

## IT IS ZERO HOUR FOR A NEW US WATER POLICY!

At a time when many countries are adopting new national approaches to water management, the United States still has no cohesive federal policy, and water-related authorities are dispersed across more than 30 agencies. Here, at last, is a vision for what we as a nation need to do to manage our most vital resource. In this book, leading thinkers at the Pacific Institute, a world-class water research institution, present clear and readable analysis and recommendations for a new federal water policy to confront our national and global challenges at a critical time.

What exactly is at stake? In the twenty-first century, pressures on water resources in the United States are growing and conflicts among water users are worsening. Communities continue to struggle to meet water quality standards and to ensure that safe drinking water is available for all. And new challenges are arising as climate change and extreme events worsen, new water quality threats materialize, and financial constraints grow. Yet the United States has not stepped up with adequate leadership to address these problems.

The inability of national policymakers to safeguard our water makes the United States increasingly vulnerable to serious disruptions of something most of us take for granted: affordable, reliable, and safe water. This book provides an independent assessment of water issues and water management in the United States, addressing emerging and persistent water challenges from the perspectives of science, public policy, environmental justice, economics, and law. With fascinating case studies and first-person accounts of what helps and hinders good water management, this is a clear-eyed look at what we need for a twenty-first century water policy.

## About the Authors

**JULIET CHRISTIAN-SMITH** is a senior research associate with the Pacific Institute's Water Program. Dr. Christian-Smith is a National Academy of Sciences Frontiers of Science Fellow, has been a Community Forestry and Environmental Research Fellow, a Fulbright Fellow, a winner of the National Science Foundation Undergraduate Research Award, and was honored by the Environmental Protection Agency for Outstanding Achievement along with colleagues Peter Gleick and Heather Cooley.

**Peter H. Gleick** is the recipient of a MacArthur Foundation "Genius" award, member of the US National Academy of Sciences, and widely considered a global expert on freshwater resources. Dr. Gleick is the cofounder and current president of the Pacific Institute in Oakland, California. He is also the author of *Bottled and Sold: The Story Behind Our Obsession with Bottled Water*, author and editor of *The World's Water*, a biennial book on fresh water and the author and editor of *Water in Crisis*.

**Heather Cooley** is the codirector of the Pacific Institute's Water Program. Ms. Cooley has been a contributor to multiple editions of *The World's Water*, writing chapters on the energy implications of water supply and the impact of climate change on water resources, and *The Water-Energy Nexus in the American West*. She manages several water projects at the institute associated with the science and policy of water efficiency, desalination, climate change, and more.

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**Amy Vanderwarker** has worked in the environmental justice movement for almost a decade, with experience in both local community-based campaigns and statewide policy initiatives. She worked for four years at the *Environmental Justice Coalition for Water*, a California-based coalition of community-based organizations, tribes, and nonprofits working to address water issues impacting low-income communities and communities of color, and as a consultant on water justice campaigns and communications. She currently serves as cocoordinator of the *California Environmental Justice Alliance*, a statewide coalition of grassroots environmental justice organizations working on air quality, land use, renewable energy and climate change issues.

**Kate A. Berry** is professor of geography and director of the Core Curriculum at the University of Nevada, Reno. Dr. Berry's work focuses on the analysis of water governance and policy, with an emphasis on research about intergovernmental relations in water conflicts, participation in water management, and the cultural and political dimensions of water issues. She has worked extensively on indigenous resources issues, including tribal and Native Hawaiian water issues. Dr. Berry is a former president of the Association of Pacific Coast Geographers, has been a Fulbright Fellow, and is currently the chair of the International Advisory Panel for the Dutch Program on Conflict and Cooperation in Natural Resources Management in Developing Countries.