



# ETHICS, PROFESSIONALISM AND POLITICS

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# **Politics and Water Issues**

## **Competing users**

**Agriculture Urban and Environmental**

**Transfers between users and basins**

**New reservoirs vs conservation**

**Consumption variance between users**

**Reservoir reallocations**

**Urban/rural growth**





# **Politics and Water Issues**

**Population growth & agriculture**

**Surface groundwater interactions**

**Instream and environmental flows**

**Agency competition (fed-state/state-state)**

**Water quality**

**Drought (apportioning burden)**





# Political considerations and Compacts

**Negotiation stage**

**Legislative approval stage**



# Political Considerations

**Party Affiliation: Executive & Legislative  
Governor and Legislative Leaders Accord  
Time Remaining in Office  
Changing Administration  
Is it only about water—other issues  
Stakeholders Access to Political Leaders**

**Agricultural**

**Urban**

**Environmental**

**Industrial**

# Negotiator Knowledge of Political Considerations

**Governor position**

**Legislative leaders positions**

**Agency positions**

**Stakeholder positions**

*Query: How does the negotiator  
balance these positions*

# Political Pitfalls

## Maximization vs. Optimization of Parties

Maximizing attributes:

- Reliance on rights/power positions

- Strong anchoring—amounts or process

Optimization attributes

- Interest seeking

- Pain sharing

- Flexibility

## **More Political Pitfalls**

**Failure to incorporate stakeholders**

**Discounting stakeholders**

**Stakeholder alliances**

**Stakeholder access to political  
process and power**

**Consultant interests**



# BATNA's and Bargaining

Best Alternative to Negotiated Agreement

Status quo

Legal options

Political options

***Query: Is it bad faith to fail to reveal your  
BATNA?***

# Negotiating Water Agreements

**Improved science & models (biophysical & social)**

**More stakeholders/ greater sophistication**

**Complexity greater**

**Optimizing still a struggle**

**Greater emphasis on social vs engineering process**

**Environmental concerns added to mix**

**Interest based vs rights based bargaining**

**More political involvement**

**\*\* ask political leaders to ratify solutions rather than to solve problems\*\***