



# UC Center for Water Resources



**T**he UC Center for Water Resources is a university-wide organized research unit with a mission to advance scientific knowledge in water sciences by supporting faculty research and training graduate students. The Center hosts several research and outreach programs, each with a separate funding mechanism and different objective.

**California Water Resources Center (WRC).** In 1957, California state legislature provided funding and mandated establishment of the California Water Resources Center to support scientific research and training for water professionals throughout the state. WRC operates a university-wide competitive grant program that funds faculty research projects in: (1) Hydrology, Climatology and Hydraulics; (2) Aquatic Ecosystems; (3) Water Quality; (4) Water Development and Management Alternatives; (5) Water Law, Institutions, and Policy.

**NIWR.** WRC is also the as National Institute for Water Resources (NIWR) designee in California. Through the federal program, WRC provides funding for water resources research throughout the state.

### **Salinity and Drainage Research Program.**

Eco-toxic incidences caused by selenium in agricultural drainage water in the Central Valley led to state appropriations for the University of California to develop a Salinity and Drainage Research Program in 1985. The Program investigates broader issues of agricultural drainage, water disposal, and implications on sustainability of irrigated agriculture. Through an annual call for proposals, the Program funds faculty research on drainage, salinity, and biogeochemistry of toxic trace elements. In collaboration with state and federal water agencies, the Program seeks resolutions for agricultural drainage water disposal in the Central Valley.

**Prosser Trust.** Joseph G. Prosser, inventor of the tensiometer (an instrument for determining the moisture content of soils), had a long and close working relationship with research scientists at the California Citrus Experiment Station on the UC Riverside campus. The Prosser Trust Fund is an endowment that promotes efficient irrigation practices. In addition to state appropriations, the Salinity and Drainage Research Program distributes the annual income of the Prosser Trust Fund for research and outreach activities.

### **Cooperative Extension Water Quality Program.**

Initiated in 1989 as a component of the USDA Water Quality Program, the UC Center for Water Resources received funding to develop a statewide water quality outreach and education plan. It focuses on coordinated outreach activities that provide technical information to the state's agricultural sector. The purpose is to protect water from impairments by agricultural activities and to help the agricultural sector meet water quality regulatory goals. The Program now also receives funding through competitive grants in Section 406 of the Agricultural Research Extension and Education Reform Act of 1998 to coordinate water quality education and outreach efforts in California and link them with those at regional and national levels.

**Water Resources Center Archives.** Since 1957, WRC maintains Archives on the Berkeley campus to develop a collection of water related materials that meet the needs of the University's research, instructional, and outreach programs. The Archives research library contains more than 134,000 cataloged items. The collection does not duplicate those in other campus libraries and concentrates on technical reports, public documents, monographs, manuscripts, maps, videos, photographs, and electronic resources. The Archives also produce oral histories with important water professionals in California.

**Summary of 2004-2005 Activities.** Funded research programs supported 19 water resources, 5 salinity and drainage, and 2 Prosser Trust research projects and provided training opportunities for graduate and undergraduate students. The 25th Biennial Groundwater Conference (held Oct. 2005 in Sacramento), with concurrent sessions on technical developments, and policies and regulations, was attended by water professionals from across the state, representing public agencies, educational institutions, and private sectors.

**The Future.** The Salinity Drainage Conference for 2006 (scheduled for March 29) will focus on salt management in California's Central Valley and the salinity of downstream surface waters. The first UC Water Resources Coordinating Conference (scheduled for April 26) will provide a "big picture" view of water issues facing California and how the University fits into that picture. More information on these conferences can be found at the Center's website ([www.waterresources.ucr.edu](http://www.waterresources.ucr.edu)).

### **CENTER**

[www.waterresources.ucr.edu](http://www.waterresources.ucr.edu)



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### **ARCHIVES**

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