



# State Water Governance: Policy trends and state examples

New Mexico Interim Committee on Water &  
Natural Resources

July 26, 2022

# How NCSL Strengthens Legislatures



## Policy Research

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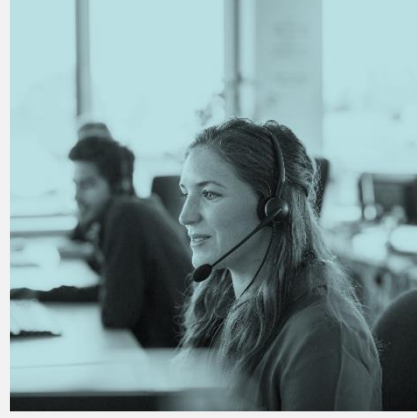
NCSL provides trusted, nonpartisan policy research and analysis



## Connections

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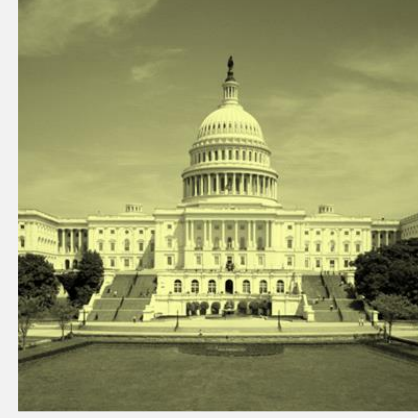
NCSL links legislators and staff with each other and with experts



## Training

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NCSL delivers training tailored specifically for legislators and staff



## State Voice in D.C.

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NCSL represents and advocates on behalf of states on Capitol Hill



## Meetings

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NCSL meetings facilitate information exchange and policy discussions



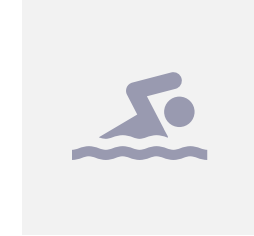
# State Water Governance

Sustainable, reliable and effective water management



Allocation / Supply

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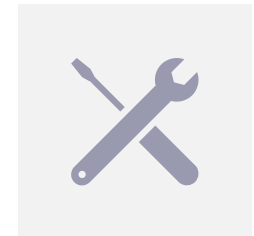
Quality

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Drinking Water

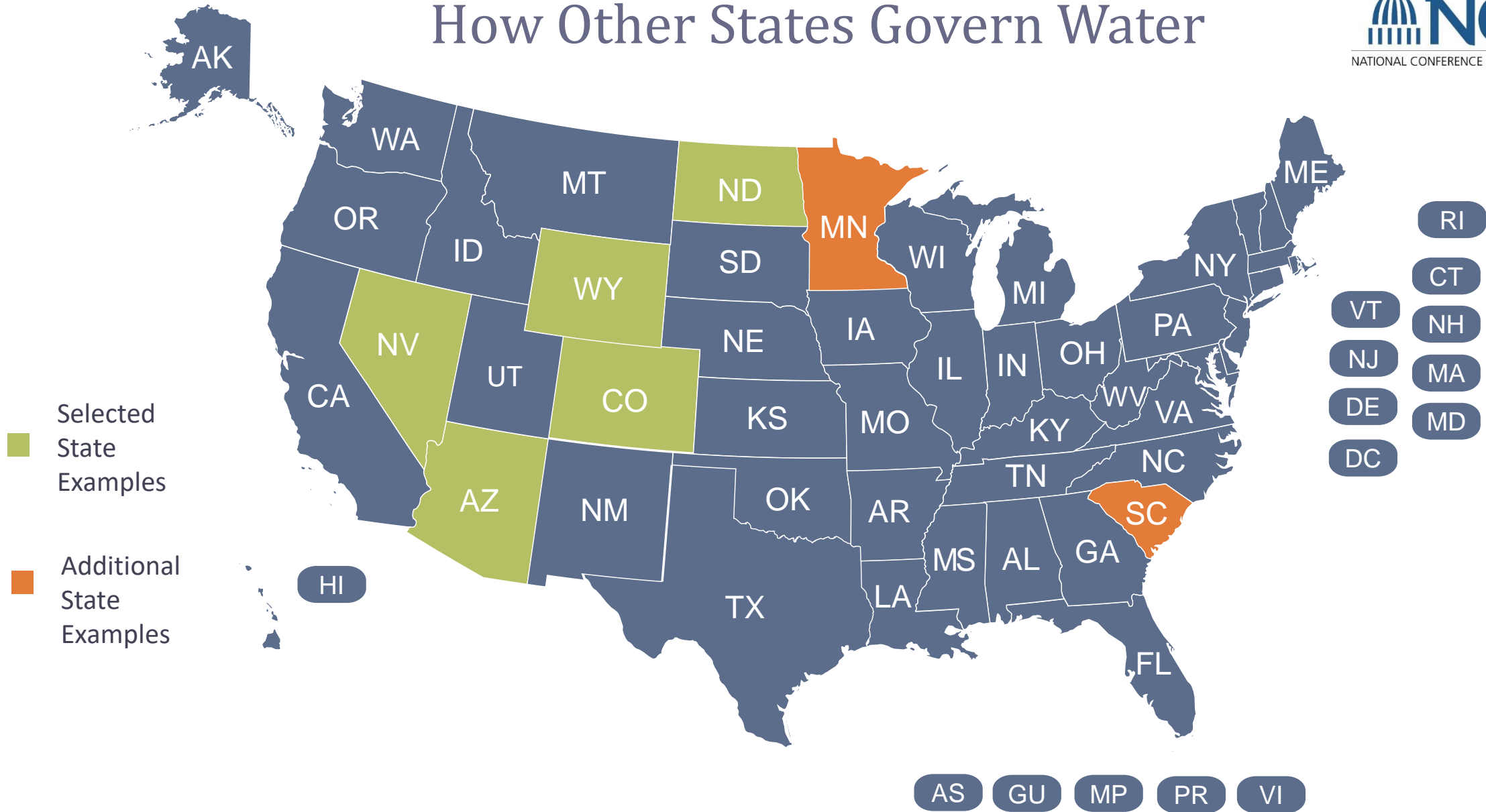
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Infrastructure

