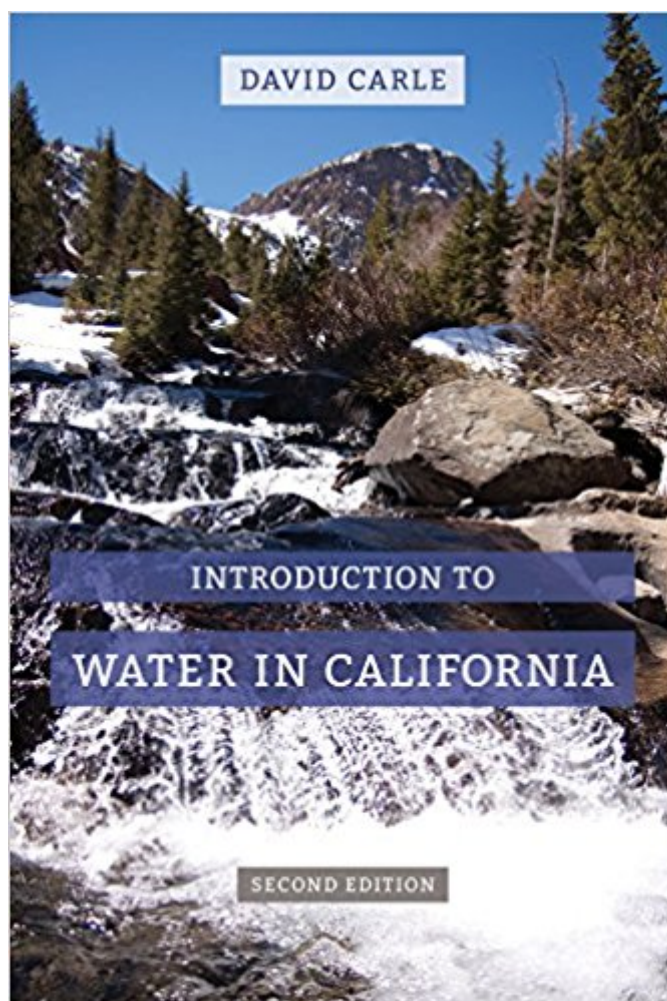


The book was found

Introduction To Water In California (California Natural History Guides)



Synopsis

This thoroughly engaging, concise book tells the story of California's most precious resource, tracing the journey of water in the state from the atmosphere to the snowpack to our faucets and foods. Along the way, we learn much about California itself as the book describes its rivers, lakes, wetlands, dams, and aqueducts and discusses the role of water in agriculture, the environment, and politics. Essential reading in a state facing the future with an overextended water supply, this fascinating book shows that, for all Californians, every drop counts. New to this updated edition: * Additional maps, figures, and photos * Expanded coverage of potential impacts to precipitation, snowpack, and water supply from climate change * Updated information about the struggle for water management and potential solutions * New content about sustainable groundwater use and regulation, desalination, water recycling, stormwater capture, and current proposals for water storage and diversion * Additional table summarizing water sources for 360 California cities and towns

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Bottom Line: You cannot hope to fix a "broken" system without some basic understanding of its history, function and opportunities for change. I give Carle's book FIVE STARS for providing that information." (David Zetland)

“We can only hope that, someday, such a guide is available for every state in the West.”

- High Country News "This book provides a valuable overview of the problems facing California, but it has implications for the rest of the country. Highly recommended."
- Choice "It's a comprehensive look at a very complicated subject and a fascinating journey about water."
- Mammoth Times "The type of book you would hope to see in every welcome basket for every lawmaker coming to Sacramento for the first time. Anyone living in or interested in California should reach such a book."
- Journal Of The American Water Resources Association

We are preparing to relocate to recently post-drought California, and I wanted to understand what we are getting ourselves into. This book provides a very good background on the history of water source manipulations that made California what it is today and is a must read if you want to appreciate the big picture. Coming from the eastern seaboard, where we rarely have to deal with obtaining ample water, the history, status, and conservation efforts of water resources in California is very interesting and much more complex than I was aware. From an outside observer, It does seem that agricultural water use, which is 80 percent of the total used supply, but provides less than 2% of the State's economic income is going to have to change and will continue to clash with ecological and human population needs. Sacrosanct, antiquated water rights will likely have to be altered. It is made clear that snow pack in the Sierra and Rocky Mountains is key to maintaining a steady water supply, however, this seasonal time-release water source can hardly be counted on in the short and long term future. If a major drought worse than the recent one occurs, reservoirs might buy some supply time, BMPs might save some water, but groundwater banking looks like the best long-term insurance policy for inexpensive water. In the worst of worst cases, desalination plants would likely have to be installed up and down the coast as it may be the only sustainable source of water to big population centers if winter precipitation becomes gully washers due to climate change and groundwater overdrafts are not balanced with groundwater banking via excess surface- or reused-water injection or infiltration. Basically, my take away from this good read is that beyond the big one (earthquake) which will eventually and unexpectedly happen, the major risk living in Southern and elsewhere in much of California where the people are, is the possibility of a very severe water shortage in the near future. Hopefully, the recent Pineapple Express cavalry that recently saved the day will not cause people to sit on their hands until the next crisis, but will be seen a reprieve that will allow for better and quick preparation for the next big drought.

For a textbook, this is a very readable book. Bought it for my daughter, but I started reading it myself when sent me the kindle preview. The price is steep, that's why I gave it 4 stars (gotta love the textbook market) but the quality of the writing is excellent, and it is an important topic all Californians should educate themselves on. It is easy to get sucked in by the political jargon about how many millions are being spent per fish in the delta, but the story is more complicated than that. Great book if you want to be better informed and have a balanced view of water issues.

Great follow up to the original edition.

It's a hardbound book with glossy pages. It's twice the size of a pocketbook and it's not heavy or thick either. I had to buy this book for my hydrology class.

I bought the first edition of this book (2004) while I was living and working in California, so I was glad to receive a review copy of the revised Second Edition (2015)

This is a wonderful book. "Introduction" is an understatement. The breath of scholarship, research, and insight is amazing. Carle weaves history, hydrology, weather, culture, politics, agriculture, industry, and population growth into a fascinating story of how water is the lifeblood and future of California.

Yawnnnnn

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