



NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Workshop

Extreme Weather Events: Science, Planning and Preparedness

SACRAMENTO – The Department of Water Resources (DWR) is co-sponsoring a workshop with the Western States Water Council, in coordination with the Western Governors' Association, on extreme weather events. The workshop will be held July 30 - August 1 at the Doubletree Hotel at 1646 Front Street, San Diego. Logistics information and the agenda may be found at: <http://www.westgov.org/wswc/Extreme%20Weather%20Events%20mtg.html>. The workshop will begin at 1 p.m. on July 30 and end at noon on August 1.

Managing water in the West is about managing for extremes – droughts and floods. The purpose of this workshop is to help the western states and federal water and science agencies identify and scope actions that could assist in preparing for and responding to extreme events. Topics to be discussed at the workshop will include lessons learned from past extreme events, needs for enhanced observations and monitoring, and weather/climate forecasts and predictions. This workshop complements the Governor's 2011 conference on extreme climate risks and California's future, which focused on the threats of extreme weather events to the state's economy, business sectors, public health, and natural resources.

At the national level, 2011 extreme weather events set a new record for billion-dollar weather disasters, with estimated damages of \$52 billion, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. 2012 is shaping up to be another year for extremes across the West, as parts of the Upper Colorado River Basin experience severe drought and a heat wave across the intermountain West and Great Plains contributes to high wildfire risks. Nationwide, spring 2012 (March-May) was the warmest spring on record, according to NOAA. Also, snow cover extent across the contiguous 48 states was the third-lowest on record.