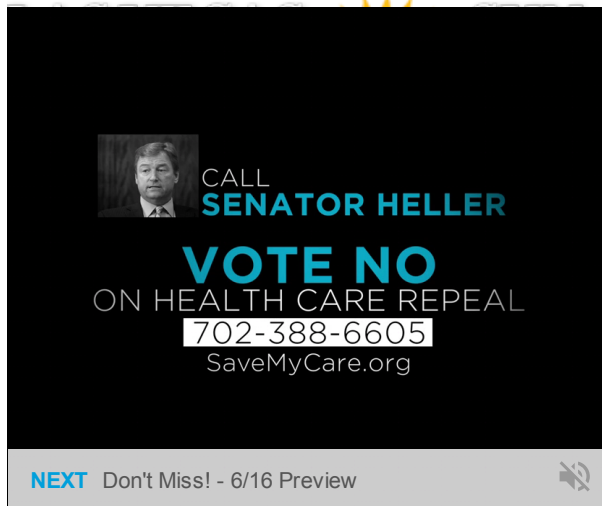


# free market tame the ile currency?



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family came to Diamond Valley in 1958. Nor were there many  
 kie's parents were given priority access under a rule  
 st in right."

A steady flow of farmers followed, planting alfalfa and timothy hay grass in the high-desert soil of the central Nevada valley. As fields started producing, demand for water skyrocketed, and the state awarded more and more water rights. These rights became the farmers' property, and they could be passed down in perpetuity.

Imagine 35,000 football fields filled 1-foot deep. That's about equal to 35,000 acre-feet of water, or 9.8 billion gallons — enough to cover the annual consumption of over 70,000 households. This number is important in Diamond Valley, because it represents the amount of groundwater that can be sustainably withdrawn from the aquifer each year. If substantially more than 35,000 acre-feet is withdrawn, the water table will drop and the basin could one day run dry.

In 1964, six years after the Buchanans settled in Diamond Valley, the state had already allocated nearly triple the 35,000 acre-feet that would later be deemed sustainable. (As a result, farmers have legally pumped past the limit for decades, as was within their rights. The amount of water rights exceeded what the basin could handle.) It was a bureaucratic misstep, and one that encouraged growth. A community bloomed around the farms in Eureka County, and agriculture helped diversify the region's economy, largely driven by booms and busts in mining.

But all debts must be paid.

"There has been an entire community built on overappropriation," the county's natural resources manager, Jake Tibbitts, told Nevada legislators in February.

"And that's kind of scary."

The predicament is not unique. Throughout the West, from the state level to the local level, water is overallocated. That includes the Colorado River, which serves about 40 million people in seven states and parts of Mexico. Prolonged droughts and a changing climate amplify these issues of overuse, straining water supplies.

And disagreements over priority breed conflict.

"It pitted neighbor against neighbor," Buchanan said, recalling "water wars" — finger pointing in the 1970s over who was using what.

Water policy in the West is a balancing act: between the needs of many groups and industries, between urban and rural communities, between short-term needs and long-term costs. Should the state spend \$3.2 billion, 300-mile pipeline to pump water from the North to the mouth of the Colorado River? Which Diamond Valley farmers



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and many experts agree that they cities will likely get more — how they will get it, where they will get it, and who will pay the bill.

These issues without an agenda.

The unlikeliest of collaborators, a group that includes academics, cities and environmental advocates.

These groups want to bring the free market to water.

Buchanan is pushing for it too. Since the 1960s, groundwater levels beneath Diamond Valley farms have declined about 100 feet, according to documents from the state engineer Jason King. In 2015, he required residents to draft a conservation plan. Otherwise, many farmers would face a harsher sentence: mandatory curtailment of their water rights. Because Buchanan's family came to the valley before the boom, she said she would not lose her water rights. It's the long game that worries her.

If the basin runs out of water, farms will disappear and Eureka County's largely agricultural economy will falter. Households relying on the basin for water also would suffer. That's why Buchanan believes everyone should have to sacrifice. The alternative would be mandatory curtailment, a more drastic action she thinks would put many farmers out of business and revive old tensions.

"If curtailment comes in," Buchanan said, "it's just going to start a new water war."

## THE RIGHT TO WESTERN WATER

The law views water as real property, so farmers, factories and cities can purchase and sell the rights to it. There is no formal exchange for water trading like there is for energy. But that does not mean there is no market for water. There already are markets in most states that consist of one-off deals between two parties, deals governed by state regulations.

