



**Panel Discussion on Upper Watershed Management Effects on Water Supply and the
Water-Forest Management Nexus**

Background

The health and management of upper watersheds is critically important to water quality and water supply in California. This linkage is acknowledged in Chapter 23 of the California Water Plan Update 2013, Forest Management. The Water Plan states that while additional work on the link between forests and water supply is needed, several studies have demonstrated that forests protect water quality by reducing erosion and removing runoff pollutants.

At this meeting, a panel will discuss the relationship between forests and water, including new research to quantify the linkage.

George "YG" Gentry, is the Executive Officer of the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection. The Board is responsible for developing the general forest policy of the state, guidance policies for CALFIRE, and representing the state's interest in federal forestland in California. Mr. Gentry will speak about the Board's mission, current projects, and how those projects tie in with water management.

Dr. Martha Conklin, Founding Professor of Engineering and Director of Natural Reserves at UC Merced, has focused her research on groundwater-surface water interactions, including in Sierra Nevada meadows, determining timescales of these interactions as well as the water implications of forest management in Sierra Nevada forests.

Dr. Roger Bales, Founding Professor of Engineering at UC Merced and Director of the Sierra Nevada Research Institute, has been active in water- and climate-related research for over 30 years and will present information on his research and policies that adapt water supplies, critical ecosystems and economy to the impacts of climate warming.

Contact

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