



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 12, 2014

Contact: Marycon Razo, *California Water Foundation*
mrazo@resourceslegacyfund.org, (916) 442-5057

California Water Foundation Launches Stakeholder Dialogue on Groundwater Management Reform

Effort Will Produce Policy Proposals for Brown Administration & State Legislature

Los Angeles, CA – The California Water Foundation (CWF) announced today that the organization is convening a diverse group of stakeholders to prepare policy recommendations on groundwater management reform. The result of CWF’s effort will be a report to Governor Brown and the State Legislature with recommendations for achieving sustainable groundwater management that prepares for future droughts, avoids and reverses harm, protects water quality and the environment, reduces conflict among water users, and enhances the use of groundwater as a valuable source of water storage.

“Reaching agreement on a new approach to managing the state’s groundwater resources is vitally important to the future of California,” said Lester Snow, executive director of the CWF. “Now is the time to bring stakeholders together to find a solution based upon local empowerment and sustainable management. The future health of our farms, cities, and environment depends upon it.”

Through the stakeholder process, CWF will convene diverse interests to develop effective and achievable policy proposals. Cohesive groundwater management has eluded California for decades, but informed observers deem the status quo unsustainable. As we face unprecedented drought conditions, the situation is exacerbated as communities throughout the state are relying more than ever before on groundwater resources.

“We are confident that the state can adopt workable solutions that maintain local management of groundwater while avoiding harm to this vital state resource,” added Snow. “We look forward to drawing upon some of the best and brightest minds in this field to seek ideas and suggestions for how to manage groundwater for the next 100 years.”

The launch of this effort coincides with the Brown Administration’s announcement of upcoming public meetings to gather input on groundwater reform. Throughout the process, CWF will be consulting with state agencies, legislators and leading experts from various sectors involved in groundwater policy.

About California Water Foundation

The California Water Foundation (CWF) seeks to transition California to a sustainable and resilient water future – a future in which water is managed as a natural resource, looking across all sources and uses to find the best solutions for social welfare, economic development, and environmental sustainability. CWF supports innovative projects and policies that address water challenges today, while achieving long-term, science-based solutions for the future. CWF is an initiative of Resources Legacy Fund, with primary funding from S.D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation and Pisces Foundation, and additional support from David and Lucile Packard Foundation and others. Learn more at: <http://www.californiawaterfoundation.org>.