Transfers are limited by such regulations, as well as infrastructure, state boundaries and third-party challenges. Proponents of organized markets for water transfers want to liberalize the system to enable more trades. "We don't actually have — and pardon the pun — very liquid markets, because there are so many different people and entities that have a potential say in each individual transaction," said Martin Doyle, director of Duke University's water policy program.

Recent academic studies suggest that many Western water systems will face further strain in the coming decades due to a changing climate. More of the Colorado River will evaporate in reservoirs like Lake Mead. A shrinking snowpack will reduce supplies while populations are expected to increase. That will aggravate problems like overallocation and the fact that agriculture, which contributes a small share of GDP, accounts for as much as 80 percent of water usage in several Western states.

Markets could help redistribute water based on its value, supporters argue. If cities and developers need more water, they can pay high prices for it. If farmers can find ways to use less water, they should be able to sell or lease the excess.

Under Western water law, farmers and ranchers must put their allocations to beneficial use [or risk losing their water](#)

more than land. These laws were meant to discourage water rights and doing nothing with them. But the laws often Buchanan recalled seeing farmers “pump in the dead of winter

ters say, by allowing farmers to divert a portion of their share

the director of the Property and Environment Research Center, a

value water in a way that is fair?

clients every day. With WestWater Research, Landry estimates

the going price for a unit of water to help clients in transfer negotiations. Most Western states don't require water users to disclose the price of a sale, so Landry and his team often compile this data manually, interviewing the parties to a trade for a thorough appraisal.

“Don't think about it at the state level,” he said. “The Reno housing market is different from the Las Vegas housing market, and even in those markets have submarkets.”

In Northern Nevada, for instance, WestWater tends to see high-frequency but small-volume trades tied to homebuilding; whereas in Southern Nevada, the research firm tends to see low-frequency, high-volume water trading tied to SNWA, which often purchases water to store in Lake Mead. These trades give a local snapshot. Until there are more flexible markets, many experts believe water will remain undervalued.

“It's easily the most undervalued natural resource we have, aside from maybe air quality,” Doyle said.

A world in which water is viewed as a commodity worries some users in rural communities. They fear cities will swoop in to grab water — a practice known as “buy and dry.” They fear they will lose their property rights or that developers will price them out of the market. Although a water sale could make one farming family rich, transferring water to urban areas — a trend in larger transactions — could hurt local economies that are already facing threats like mechanization and decreased demand for farm services.

Douglas Kenney, who directs a water program at the University of Colorado Boulder, predicts that in a drier West, the market will play a more active role.

But he warns: “It's a complicated future.”

## A NEVADA CASE STUDY

After the state engineer declared Diamond Valley a critical management area in 2015, Buchanan joined a group that began working on a market-based system to balance roughly 110 legal interests with water rights. The plan is based on the idea that everyone should have to sacrifice something to save the aquifer.

In the absence of action, the aquifer could dry up within three decades.

Under the proposed groundwater management plan, Diamond Valley's basin would be managed collectively. Users would receive shares of the water based on their rights, each share equal to one allocation. The allocation would be set by a board and decreased each year until cumulative water pumping reached a sustainable level. If successful, the water table would stabilize within 35 years.

The key is that shares could be bought and sold (since they are all on the same basin, farmers could trade water flexibility. One farmer could, for instance, pump more water to a neighbor looking to decrease operations without losing the water's value, determined by a willingness to pay. And such a market could be created, they could sell any water they didn't use.

away from “use it or lose it.”

be a move away from existing Nevada water law, and even

atively small, but economists have created markets in the region of the Colorado River. Many markets hope to emulate Australia's Murray-Darling basin, which required significant investment and coordination from the country's government.

Darling basin, which required significant investment and coordination from the country's government.

“Everything is embedded in the design of it, as opposed to the implementation,” said Doyle, who runs the Duke University water institute.

A successful program also requires that all groups have a seat at the table.

In the U.S., the Colorado-Big Thompson Project, which diverts water from the Colorado River to homes and agriculture on the east side of the state, is often pointed to as a successful market. It broke down barriers through policy reforms, said Reagan Waskom, who directs the Colorado Water Institute. And it can be lucrative. Share prices can soar above \$35,000 per acre-foot.

That gives an advantage to the highest bidder, often a city or a developer.

And as the market moves its hand, there can be collateral damage to communities. “We're growing houses where you used to grow crops,” Waskom said, asking what might be the right way to balance urban needs with the impact to rural communities.

## RISKS OF A FREE MARKET

Proponents say their goal is to avoid “buy and dry” and the kinds of deals that fleece sellers of valuable property. They argue this is possible through leasing and learning from the past.

