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Tuesday Update*Dec. 31, 2013*

This weekly electronic newsletter is designed to keep you current on California Water Plan news. We welcome comments, suggestions and any news tips that may be of interest to water planners.

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Small numbers expected as DWR gets ready for first snow survey of the season

DWR will be conducting the first snow survey of the season this Friday, Jan. 3, near Echo Summit. Initial readings last winter found the water content in the snowpack to be 134 percent of normal. This season, the first survey is expected to find the content well below normal. A DWR [news release](#) has details on the survey and the current water amounts in some of the state's reservoirs.

Urban water management plan recommendations ready for review

Public comments are being accepted on a [draft report](#) with recommendations on urban water management plan demand measures and technologies. The report from an independent technical panel is being prepared for the Legislature. Details and comment instructions are available [here](#). The comment deadline is Wednesday, Jan. 22.

45 California farmers and ranchers honored for their environmental stewardship

The American Farmland Trust has put together a "Profiles in Stewardship" series that features dozens of [California farmers and ranchers](#). They were chosen for their work to improve the environment by adopting conservation practices that can serve as models to others. Details are available [here](#). The 45 farmers and ranchers represent 25 California counties.



Federal departments team up to promote water quality trading

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture have announced a partnership to support water quality trading. The trading will allow regulated entities to purchase and use pollutant reduction credits generated by other sources in a watershed. As part of the agreement the two agencies will coordinate outreach efforts to promote the benefits of water quality trading. Details are available in this EPA [news release](#).

Learning to use a process that will help get the most value out of nature

Information on assessing nature's true value will be part of the [Natural Capital Project's](#) annual meeting and training session, March 26-28, at Stanford University. The session will include demonstrations of software that can help governments and businesses factor the values of nature into policy and decision-making. Details are available [here](#).

