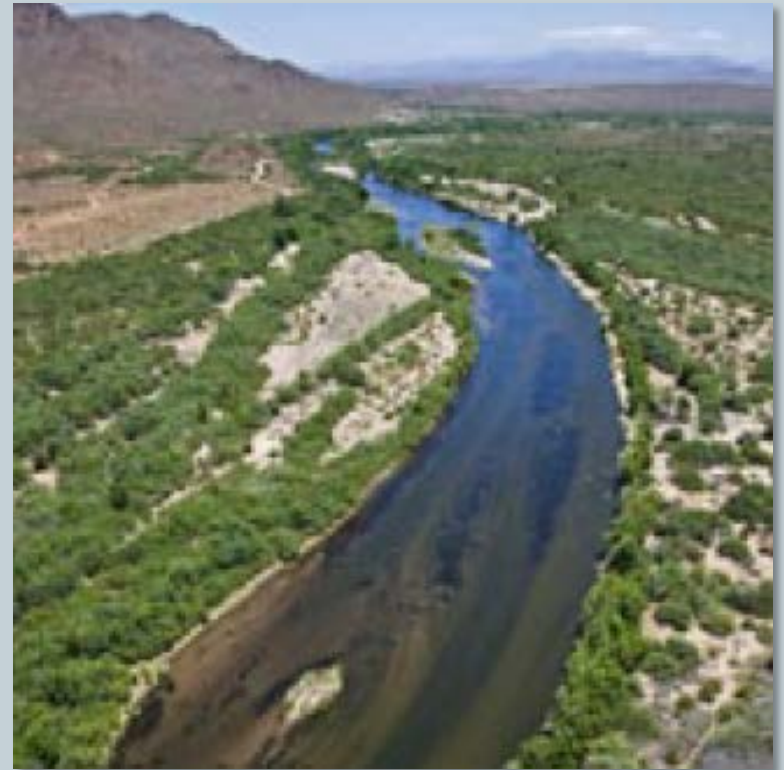
“A water right shall not be lost or forfeited by a failure of the owner of the right to divert and apply the water to beneficial use while the water rights is placed in the water supply bank...or while the water right is leased...or while use of the water is made under any other provision of law authorizing the rental or lease of water rights.” (emphasis added)

- Idaho Code Ann. § 42-223

State Programs and Efforts - Examples



- **General policies**
- **Water supply planning**
- **Water banks**
- **Conservation programs**
- **Temporary transfers**
- **Grant programs**



CA – MWD-PVID Community Improvement Fund

QUICK NUMBERS

- Program Objective: To develop up to **120,000 AF/year** flexible and reliable water supply for a **35-year** term.
- One time sign-up payment of **\$3,170** per encumbered acre to landowner.
- **\$710** per fallowed acre in 2012 (adjusted for inflation annually).
- **\$6 million** for community improvement programs.
- CIF has given loans to **8** new businesses in the Palo Verde Valley, supporting **120** newly created jobs and **70** indirect additional jobs.



-Photo: Metropolitan Water District

CA – MWD-PVID Community Improvement Fund



Photo – Jay Abbas, CIF, Presentation to WGA/WSWC, December 2011

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CA – MWD-PVID



“[We] have regular dialogue to make adjustments to the program...to meet our respective needs rather than fighting it out. The **long-term relationship between our agencies is more important** than saving money one year or arguing over supplies.”

-Bill Hasencamp, MWD



Photo – Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Key Messages



- States create “the framework” for transfers
- Bottom up approaches effective
- Transfers are a primary water planning tool, but not the only one
- Local stakeholders must feel empowered
- Relationships are important

Additional Information



- Report website (report, presentations, and more):
<http://www.westgov.org/initiatives/water/373-water-papers>
- WSWC website:
<http://www.westernstateswater.org/>



Questions?



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