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# How Other States Govern Water

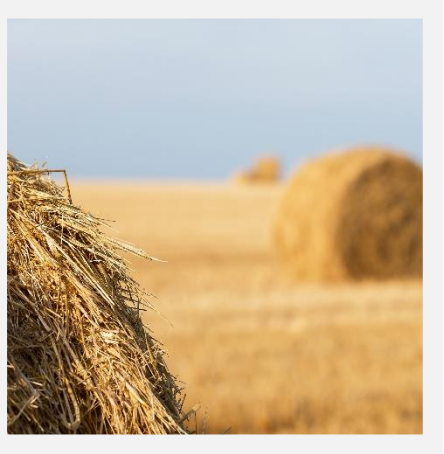


# A Variety of Water Users, Benefits and Impacts

(not a comprehensive list)



Public Health



Agriculture



Recreation and  
Wildlife



Industry



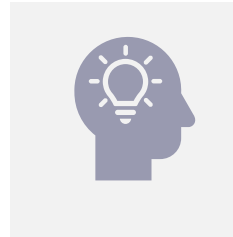
Energy

# Minnesota Evaluation (2013/2014)



## Focus

- Three levels – state, regional, local
- Identified state agencies and related programs:
  - Education
  - Planning
  - Financial assistance
  - Regulation



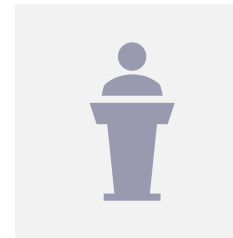
## Recommendations

- Organization and delivery of water management services
  - “One watershed-one plan”
  - Improve regional delivery of services
- Public waters and wetlands (aligning laws and processes)
- Interagency framework on groundwater
- Land use and water management (i.e., incentives for local government)
- Efforts to address nonpoint source pollution and soil loss



## Agencies / Organization

- Department of Water Resources
- Department of Environmental Quality
- Governor's Water Augmentation, Innovation and Conservation Council
- 2014 Strategic Vision for Water Supply Sustainability



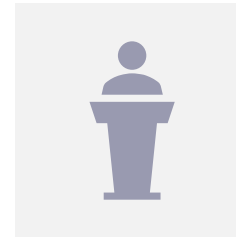
## 2022 Legislation

- SB 1740: water infrastructure financing, supply, augmentation.
- SB 1564: On Farm Irrigation Efficiency Pilot Program
- HB 2231: Water rights adjudication and assistance by certain universities for small landowner claimants



## Agencies / Organization

- Department of Natural Resources
  - Division of Water Resources
  - Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB)
- Department of Public Health and Environment
- Colorado Water Plan



## Legislation

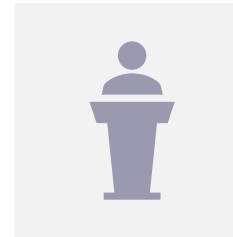
- HB 1037 (2020): CWCB authority to augment stream flows
- SB 28 (2022): Groundwater Compact Compliance and Sustainability Fund (administered by the CWCB)





## Agencies / Organization

- Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
  - State Engineer / Division of Water Resources
- State Water Plan
  - First developed in 1960s and 1970s
  - Current efforts to gather public input and update



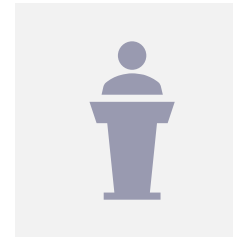
## Legislation

- SB 140 (2019): state engineer to reserve a certain percentage of groundwater
- SB 150 (2019): local water resource plan requirements
- Recent bills related to conservation
  - Turf removal / nonfunctional turf
  - Rainwater collection



## Agencies /Organization

- Department of Water Resources
  - Director is a governor appointee and cabinet member
  - Office of the State Engineer
- First statewide water plan in 1937
- 2021 planning process includes Water Commissioner-hosted basin meetings



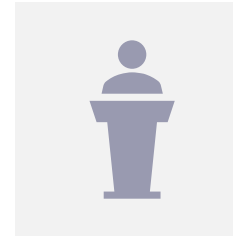
## 2021 Legislation

- HB 1353: renamed the State Water Commission and reorganized with the Office of the State Engineer
- HB 1088: water development plan
- SB 2208: drainage study



## Agencies/Organization

- State Board of Control
  - State Engineer's Office
  - Water Division Superintendents
- Water Development Office
  - Water Development Program
  - Water Development Commission



## Legislation

- 1997: Water Planning Feasibility Study
- 2005: Funding for Statewide Framework Water Plan

- Coordination
- Watersheds / Basins
- Adaptive and Responsive



## State Water Governance

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Questions?

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