The poster child for the social consequences of “buy and dry” is Crowley County, said Kenney, who studies water policy at CU Boulder.

In the late '60s, farmers in Crowley County began selling their water to Denver subdivisions and nearby cities, including Aurora. In the next three decades, irrigated land in the county would contract to only a few thousand acres. This hurt farmers and had the unintended effect of hurting businesses that supported farming. And it created conflict between farmers who sold their land and those who didn't. “Markets function very well at a macro level,” Kenney said. “At the micro level, when you look at these distributive impacts, that's where people get really worried. And for good reason.”

Increasingly, market-based solutions are taking social costs into account. Recent legislation in Colorado enabled temporary transfers designed to promote sustainable growth. A 2016 WestWater Research paper showed water leases, not sales, made up 80 percent of the transactions in the South Platte basin near Boulder.

Rotational fallowing also is seen as a preventive measure. The municipal utility that provides water to LA and San Diego is paying some Palo Verde Valley farmers to fallow their fields, so farmers can continue making money while

San Diego temporarily uses their water

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Influential groups like the Nature Conservancy support the plan. The Nature Conservancy [proposed groundwater](#) markets to address not only the West but also the global water crisis. The plan calls for the use of water markets to restore key landscapes.

Efforts to increase water efficiency. The savings are then used in other ways. The Wildlife Foundation has purchased water rights and ranch land in Nevada that will be turned over to Nevada and used to create a new

market so the environment isn't priced out," said Season Martin, a spokeswoman for the Nature Conservancy.

Gary Wockner, co-founder of preservation group Save the Colorado River, is skeptical. "The more that we commodify nature ... the more we are undermining the reality that nature or a river has the right to exist," he said.

He is in favor of a bolder approach that would give legal rights to nature. It would effectively allow a river to be a plaintiff in court. Some states already have what are known as public trust doctrines. They allow plaintiffs to sue the government if it fails to care for the land, but Wockner said some of these statutes are weak.

## FOSTERING A DIALOGUE

About 200 miles northwest of Diamond Valley, Winnemucca Farms represents the speculative side of water markets. The decades-old farm is part of a portfolio owned by Water Asset Management, a New York investment firm that makes bets on water resources, utilities and infrastructure. "There's a lot of interest in the idea of investing in water but very little courage," said Landry of WestWater Research.

In addition to investments in other Western states, the firm manages about 20,000 acres in Nevada. Markets could help the state grow without hurting rural communities, said Disque Deane Jr., Water Asset Management's co-founder and chief investment officer. He said this requires dialogue with such communities before drafting a proposal.

"At the end of the day, the actors in urban communities and the rural communities want their state and communities to prosper," Deane said, rejecting a "one-size-fits-all" solution. "Throughout the West, you are starting to see different programs in different communities for different reasons."

Deane said reallocating water will require an investment in infrastructure.

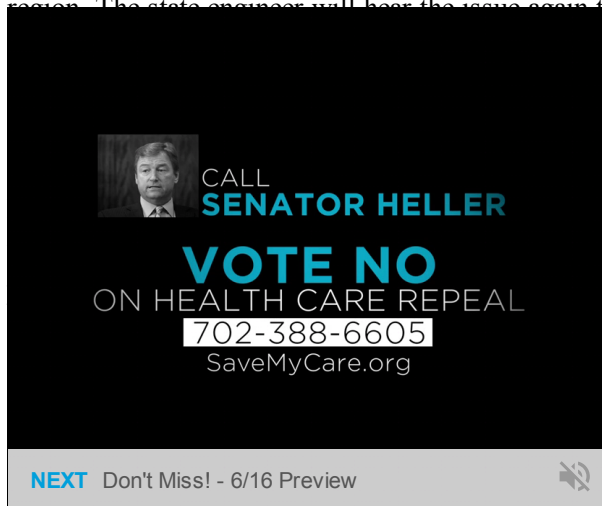
SNWA is looking to fill the infrastructure gap with its \$3.2 billion pipeline, but the plan is controversial and remains tied up in the legal process.

The 300-mile pipeline would connect Las Vegas with areas near the Great Basin, where the SNWA owns 23,000 acres of land and more than 100,000 acre-feet of water rights. Under its proposal, SNWA would pump water to Southern Nevada if resources grew scarce — Las Vegas gets 90 percent of its drinking water from Lake Mead, and the lake's elevations have been dipping for years.

