

# Water Governace in the Macrometrópole Paulista area in the Climante Changing Context

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## Scenario

IN the context of climate change the management of water resources has become an increasingly critical activity. Added to this is the fact that the region of the macrometropole of São Paulo faces a chronic water scarcity problem that has evolved more concretely between the years of 2013 and 2015. In this sense, the ideology of environmental governance emerges as a necessity facing the challenges of guarantee the quality and quantity of water in order to supply the demand for water supply. In the case of the macrometropole area of São Paulo, the biggest demands are the supply of industry (39%) and residences (58%). Different characteristic of the demand for water in the country: Irrigation (69%), urban (11%) and industrial (7%).

## Background

THEREFORE, the complexity of the supply scenario requires practices that can reconcile different demands aggravated by the occurrence of extreme scenarios caused by climate change. Despite the new laws that were legislated at 1991 (São Paulo state level) and 1997 (National), still remains cultural barriers that resists to effective IWRM implementation process as encouraged by the new legislative environment. In essence, the laws encourage changes in the institutions to manager water that should be made with decentralization, social participation with integrated use approach in the river basin scale (Jacobi and Guivan, 2003; Fracalanza, 2009).

## The water law implementation at São Paulo state

THE water law implementation process in São Paulo state is viewed as a good process that resulted in 22 RBCs created with different effectiveness levels. It was guaranteed after a social process that pressured the state to create several river basin committees in areas that were more sensitive to water problems as Piracicaba, Jundiaí e Capivari (PCJ) river basin and after Alto Tietê (AT) river basin, both basins make part of the São Paulo metropolis, the most sensitive area to be supplied with water in the state.

## The Macrometrópole plan

THE Macrometrópole plan once that it establishes a new managing unity called macrometropole paulista. The plan tries to share the responsibility to supply São Paulo metropolis adding 6 more river basins in the metropolitan water management system.

The new planning involves an area of 52000 m<sup>2</sup> with 31.000 million inhabitants - 75% of state population, 180 municipalities and 83% of the São Paulo state GDP or 28% of national GDP (DAEE, 2013).

## The Drought

THE drought in the water system according different specialists could be the worsen in the last 60 years; in 2014 summer the São Paulo city had high temperatures, 30C above the 2013 summer temperatures; since August 2013 the precipitation average was less than the historical average in each month (Rede Brasil Atual, 2014a); in January 2014 the Cantareira system had just 22,4% of the full capacity, a volume almost 60% less than that it had in January 2013, 52,4% (O Estado de São Paulo). So, the climate situation was an important drive of the problem in the São Paulo water system supplying, however the government knew that the system has vulnerabilities at least 10 years ago, in 2003 when the São Paulo University made a water planning to Alto Tietê River Basin (Rede Brasil Atual, 2014a).

## Governor ignored the new institutions

DURING the crises the governor behavior could be understood as to ignore the water governance system that was implemented by the government in the last two decades. All discussion on the problem and solutions that were decided did not include talking with river basin committees or Water State Council two institutions that were created by the water state law to include the IWRM principles in the water management at São Paulo state. Also the governor behavior did not have transparency (Jacobi, 2016).

## Conclusion

IN 2010 researchers from GovAmb/USP found this difficult related to the state government legitimates the river basins committees. In the research that was made in three RBCs there was a feeling that the committees just were taken to legitimate resolutions made by the government. In the water supplying crises at São Paulo metropolis the RBCs were not asked to do nothing, the same with Water State Council. The transparency, an important component of the water governance systems also were absent in the government actions; first because it did decisions alone, second because all time tried to convince society that the problem was less than the effectively it was, third all time the government refused the water rationing but the mass media news said that it happened in some poor area in São Paulo city and some country cities.