

Water rights could drown 3-Calif. idea

By Dale Kasler, Sacramento Bee

Splitting California into three new states would scramble nearly every segment of government that touches residents' lives, from taxes to Medi-Cal to driver's licenses.

New agencies would have to be created to operate prisons, highways and universities. CalPERS, CalSTRS, Cal Fire and the California Highway Patrol, to name a few, would have to be reconfigured and replaced.

But of all the gargantuan tasks facing Californians should they choose to divide themselves by three – a proposal that has qualified for the November ballot – none is arguably more daunting than carving up the state's water supply.

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