In the towns near Great Basin National Park, signs of frustration are visible. There are water buckets, maybe 10-foot tall, imploring people not to "let Las Vegas destroy Nevada." Leaflets in gas stations protest what some perceive as a "water grab."

The Great Basin Water Network challenged SNWA's permits for water rights, tying up the process in court. They argue that granting the water authority rights could do irrevocable damage to the water table and the ecology of the

region. The state engineer will hear the issue again this year.



ts says, "Look no further than Owens Valley," referring to the

erison. He said laws and regulations are in place to protect rights is committed to using the groundwater sustainably. "You have e when we didn't have the same types of environmental

gislators on the Senate Natural Resources Committee to build la. When compared with California and Arizona, Nevada has ability to create markets and compete for economic

"Whiskey is for drinking, and water is for fighting over," says the adage often attributed to Mark Twain during his travels in Nevada and California. Water experts hope, however, that the adage is as mistaken as the attribution. Collaboration is essential. At every level of the system, someone is going to have to give.

"The important thing is to have the dialogue," Deane said.

Diamond Valley is counting on it.

"People go to church together every week. They went to school together. They were raised together," Tibbitts, the county water manager, said. "They are willing to sacrifice and give some up to help save their neighbors." Of course, he added that "there are some water-rights holders who do not support this process at all."

Diamond Valley's plan is far from being approved, and the process demonstrates the difficulty of reaching a consensus. The state engineer must sign off. Then it has to receive signatures from a majority of rights holders, who aren't all in favor.

Water remains a source of tension. Since 2015, one ranch — with rights that predate Nevada water law — has pushed for curtailment in the area. Two cows were recently shot on that ranch, and its owner suggested in an [op-ed published in the Elko Daily Free Press](#) that frustrated Diamond Valley farmers might be to blame. The owner, who says over-pumping has decreased the ranch's surface water, announced a \$10,000 reward.

Buchanan noted that when her father circulated a petition to bring power to the valley in the 1970s, it passed by one signature.

"Change is scary," she said.

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**Ave Gee** • 20 hours ago

California, needs to use Desalinization and free up their allotment for the Desert Cities who really need it.

3 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Wayne Lusvardi** → Ave Gee • 12 hours ago

Ah hem! Pardon me. The Southern California desert doesn't need coastal water. The reality is not as depicted in the fantasy journalism book Cadillac Desert. I live in Palm Springs area and worked 20 years for largest urban water district in California. The "desert" is who bailed the big coastal cities out of water shortages during the recent past "drought" (really a structural water shortage) from mid 2012 to mid-2015. LA depends on 80% imported water; Palm Springs 16% and most of that is recycled from golf courses back into the aquifer. It is an urban myth that Palm Springs wastes water. Sure, Palm Springs uses 400 gallons of water per person per day and LA uses 130 gallons per person per day. But the key reason there are water shortages is not merely rainfall but dependence on imported water. Palm Springs has a low density small population and LA is high density gigantic population. It is coastal cities what are the water hogs that create a structural water deficit in California, not Palm Springs golf course or swimming pools, not wealthy Beverly Hills with its palatial estates, not wealthy dry spots along San Diego County coastline (Carlsbad).

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Simplythefactsmam** → Ave Gee • 19 hours ago

If we tell people that for their home they get drinking water, cooking water, cleaning water, and toilet water, then we get to more realistic consumption figures for a population that won't limit it's numbers voluntarily.



...hat use a tiny fraction of what we now use by choosing  
...e area's natural environment with it's natural rainfall.

... 19 hours ago

...rs ago

...ost is getting better, if what I'm reading elsewhere isn't  
...nological was of getting water through chemical  
...arch for them to scale up and be usable on a city level.

^ | v • Reply • Share >



**disqus\_3Y0OC9q11x** • 10 hours ago

The solution is simple, freeze the excess growth in the Las Vegas valley for at least 10 years. If there is a shortage of water there is too much unchecked growth.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share >



**Vegas DB Pro** • a day ago

If water is so scarce why do they continue to build master planned communities all over the valley?

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share >



**Simplythefactsmam** → Vegas DB Pro • a day ago

To many Americans, only no-good commies plan a community to exist within the resources available to it. The Canadians would be an example. You can go to a beautiful, well thought out city like Vancouver BC and see the terrible result of long term planning. They actually plan for low income housing!

Only the wealthy investors know what's best for us through the magic of the marketplace and short term profit. Ignore the man behind the curtain.

