

OUR MISSION

The 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 distinct funding mechanism and objective.

OUR PROGRAMS

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

NIWR The WRC is one of the 54 Water Resources Research Institutes/Centers across the country that come together to form the National Institutes for Water Resources (NIWR). The state based program promotes research, training, information dissemination, and other activities meeting the needs of the States and Nation in areas of water management, development, and conservation. More about the NIWR program can be found online at <http://niwr.montana.edu>.

Salinity/Drainage Program The Salinity/Drainage Program was established in 1985 to create a mechanism for the University of California to conduct research and extension activities contributing to sustaining agricultural productivity and maintaining environmental quality in the western San Joaquin Valley. Research is now also supported for salinity issues elsewhere in California. Four general categories for research are: Policy and management issues; Eco-toxicology of trace element chemical species; Long-term management and/or consequences of retired lands; Relative impacts of boron as compared to total dissolved solids (salinity) on the long-term consequences of using drainage water for irrigation.

Irrigation Management Program (Prosser Trust) Joseph G. Prosser, inventor of the tensiometer, had a long and close working relationship with research scientists at the California Citrus Experiment Station on the UC Riverside campus. The Prosser Family Trust is an endowment that promotes efficient irrigation practices. The program is open to a broad spectrum of topics related to crop irrigation management, but generally focused on water conservation and improving irrigation efficiency. Emphasis for funded research projects is placed on outputs that improve current practices and on dissemination of information.

Cooperative Extension Water Quality Program The UC Center for Water Resources cooperates with the USDA – Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Services (CSREES) Regional Water Program for the Southwest States and Pacific Islands. The Regional Program is one of ten that make up part of the USDA – CSREES National Water Program, and works to facilitate implementation of regionally coordinated Extension, Research, and Education programs which address water quality issues while minimizing duplication of effort. More information on the National Water Program and each Regional Program can be found at: www.usawaterquality.org.

Water Resources Center Archives (WRCA) The WRCA, founded in 1957, collects, preserves and provides access to historical and contemporary water-related materials that support the instructional and research programs of the University of California and the needs of the people of the State. Today the collection consists of more than 140,000 technical reports, 1,500 specialized newsletters, and over 5,000 maps and videos. WRCA serves students, faculty, and staff of the University of California as well as hydrologists, engineers, historians, lawyers, scientists, and the general public – anyone with an interest or stake in water issues.

Meetings and Conferences The UC Center for Water Resources participates in the coordination and planning of several regularly held meetings and conferences and special events in an effort to facilitate the dissemination of information related to its various programs. Two of the most popular regular events are the Salinity/Drainage Conference, an annual event, generally held in late March, and the Biennial Groundwater Conference, held in the fall of odd numbered years.



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