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Drought Persists as New Snow Survey Shows Little Change in State Water Supply

Drought Highlights Weaknesses in California's Approach to Water Management

Sacramento, CA – For the fourth time in 2014, California water officials trekked across the Sierra Nevada Mountains today to measure water content of the snowpack – an indicator of how much snow will melt and flow in to California's rivers, ultimately making its way to cities and farms throughout the state. More snow was present than in previous surveys, but water content in statewide snowpack still measured at just 32 percent of average. Despite recent storms, the drought in California persists and the state is bracing for continued dry conditions as we move in to the summer. The following is a statement from California Water Foundation's executive director, Lester Snow:

"This bone-dry winter is illustrative of California's new reality—more extreme droughts and floods should be viewed as the norm. Unfortunately, the state is woefully unprepared to deal with the volatility of climate change and the challenges brought on by a growing population, conflicting water demands and aging water infrastructure.

"The drought has highlighted our collective failure to adequately invest and adapt to 21st century needs. In order to make it through the current drought, and be prepared for the next one, California must reinvent the state's approach to managing a finite water supply. The backbone of a new approach must be collaboration. We must work together across regions and implement solutions that focus on diversifying water supplies, investing in state-of-the-art conservation and better managing groundwater basins, which are our greatest buffer against drought."

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>.

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