higher parking fees could be used to reduce other
taxes, and the congestion caused by the hunt
for parking would be eliminated. "Thus," they
write, "we encounter the paradox that raising
revenue by increasing on-street parking rates
would make everyone, or almost everyone, better
off even if the revenue raised were completely
squandered."

Those without economic training will have
to read around the middle part of each chapter,
which is a wilderness of graphs, arcane
symbols, and equations. But there's more than
enough good sense in the text to stimulate
optimistic thoughts about congestion during
your commute.

Adaptive Governance and Water Conflict
New Institutions for Collaborative Planning
John T. Scholz and Bruce Stiftel, editors

Wet and wild. If "adaptive governance" makes
your eyes glaze over, maybe the clear and system-
atic approach of editors John T. Scholz and Bruce
Stiftel, FASLA, both of Florida State University,
might wake you up. In Adaptive Governance
and Water Conflict: New Institutions for Collaborative
Planning (2005; Resources for the Future; 274 pp.;
$75 cloth, $29.95 paper), they start by placing
the concept in the appropriate context:

"Current governance structures," the edi-
tors say, "are often the product of successful
attempts to resolve collective action problems
among users of a single type" (e.g., 19th century
farmers in wet areas, who organized drainage
districts for mutual benefit). The book defines
adaptive governance as "a new generation of
governance institutions for resolving collective
action problems that occur between different
types of resource users."

Between 1997 and 2003, for example, three
state governments and upstream and down-
stream users in each state battled over water
allocations in the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-
Flint basin. Stakeholders included farmers; urban
dwellers; hydropower generators; state, federal,
and local bureaucracies; and fish and wildlife
management officials.

All of the book's eight case studies turn out
to be in Florida. The editors explain that it's
easier to learn about the complex,
fragmented institutions involved if
you have to learn about them just
once. (If you thought water wars
were confined to the arid West,
you haven't been paying attention.)
The case studies commendably
include both relatively successful
and frankly unsuccessful efforts
to bring stakeholders and government
agencies of all kinds to the table.

The editors identify five key ques-
tions for adaptive governance: who
should be involved; how decisions
should be made; how policy make-
ers can develop and use scientific
knowledge; how the public can learn
enough to understand the discus-
sion; and how to reach a fair, effi-
cient, and sustainable solution. They
conclude that adaptive governance
has a "significant but limited" role in
helping coordinate, improve policy,
change relations among adversaries,
and address conflicts—but not fully
resolve them.

New urbanism in L.A. The Congres-
s for the New Urbanism put out a fine planner's-eye view of
Southern California for its 2005 annual meeting:
Building the Polycentric Region, edited by Alan
Loomis and Gloria Ohland (176 pp.; $14.95
at cuo.org/resources). The book is framed
by a reprint of the 1990 essay by Elizabeth
Moule and Stefanos Polyziades, "The Five Los
Angeleses," and their postscript on the same
subject 15 years later. In between is a series of
brief, well-illustrated critical observations of
recent work in Los Angeles, divided into the
new urbanist categories of metropolis, natural
corridors, urban corridors, districts, campuses,
neighborhoods, blocks, streets, and buildings,
in that order.