3 ^ | v • Reply • Share >

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...sscrossing the nation. It doesn't seem far fetched to me  
 ...e places that have water to the places that need water.  
 ...lenty of water this year. It is plausible to build a  
 ...hoe is having a flooding issue this year. It seems  
 ...cess water to where it's needed instead of flooding  
 ... rains in Portland and Seattle every single day. The  
 ...y selling off all that excess water to Utah and Idaho.

Even in the New York City water system, the dams are overflowing. I'm sure NYC would love to plug a budget gap by selling some water to where it's needed and as a consequence, people would get better bagels. Win-Win!!

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share >



**Simplythefactsmam** → Kevin Perez • a day ago

We live by the rule of law. All parties would need to be satisfied with the actual rights issues solved.

Hundreds of thousands of entities like cities, businesses, and people have the right to water somewhere, there aren't many oil companies that have the right to the crude in the ground. Those water rights holders will all need to get on board on larger plans. Downstream from some dams the rights holders have the right to 7 or more times the water than flows from it in a full year.

Crude oil now goes for about 45\$ a barrel so moving it is worth the investment in infrastructure. That's not more than a few cents worth of water in most places.

A typical household uses about 21,000 gallons of water a year, they use about 1,000 of oil products. Picture a water project large enough to keep moving enough water for 10's of millions of households. Pumping uses a lot of energy.

Add to this we would have to GUESS where the most rain and snow will fall as the climate changes, as well as GUESS where people will build new towns.

100 billion here, a 100 billion there, pretty soon we'd be talking about real money.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share >



**Randy Marsh** → Kevin Perez • 18 hours ago

Because there's a thing called water rights. How would you like it if squatters moved in next door and hooked up a hose to your pool? Hey it rained last month. Your pool should have lots of free rainwater to share, right?

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share >



**Anthony Lale** → Kevin Perez • 17 hours ago

I agree with you 100%

of its snow pack run off directly into the ocean.  
the day there. Jerry "Moonbeam" Brown needs to go  
s in that state.

9074 • 16 hours ago

ad, or you don't know what you are talking about.  
or give the rest of that story, because it would not fit

your set narrative.

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Protech89074** → LookOnGoodInUSA • 16 hours ago

Look it up fool... only your buddy Jerry Brown wants to keep it a secret...  
next time you want to challenge me, do your research.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**LookOnGoodInUSA** → Protech89074 • 16 hours ago

The fisheries acts of the state are not hidden, It is well known and  
argued about all the time, publicly. Someone has deluded you with  
only half the story, purposely, or you are purposely trying to be  
obtuse. Everything that you know a little about, is only sinister in the  
lack of the WHOLE picture of water and fisheries you apparently  
have to guide your opinion , or you want to deceive. Take your own  
advice, but don't use opinion pieces to give you the whole story on  
anything.

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Protech89074** → LookOnGoodInUSA • 16 hours ago

It's pointless to have a constructive conversation with you because as  
admitted by you already you was educated in the Clark county school  
system.... do you wear a number 49 raiders jersey too?

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**LookOnGoodInUSA** → Protech89074 • 15 hours ago

You like to make stuff up. Clark Co. Schools is not a college. I served  
my country honorably in uniform for 6 years. I lived by the  
Sacramento Delta for many years, too. I've lived overseas, too. I don't  
like football, idiot. I lived in So. CA, too. I lived other places in my  
many years. Your don't have the intellect to figure there is more to my  
story and more to the story, than what you want to mislead with. My  
best friend worked in water management, professionally, and always  
had much to inform everybody about the subject. Oh, and I read

had much to inform everybody about the subject. Oh, and I had

than opinion hit pieces. Apparently that is all YOU an opinion.

ply • Share ›

LookOnGoodInUSA • 15 hours ago

ok... really... just relax.

• Share ›

USA → Protech89074 • 15 hours ago

ess to you, because you are the only one that thinks he thing. You don't want "constructive" anything, as your posts on this site. You are wrong.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Protech89074 → LookOnGoodInUSA • 11 hours ago

psst... your lips are moving when you type your nonsense...

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Mike Moore • a day ago

Actually as far I'm concerned use it all up before it gets to Mexico

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Simplythefactsmam → Mike Moore • 19 hours ago

That would drive even more Mexican workers north and the simple truth is we won't stop most of them.

3 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Wayne Lusvardi • 12 hours ago

Desalination is not a solution for California. In a wet year farmers and water districts switch back to cheap imported water and the desalting plants have to be mothballed, leaving no revenue to pay bonds on the plants. Desalted water is thus redundant water, just as is solar power redundant power when the sun goes down or a cloud cover arises. Moreover, California would never populate its pristine, lucrative tourist economy driven, coastline with a few, say, 80 new industrial desalting plants needed to replace, say, Shasta Dam. There are niche "markets" for desalination such as in Carlsbad, California.

