

Groundwater Management in California: Big Picture Issues, Recent Regulatory Requirements and Scientific-Economic Approaches

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Sustainable management of California's groundwater resources is vital to the interests of residents, local industries and those elsewhere that rely on agricultural products from the state. The management challenge is significant in scope, multi-faceted and complex. Both physical and economic processes must be considered when developing viable management approaches. Focusing on the Central Valley as an example, this presentation will 1) provide a historical perspective on groundwater use and evolving conditions, 2) highlight some impacts from overuse of the resource, 3) discuss recent management requirements by the State and 4) provide information on groundwater recharge efforts. Details related to groundwater resources in other parts of the state may be addressed during discussion following the presentation.

Biography: Rob Gailey has been a practicing hydrogeologist since 1985 contributing to both environmental and water supply projects. His work ranges from performing field investigations and quantitative analysis to regulatory negotiation and expert witness engagements. Rob particularly enjoys envisioning and scoping new projects. Licensed as a Professional Geologist and Certified Hydrogeologist in California, he also holds degrees in geology (ScB, Brown University), hydrogeology (MS, Stanford University), civil and environmental engineering (PhD, University of California at Davis), as well as business (MBA, University of California at Berkeley). Rob welcomes spirited discussion of the material that he presents.