

# Rationalizing the Allocation of Water in California

*How did we get the Water System we have and what are the Implications for Contemporary Water Policy?*



## RONALD AND MAXINE LINDE CENTER FOR GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE



*This lecture is in conjunction with the Rationalizing the Allocation of Water in California workshop held April 19-21, 2016.*

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**Wednesday, April 20, 2016**  
4:00 PM Lecture

**Sharp Lecture Hall, Arms Building**  
**California Institute of Technology**

Depending on how measured, agriculture may consume 60% of California's water. With drought reducing supplies and growing urban, environmental and recreational demands, pressures exist to reallocate water. This can come from market exchange based on existing property rights or from regulatory mandates. The former is likely to meet long-term reallocation objectives at lower cost than the latter.

Given the long-term ownership expectations associated with prior appropriation, water reallocation that is not based on them could lead to significant economic disruption and cost in achieving California's emerging water allocation objectives.