

# Rethink Water Rights Policies

Battles over limited water supplies in the United States and around the world have long produced conflicts and costs to affected communities. While limited supplies are a problem in and of themselves, political management of water is the key problem. Government control of water allocation generally produces inefficient and unfair results.

- A property rights-based system could alleviate water shortages and pollution prob-

lems by properly pricing water resources and giving parties a stake in ensuring water quality.

- Policy makers should rethink current approaches to facilitate water markets, which have developed in some areas and show great promise.

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