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.