The article is incorrect however that there is no liquidity of water sales because water rights are oversubscribed. Farmers can buy land and that includes the water rights. So there is some liquidity to the land/water market but one has to be able to buy large parcels of land. Land is finite in supply but water is elastic depending on the hydrological cycle. So water ends up in finite supply.

Moreover, there is no "market" unless there is a speculative tier to it. Think about it. If no users are selling their homes and there is also no speculators, there is no supply and no market. If there are speculators there is always a supply at some price. There is never a short supply when there is an active speculative tier to the market. Same with land and

short supply when there is an active speculative bet to the market. Same with land and

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rdi • 29 minutes ago

expensive and way too energy-intensive to ever  
er supply "solution".

ften be a feasible option for relatively affluent coastal  
s for water are modest (relative to the many trillions of  
ture). Santa Barbara and San Diego, for example.



**DieselJunkie** • 18 hours ago

Well then, if water rights are considered Real Property, it looks as though we'll just need to seize the water under Eminent Domain.

Leverage the proceedings by placing a prohibitively high tax rate on the water property. One which can easily be covered collectively by millions of SNWA customers, but is unaffordable to Diamond Valley residents. But allow the majority of revenue funds to go to Eureka & Elko counties. That not only justified the Eminent Domain proceedings under the law, but the greed for tax revenue will cause the rural counties to side with SNWA against thier own residents. It's far more money than they get now.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Wayne Lusvardi** → DieselJunkie • 8 hours ago

Apparently there is a misunderstanding when it is written the water is considered real property. To clarify, water is not real property but water rights run with the land. So you have to buy land adjacent to a river and use that water to perfect a Riparian (river) Water Right. But Colorado also has Appropriative Water Rights which means first in time and use of water, typically for downstream miners and farmers. Typically water cannot be sold separately from land adjacent to rivers held by owners with Riparian rights. But water can sometimes be separated from land for those with Appropriative Rights.

Condemnation of Riparian Water rights means buying the land too and whatever enterprises depend on that water (if the farm is vertically integrated with a chain of supermarkets the damages could be wide and long). Water seems better allocated by land markets than eminent domain. All the big water transfers in California's history for example involved buying land (Los Angeles buying Owens Valley farmland depicted in movie Chinatown); the billionaire Bass brothers buying up land with water rights in Imperial County where the water was eventually separated from the land and diverted to San Diego.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**360dunk** • a day ago

If agriculture does indeed use 80% of the water while providing only a small share of the Buicks and GEICOs.

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• a day ago

t's exported either. A huge amount of our food is sold that's like exporting water.

smam • a day ago

much of (corn, beef, poultry) is not so dependent on in the article.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Simplythefactsmam** → 360dunk • 19 hours ago

California exports over 4 billion dollars in tree nuts, mostly almonds, that are grown in the most over pumped counties. It also exports rice of all things, that uses huge amounts of water in an arid environment.

You are correct about the rest of the country's exports. California exports crops totally unsuited to grow in most places in the state without pumping vast quantities of water.

3 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**SticksInMyCraw** → Simplythefactsmam • 26 minutes ago

California also exports massive amounts of water-guzzling alfalfa hay. Which is used to feed beef and dairy cattle overseas. And, as a result, beef and milk products are then sold back to us by the same foreign countries that buy our alfalfa.

Somehow that is supposed to make economic sense.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**360dunk** → Simplythefactsmam • 17 hours ago

Our biggest export to China is soy....mostly grown in Iowa, Illinois, etc.

As for rice, India and Thailand export 50% of the world's rice. In the U.S., the largest rice-producing state is Arkansas.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Simplythefactsmam** → 360dunk • 12 hours ago

2016 exports to China totaled 115.8 billion dollars.

Ag products were only 21 billion total, (our second largest ag market though).

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inery, electrical goods, and vehicles were 49 billion

re our biggest export at over 53 billion dollars, primarily intellectual property (trademark, computer software), sectors.

ov/countries-...

rice exported is shy of 2 billion. California exports over s in almonds alone.

