

Dear South Central Water Manager:

You are invited to help shape a new format for regional involvement on water issues. Below is a brief description of the effort, followed by a specific request for your participation.

Background: Overview of New Regional Outreach Approach

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) is sponsoring a coordinated process for regional outreach on water management and planning for the **Update 2013 California Water Plan**. The new approach builds on the regional outreach conducted for Update 2009 of the California Water Plan (CWP). The format involves regional meetings, called **Regional Forums** that provide opportunities to:

- **Coordinate information** from Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) efforts from each region to describe regional conditions, objectives and priorities **to better inform finance and investment options**.
- **Receive updates and provide feedback** on emerging policies, program guidelines, and grant criteria associated with various agencies.
- **Network** with other local water management and planning groups to share **best practices** and **lessons learned**.

Key features of Regional Forums:

- Meetings among local stakeholders in each of the 12 DWR Hydrologic Regions/Overlay Areas
- 2 – 4 hour meetings held throughout the year, as needed
- Less travel time for participants with a webinar/conference call format and satellite locations

Design Teams will support the Regional Forums

The **Regional Forums** are designed to support local integrated water management and planning efforts. **Regional Forum** discussions will consist of **Design Teams**, small groups (4-10 people) convened to serve in each region.

The members of the proposed **Design Teams** are those who are working on important water issues such as agricultural and urban water uses, water use efficiency, ecosystem restoration, flood management, and local/State/Tribal/Federal agencies and programs. To be effective, the **Regional Forums** must address the *most relevant regional issues*, and connect with *multiple constituencies and stakeholders* within each hydrologic region.

Anticipated time commitment for Design Team members: Approximately 4 – 5 hours for each **Forum** meeting in your region (e.g., 2 or 3 per year) to: flag current efforts and issues, review and refine agenda content, assist in outreach to interested parties.

*It is hoped that **Design Team** members will provide input on **current issues** and assist with **outreach** to multiple local water interests, including: agricultural and urban water users, water use efficiency, ecosystem restoration, flood management and local/Tribal/Federal entities.*

WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR INVOLVEMENT AS A DESIGN TEAM MEMBER.

Your comments or suggestions on the approach, or other potential Design Team members, would be greatly appreciated.

PLEASE CONTACT ERNIE TAYLOR at etaylor@water.ca.gov (or telephone 559-230-3352) TO RSVP OR RECEIVE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.