



Briefing on Report *Integrating Water Storage in California's Changing Water System*

Background

In November 2014, the UC Davis Center for Watershed Sciences released a report titled *Integrating Water Storage in California's Changing Water System*. The report states that water storage projects should not be viewed in isolation. Surface and groundwater storage should be considered as parts of larger systems of water management. The report contains a pilot study that demonstrates the opportunities and challenges of a systems-based approach to water storage. Broad application of a systems-based approach will improve understanding of water storage as a tool to address California's water management challenges. The results of the pilot study indicate that integrated water infrastructure projects are likely to outperform individual projects in achieving objectives such as water supply reliability, ecosystem improvement, and flood protection.

In order to make water storage more useful, the report advocates for an integrated approach to surface and groundwater storage. This approach would involve projects that are planned and operated within the context of a singular statewide water system. Additional storage should be integrated with other conveyance, operating, and conservation decisions in order to best meet California's needs. Storage is one component of an integrated water system that requires that water supply, water demand, and system improvements be considered together.

Jay Lund, one of the report authors and Director of the UC Davis Center for Watershed Sciences, will provide a briefing on the report and its implications.

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