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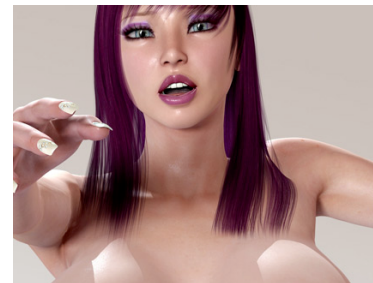
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**Wally Marshall** • a day ago

The Colorado River Authority has been a total unaccountable joke in my opinion. They are directly responsible for the "bathtub" ring in Lake Mead. That comes from the Salton Sea Quantification Settlement Agreement which drained Lake Mead to fill up the Salton Sea. Another infamous decision was the "Pulse of Life" where the fed paid Mexico over 40 million dollars to take Lake Mead water and send it down the river and past the Morelos Dam and into the Sea of Cortez. This would give the river delta "life" again.. This water could have fed hundreds of thousands of homes with water. Who knows what else has been done with this resource we don't know about. You can call it drought, drought of competent oversight of the river in my opinion

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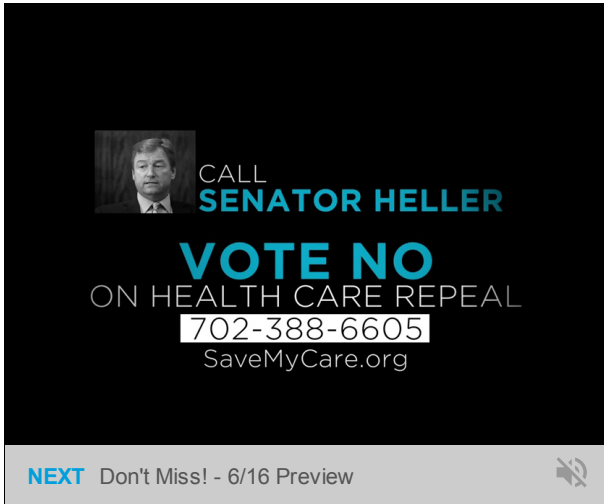


**Simplythefactsmam** → Wally Marshall • 19 hours ago

The fisheries of the Sea of Cortez are dependent on the fresh water from rivers flowing into the sea. The estuaries are where many of the fish species breed, without less saline water the fish die off.

We don't let private American individuals build their own dams and kill off people's businesses downstream. Why should we do it to the Mexican fishermen?

