



News for Immediate Release

January 5, 2012

Contacts:

Jeanine Jones, DWR Interstate Resources Manager
Ted Thomas, DWR Information Officer

(916) 653-8126
(916) 653-9712

Workshop

Climate Change, Extreme Weather, and Southern California Floods

SACRAMENTO -- The Department of Water Resources (DWR) will hold a climate change workshop in Alhambra on January 31. The focus will be on potential climate change impacts on Southern California floods, and examples of ongoing programs to reduce flood risk. The workshop is scheduled for 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works Headquarters, 900 S. Fremont Avenue.

This workshop is being held as a complementary event to Governor Brown's December 15 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. For background on the Governor's conference, go to <http://gov.ca.gov/ecrcf.php>.

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. Statistics such as these emphasize the need for planning to avoid impacts, and to be prepared to respond when extreme weather events happen.

Floods have always been a defining feature of California's landscape. In the great flood of 1862, newly-elected Governor Leland Stanford traveled to his downtown Sacramento inauguration via rowboat over flooded city streets. The Los Angeles coastal plain turned into a series of lakes; the area between Signal Hill and

Huntington Beach became a single sheet of water as floodwaters of the Los Angeles, San Gabriel, and Santa Ana Rivers merged.

Today, half of the state's population lives in Southern California, where the state's highest precipitation intensities have been recorded in the mountains above Los Angeles. Climate change will affect not only precipitation intensity but also the risk of wildfire, which has historically been linked to debris flow flooding in vulnerable Southern California communities.

AGENDA
Department of Water Resources Workshop
Climate Change, Extreme Weather, and Southern California Floods

January 31, 2012

Los Angeles County Department of Public Works Headquarters
900 S. Fremont Avenue
Alhambra

- 10:00 Welcome and opening remarks
Jeanine Jones, Interstate Resources Manager, DWR
- 10:20 Southern California flood climatology
Mike Anderson, State Climatologist, DWR
- 10:50 Climate change, extreme precipitation, and atmospheric rivers
Mike Dettinger, Research Hydrologist, USGS
- 11:20 Climate change and wildfire
Tony Westerling, Associate Professor, UC Merced
- 11:45 Lunch (on your own)
- 12:45 Hazard warning capabilities
Eric Boldt, Warning Coordination Meteorologist, NWS Oxnard
- 1:10 Statewide flood planning progress
Terri Wegener, Integrated Flood Planning, DWR
- 1:30 Alluvial Fan Task Force, accomplishments & follow-up actions
Mark Stuart, Chief, Southern Region Office & Ricardo Pineda, Chief, Floodplain Risk Management Branch, DWR; Jeremy Lancaster, Engineering Geologist, California Geological Service

- 2:25 Alluvial Fan Task Force, the local perspective
Susan Lien Longville, Director, CSUSB Water Resources Institute
- 2:45 Discussion & wrap-up

-30-

The Department of Water Resources operates and maintains the State Water Project, provides dam safety and flood control and inspection services, assists local water districts in water management and water conservation planning, and plans for future statewide water needs.