

# Day 12: Water Policy

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# Road map

- Discuss how citizen participation, decentralization, and governments as polluters complicate the regulation of water quality in the United States
- Discuss how YOU would manage a local water district

# Primer

<https://youtu.be/rreBKDko60Y>

# Themes in Water Policy

We are going to spend most of our time discussing the following themes from this chapter:

- Citizen participation
- Decentralization - the role of networked government
- Governments as polluters
- Cost-benefit analysis

In groups, discuss how each of these themes cropped up during the chapter. Make sure you are finding specific examples.

# Citizen Participation

## Citizens Suits

- Part of enforcing both SDWA and CWA
- CWA - most citizen suit activity
- Method of influencing implementation
- File suit, EPA responds, if they do nothing there are other remedies:
  - Injunctive relief
  - Civil penalties
- Fire alarm oversight
- Citizens or groups? Does it matter?

# Decentralization

- Big role for state and municipal governments
- Fragmented regulation of surface and groundwater
- 27 federal agencies
- Networked government challenges

# Governments as Polluters

- Municipalities present big problem with waste management
- 3 tiers:
  - Primary: floats and sinks
  - Secondary: Aeration
  - Tertiary: Additional chemical and physical treatment
- Many munis at 1, some at 2, few at 3

# Cost-Benefit Analysis

- Paradox of allowable limits
- Lack of data on acceptable exposure
- Weighing of risks and costs of cleaning water
- Decreasing marginal utility argument



# PFAS

<https://youtu.be/9W74aeuqsiU>