6 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

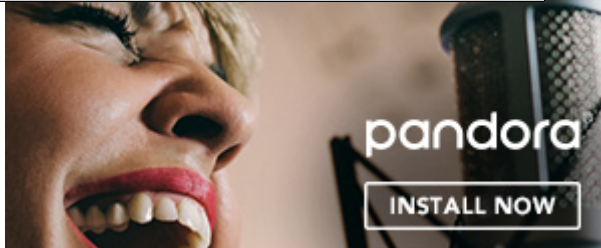


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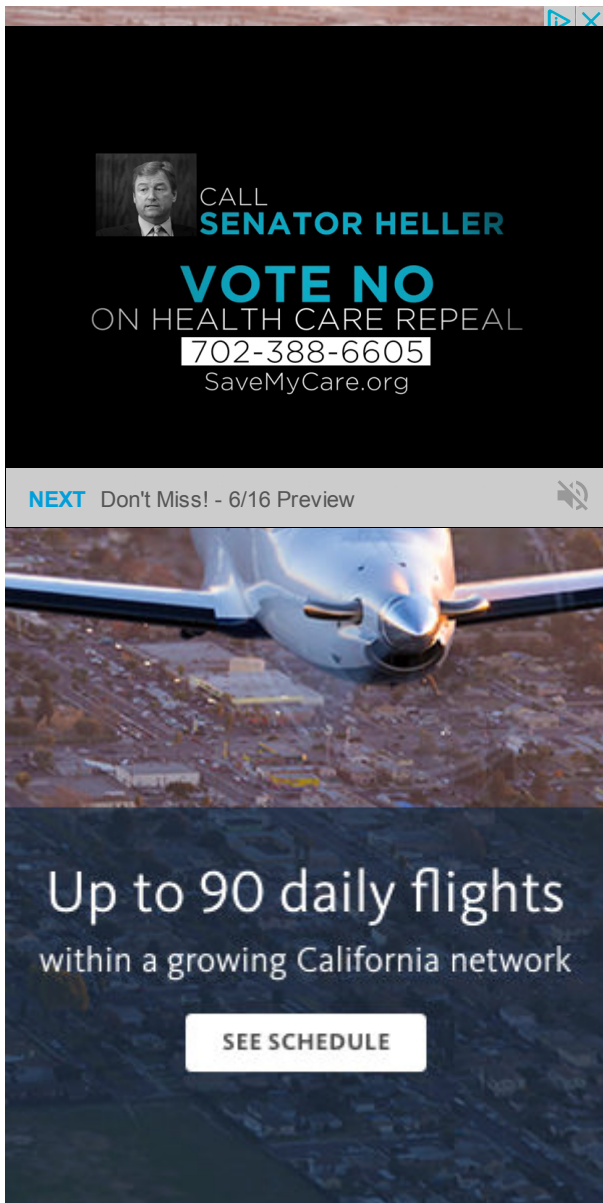
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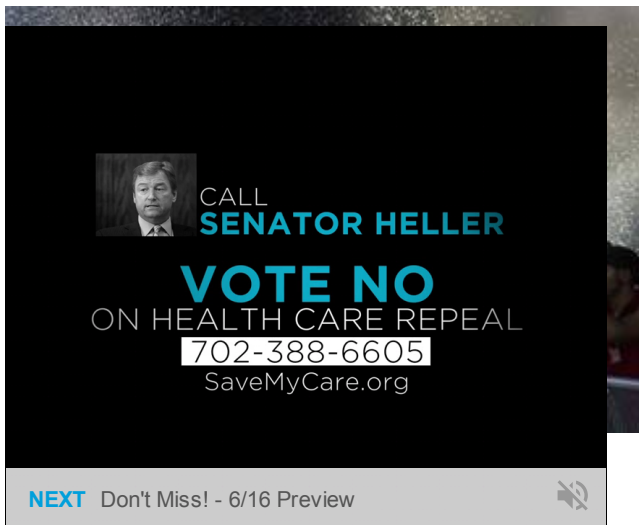
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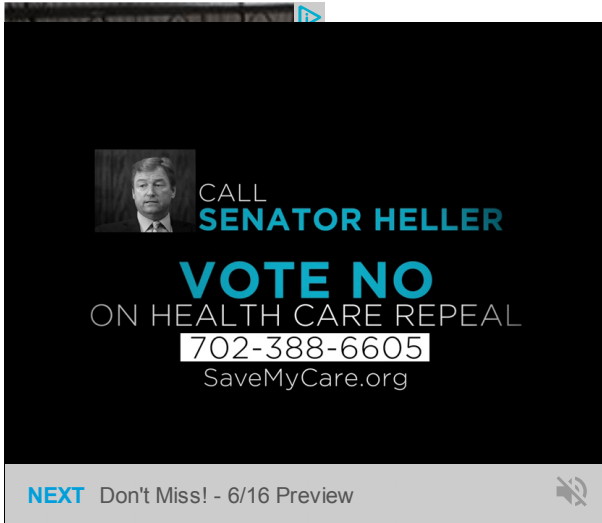
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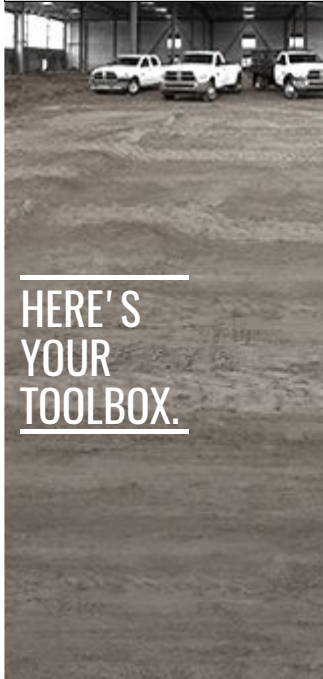


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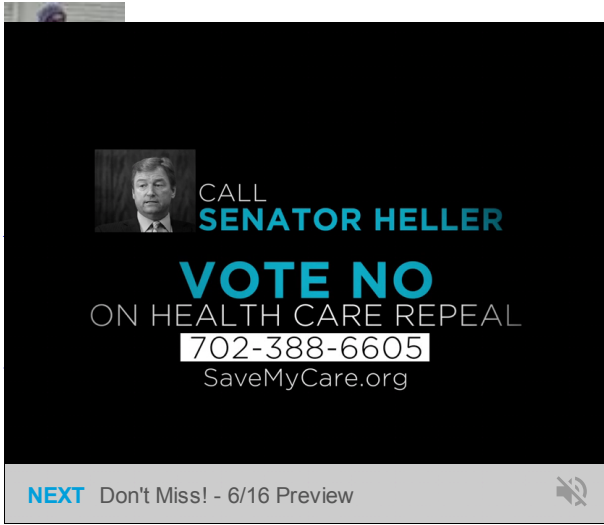
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