

California Water Resilience



Photograph by Faith Kerns.

California faces a challenging future of intensifying droughts, floods and water safety. Climate change models predict a warmer future with variable precipitation and increased frequency of extreme events. Our network will fill gaps in knowledge, strengthen partners and communities and provide Californians with science-based options to adapt and thrive under an uncertain water future. Integrated with existing campus and county-based expertise, our network will offer practical solutions to California's water challenges.

A Focus on Water Resilience

Water-drought-fire-California – four words that have become sadly associated. In addressing its water concerns and needs, California has developed some of the most complex and extensive water storage and delivery systems in the world. Yet, California's water challenges continue to grow with negative effects apparent in our livelihoods, health, economies, and natural resources. While some impacts can be somewhat subtle, others are more obvious - such as land sinking in the Central Valley, counties lacking safe drinking water, ecosystem degradation and depletion, conflict between water users, and increased flood, drought and fire severity. These challenges increasingly threaten California's sustainability and health and call for solutions that manifest resiliency in water management and use.

Opportunity and the Outcomes

The UC ANR is well placed to play an impactful role in helping California address its water challenges. With an expanded network we will build on our foundation – of practical credible solutions and a state-wide presence - to

- support and strengthen agencies; be they local government, water bodies, county, non-profits; community members and landowners.
- strengthen communities to overcome both urban and rural challenges of water access and use, pollution, stream and watershed health, and policy throughout California.
- strengthen planning and institutional capacity at local and aggregated levels to build Californians resilience to better **manage and address the state's water challenges**.
- Providing key complementarities for the Governor's [Water Resilience Portfolio](#).
- Improving soil health and watershed management with direct benefits to climate resiliency.

- Identify and share viable options to meet the requirements of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.
- Ensure socially equitable water solutions in both rural and urban areas as we work with others to address California's water challenges.
- Provide credible and practical options for landowners and organizations to address water use and quality concerns.
- Provide solutions to keep Californians, the environment, and the economy safe and sustained.

By building a team of Advisors, Specialists, and program staff, the network will build capacity, create linkages and significantly enhance communications to amplify impact through credible, science-based practical information. The network will create a more resilient California .

Who We Are

UC Cooperative Extension (UCCE) experts help build stronger and resilient communities through leadership, research, outreach and technical skills in natural resources, agriculture, nutrition, youth development and community health. Embedded within county governments and communities throughout California, we provide direct access to the extensive, world renowned and impactful research of the full University of California system. As a trusted long-term partner (>100-year history), we deliver education that empowers communities at every level. UC ANR develops and evaluates practices, disseminates new research and innovations through trainings and guidance documents, provides coordination and capacity for local and state-level collaborative implementation, and helps identify and inform appropriate policies.



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