

Streamlining Underground Storage Water Rights



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Water right?

→ If diverting water, yes

Underground Storage?

→ Framework provided by water rights law.
Other western states call it
conjunctive use. Some say recharge.

Temporary Permit

Lasts for 180 days

**No unreasonable effect on fish
or injury to other legal users**

Must demonstrate urgent need

Subject to CEQA

**Typically faster processing
(months)**

Standard Water Right

Permanent

**Secures a priority date for
project relative to others**

**Board must find unappropriated
water is available**

Subject to CEQA and protests

**Typically slower processing
(years)**

Temporary Permit

Lasts for 180 days

Standard Water Right

Permanent

Streamlined Water Right for Diverting High Flows

Permanent

**Same statutory and
regulatory requirements**

**Process to expedite and
prioritize our efforts**

STREAMLINED Permitting



Applicability



**Simplified
Water
Availability
Analysis**



**Use and
Storage
Accounting
in GSP**



**Umbrella
permitting
approach
possible**



Applicability

In a Bulletin 118 basin

Applicant is a local agency

Uses simplified WAA

CEQA Complete

Divert during 12/1 – 3/31



**Simplified
Water
Availability
Analysis**

Divert flows above daily 90th percentile

Limit diversions to 20% of flow

Compare 90th percentile against senior demands and environmental needs

Or

Divert when flood conditions threaten health and safety, based on flood control agency



**Use and
Storage
Accounting
in GSP**

See Purposes of Use fact sheet

Rely on water use accounting method mandated by GSP, or use last-in-first-out

Annual reporting on water stored and consumptively used under water right



**Umbrella
permitting
approach
possible**

GSAAs can acquire surface water rights

Project can have many points of diversion
and a consolidated place of use

GSA can administer use of water right
amongst many landowners

STREAMLINED Permitting

when?

- Working on finalizing materials, website
- Mid-September goal
- Process is case by case and will be a partnership

Feedback and questions are welcome

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