



## More Than One Side to Every Story: Learning About Water and Different Perspectives

- A quick introduction to the importance of stakeholders and different perspectives. A stakeholder is a person, organization or entity that has an interest or share in the solution to some endeavor, challenge or problem.

*Whether it's discussions at the dinner table, an historical event or current events, there are ALWAYS other points-of-view or perspectives. This is especially true in discussing water issues.*

**Get started!** You can do this for your own learning or conduct this activity in your class.

**Answer this Question:** Who cares about water in So. California?

**Make a list** of all the stakeholders who have an interest or share in the answer to the question above.

Finished with the list? To help you a bit, here's a partial list of stakeholders who care about water in So. California:

- \_\_\_ California consumers who drink water
- \_\_\_ Business
- \_\_\_ Agriculture/farmers
- \_\_\_ Cities (Mayors, councils, etc.)
- \_\_\_ Environmental Organizations
- \_\_\_ State legislators
- \_\_\_ Water agencies
- \_\_\_ Federal agencies
- \_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Prioritize your list.** Which stakeholders do you consider the most important? Rank your list by putting a number for most important (1) to least important (8 or higher) on the blanks next the list above.

### **Water Molecules to Think About**

- Why did you rank the stakeholders in the order you did?
- If you asked other students at your school to do the ranking would it be the same as yours?
- If you asked students in other parts of the state, would their responses be different?
- Why would they be different?

### **Research on Stakeholders and Water Issues (Optional-Ask Your History/English/Science teacher)**

- Divide your class into eight or more stakeholder groups.
- Ask each group to research how they feel and why their stakeholder group feels the way they do about the importance of water in So. California and beyond.
- Hold a class discussion and debate on which stakeholder's views are the most valid or persuasive.
- After the debate, have a class vote to decide on the top three perspectives.

### **What Did You Learn?**

- That every issue has a variety of perspectives and stakeholders and that in order to at least come to an understanding; listening, compromising and developing consensus is essential.
- Try this same format with water issues like: building more reservoirs; saving endangered species; mandatory water rationing in a drought; building desalination plants, water rights, etc.