

Groundwater Management and Permitting in the Southwest – Panel
October 7 – 10:30AM-12Noon
California Groundwater Biennial Conference
October 6-7, 2009 - Sacramento Convention Center, Sacramento, California

When it comes to groundwater, some say the Wild West still exists and is present in California, where groundwater is not regulated, and to pump water out of the ground all you need to do is be a land owner and install a well. Over the last year, there has been increased interest in considering legislation in California to regulate and permit groundwater, which initiated the thought and desire to convene a group of neighboring state representatives to hear and benchmark at this time how their respective states approach groundwater regulation. Some California background information is provided in the following documents:

- Groundwater Management and Drinking Water Quality Issues – California Legislative Analyst’s Office – April 2008
http://www.lao.ca.gov/handouts/resources/2008/Groundwater_Management_42308.pdf
- California’s Water, an LAO Primer – California LAO – October 2008
http://www.lao.ca.gov/2008/rsrc/water_primer/water_primer_102208.pdf
- Water Right, Issues and Perspectives – CA LAO – March 2009
http://www.lao.ca.gov/handouts/resources/2009/water_rights_issues_perspectives_031009.pdf

Southwestern state panelists have been invited from Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, and Texas, to provide an overview to the groundwater managers and practicing professionals in the audience of groundwater management, regulation and permitting in their respective states. The format will be in a panel, with panelists sitting together at a table, and each will be given 10-12 minutes for presentation, followed by 1-2 clarifying questions after each presentation, final clarifications and questions amongst panelists, and finally about 20 -30 minutes open audience Q&A.

A general outline to follow for presentation slides includes:

- Groundwater legislative history/background – to understand how long/steps taken and why
- Water law and surface water and groundwater differentiation
- Agency jurisdiction, and major groundwater regulations and permitting requirements
- Example of permitting determination
- Major challenges and constraints under state’s current system

Following the session, a session is planned for the California Legislative Analyst’s Office to present an overview of their recent water and groundwater reports, and for two water resources attorneys to debate the current status of groundwater policy in California and future policy direction. The LAO is interested in receiving audience input as well.

<p>ARIZONA Kenneth Seasholes Senior Policy analyst Central Arizona Project 23636 North Seventh Street Phoenix, AZ 85024 623-869-2476 kseasholes@cap-az.com Assistant - Sue Orzo 623-869-2378</p>	<p>COLORADO Kevin Rein Assistant State Engineer Division of Water Resources 1313 Sherman St., Rm. 818 Denver, CO 80203 303-866-3581 ext 8239 kevin.rein@state.co.us</p>
<p>NEVADA Thomas K. Gallagher, P.E. Manager II, Water Rights Section Chief 901 S. Stewart Street, Suite 2002 Carson City, Nevada 89701 775-684-2847 (ph) 775-684-2811 (fx) Web address: http://water.nv.gov <http://water.nv.gov> E-mail: tgallagher@water.nv.gov</p>	<p>NEW MEXICO Jim Brockmann, Attorney Stein & Brockmann 460 Saint Michaels Drive, Suite 603 Santa Fe, NM 87502-5250 505-983-3880 jcbrockmann@newmexicowaterlaw.com</p>
<p>TEXAS Robert Mace Deputy Executive Administrator Water Science & Conservation Texas Water Development Board 1700 North Congress Avenue PO Box 13231 Austin, TX 8711-3231 (512) 936-0861 robert.mace@twdb.state.tx.us</p>	<p>MODERATOR Timothy K. Parker, PG, CEG, CHG Parker Groundwater PO Box 221597 Sacramento, CA 916-833-5800 tim@pg-tim.com www.pg-tim.com</p>