

BEFORE ARIEL'S EDITS

November XXXX

Dear XXXX,

The debate over the peripheral canal...the integrity of the Delta levees...the plight of the Central Valley...the crash of salmon runs... the large scale restoration of rivers and streams...and the constant concerns about drought and reliable water supplies. These are but a few of the water resource issues facing California now and in the future. And the only place that has both current and historical information on all of these issues – and so many more – is the University of California's Water Resources Center Archives (WRCA), the premier water library in the United States.

WRCA is facing a challenging future. Since its inception, WRCA has been supported by the UC Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR). Severe budget cuts require ANR to find a UC campus that is willing to support WRCA. ANR is committed to funding WRCA until an appropriate home is found and will keep the collection in tact. All memberships received will continue to benefit WRCA.

With its unmatched collections and its knowledgeable staff, WRCA offers the in-depth, up-to-the-minute research that contributes to informed decisions about water issues in California and the West. Its data bases, full-text journal articles, and unique documents not collected by other libraries make it the go-to source for engineers, hydrologists, academics, policymakers, scientists, and anyone with an interest or stake in water resources.

We invite you to support the library by becoming a member of WRCA. The enclosed list of projects and services details the ways in which your membership helps us to sustain our work. Highlights include:

- *The California Colloquium on Water.* This popular monthly lecture series presents distinguished speakers on such relevant topics as “California Water: Managing Crisis and Opportunity,” and “Groundwater Depletion: A National Assessment and Global Perspective.”
- *The collection of web-only documents.* WRCA collects and makes accessible documents that appear online only briefly and that might otherwise be lost.

With limited available funds, we rely on donors like you to enhance our collections, keep up with the latest technologies, and expand our outreach.

Please fill out the membership form in the enclosed WRCA brochure and join us in acquiring, preserving, and providing access to the country's finest collection of water-related materials.

Sincerely,

Linda Vida, Director
Water Resources Center Archives

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If there's one thing about any debate over California water, it's that there is no easy answer. Will building a peripheral canal help or hurt fish, season or sweeten the source of our drinking water? Have the salmon runs crashed too far to rebound? Is restoration working? Can the Delta's ancient levees hold up against climate-changed storm surges, not to mention a blockbuster earthquake? How can we fairly divvy up water between cities, farms and wildlife? Who needs it most, when and why?

Answering these questions-- questions that trace back to water right and land use decisions made by California's founders and that spiral forward through two hundred years of political intrigue, urban growth, legal wrangles and changing environmental objectives -- requires information. The only place in the nation where all this information, both current and historic, can be found is in one very special library: the University of California's Water Resources Center Archives.

With its unmatched collections and its knowledgeable staff, this premier water library offers the in-depth, up-to-the-minute research that contributes to informed decisions about water issues in California and the West. Its data bases, full-text journal articles, and unique documents not collected by other libraries make it the go-to source for engineers, hydrologists, academics, policymakers, scientists, and anyone with an interest or stake in water resources.

We invite you to support the library by becoming a member of the Water Resources Center Archives. Your support is particularly critical at this time, this year, with the state's budget cuts severely affecting our host: the University of California's Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources. The cuts require us to find a new home on a U.C. campus. In the interim, both the library and its university supporters are committed to keeping the collection intact, and to providing our members with unbroken access to the archives' unique resources.

What will your membership support? A diverse range of projects and services (see attached). You may be interested in our popular ongoing monthly lecture series on water, featuring distinguished speakers on hot topics like groundwater depletion and crisis management in the failing Delta ecosystem. Or you may wish to help sustain our collection of web-only documents -- documents that only make a brief debut on-line before being lost in the twilight zone of deleted data. Or you may agree with us on the need to continue scanning our fascinating on-paper archive of historic letters, water right rulings, maps and reports so that thousands of people like you can bring them up on their computer screens day or night.

We rely on donors like you to do all these things and more. Please fill out the membership form in the enclosed brochure and help us preserve our collections, expand our library, keep up with the latest technologies, and increase our outreach. Join us in providing access to the country's finest collection of water-related materials. Send your check today!

Thank you,