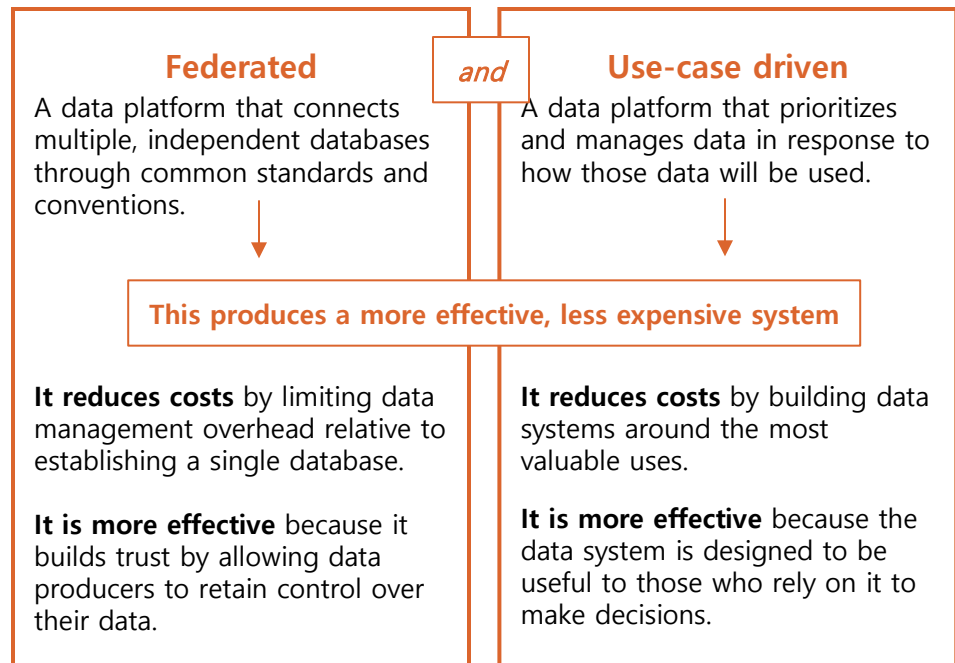


Water Data Governance

A public-private partnership reduces costs and drives the impact of AB 1755

The success of the Open and Transparent Water Data Act relies on the cooperation and coordination of stakeholders in both the public and private sectors. Stakeholder engagement is vital for the state to realize its goals that water data is: sufficient, accessible, useful, and used.

The State has adopted a vision for a federated, use-case driven platform for AB 1755. The vision is built on two core ideas:



The actual governance for AB 1755 is grounded in these three principles:

What does this mean for water data governance?

Governance is the set of systems and processes to coordinate action and decision-making about the structure, content, and use of the water data platform.

1. Governance must be neutral, but prioritized

To realize its vision of creating an objective, transparent foundation to understand California's water system, the data on the platform and its governance must be seen free from private and special interest. At the same time, the system platform cannot prioritize all data and uses, so must transparently establish agreed shared priorities

Where have you seen this structure before?
The Internet.

The Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) is a large international community whose mission is simply to help the Internet work better. Much like the proposed Water Data Consortium, the IETF is governed by a steering group and includes technical working groups and use-case working groups.

2. Governance must engage public and private stakeholders

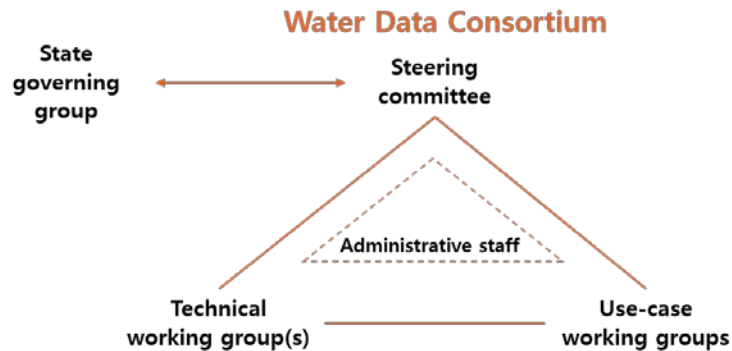
Given the number of stakeholders involved in federated water data governance – including State agencies, Federal agencies, NGOs and academics, the private sector, and philanthropy – effective and efficient strategies to engage and respond to various stakeholder groups is vital.

3. The Platform must foster accountability

Accountability facilitates collaboration. It aligns interests of stakeholders behind shared goals and objectives. It builds confidence in outside funders and participants, and supports continuous improvement towards better meeting the needs of its users

Draft Governance Structure

The figure below illustrates a draft governance structure for a Water Data Consortium. The Consortium would be a 501c3 that sits alongside government. It would maintain the State’s ability to manage its data but also enables active external participation. The State would have significant representation in the Consortium, including a majority position on the Steering Committee.



Entity	Role
State governing group	Ensures State standards and Platform standards are aligned, and coordinates: water data publication, IT procurement, use-case implementation, and agency budgets
Steering committee	Provides strategic direction for the Platform, sets priorities, and manages the Secretariat
Technical working group(s)	Identifies, develops, and recommends the functional and technical requirements for the Platform
Use-case working groups	Articulate users’ needs and priorities; support awareness and adoption of standards by user community
Secretariat	Facilitates and supports the successful implementation of Governance meetings and priorities