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Wednesday Update**March 29, 2017**

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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\$17.7 million in grants awarded to projects designed to save water and energy

More than [\\$17.7 million in 2016 Water-Energy Grants](#) have been awarded by DWR. The funding is divided among 14 projects designed to save water and energy, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The [Water-Energy Grant Program](#) is part of [California Climate Investments](#), which uses cap-and-trade dollars to improve public health and the environment.

Drought contingency planning to be discussed at DWR meeting next week

On Thursday, April 6, DWR will host a meeting on [county drought contingency planning](#). The meeting will be in Sacramento, but because of limited seating, participants are encouraged to use the [webinar option](#). The information is part of an effort to improve drought planning for small water suppliers and rural communities.

Australian leaders coming to California to discuss drought and water management

Members of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade will be at Stanford University on Thursday, April 13, for the [US-Australian Dialogue on Water Management and Drought Solutions](#). It will provide an opportunity for two countries to share ideas on managing water resources. The event is part of Australia's annual [G'Day USA](#) program.



Register to participate in webinars for Central Valley conservation project

The [California Landscape Conservation Cooperative](#) is providing two opportunities to participate in a webinar on the Central Valley Landscape Conservation Project (CVLCP). Registration is open for the [two webinars](#) on April 11 and May 2. They will provide an overview for a [CVLCP workshop](#) on May 18 and 19.

Updated report details worsening conditions in Sierra Nevada forests

A report from the [Sierra Nevada Conservancy](#) details a dire situation for forests. [The State of the Sierra Nevada's Forests: From Bad to Worse](#), is an update to a report released in 2014. The update cites overgrown forests, bark beetles, and drought as the reasons for the loss of 83 million trees in the Sierra from 2014 through 2016.



Looking for ways the environment can get the most benefit out of big data

With so much scientific data being produced on a daily basis, it raises the question of how to put it all to good use. A new report from the Renewable Natural Resources Foundation, [Congress on Harnessing Big Data for the Environment](#), examines ways to get the most out of that information. It a summary of findings and recommendations that emerged during last year's meeting of leaders from government, industry, academia, and non-profit organizations.

Registration opens for California Dockwalker program training sessions

Registration is open for [training sessions](#) to be part of the [California Dockwalker program](#). The program uses volunteers to increase awareness about clean and safe boating. The next training session will be Saturday, April 1, in Newport Beach. Other sessions are listed in the drop-down menu on the [registration page](#).