



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** January 31, 2014

**Contact:** Marycon Razo, *California Water Foundation*  
[mrazo@resourceslegacyfund.org](mailto:mrazo@resourceslegacyfund.org), (916) 442-5057

## **State Forecasts 0% State Water Project Allocation; Drought Challenges Continue *California Needs to Prepare for Extended Drought, Reevaluate Statewide Water Management***

**Sacramento, CA**– The California Department of Water Resources forecasted today that water agencies may not receive any water from the State Water Project in 2014 after the severe drought has led to the worst-ever water supply outlook. Barring a major improvement in water supply conditions, this would be the first time in history that Californians go without water from the State Water Project, which supplies water to 25 million people, businesses and hundreds of thousands of acres of farmland. The announcement underscores the dire water supply situation California is facing and the need for both immediate and long-term solutions.

Below is a statement from Lester Snow, executive director of the California Water Foundation:

“The reality is, this could be just the beginning of a long-term drought, and we need to prepare for that scenario.

“California needs to rethink how we manage water supplies in the state, including expanding local water supplies, increasing stormwater capture, advancing water recycling projects and changing our approach to groundwater management.

“Innovation, collaboration and creativity are going to be critical as we look at water supply solutions going forward. It’s not just about water coming out of the tap in our homes--water supply solutions need to be aimed at preserving agriculture, building sustainable cities for generations to come and protecting California’s natural resources.”

*Lester Snow serves as the executive director of the California Water Foundation. Previously, Snow was the Director of the California Department of Water Resources and Secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency.*

### **About California Water Foundation**

The California Water Foundation (CWF) seeks to transition California to a sustainable and resilient water future – a future in which water is managed as a natural resource, looking across all sources and uses to find the best solutions for social welfare, economic development, and environmental sustainability. CWF supports innovative projects and policies that address water challenges today, while achieving long-term, science-based solutions for the future. CWF is an initiative of Resources Legacy Fund, with primary funding from S.D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation and Pisces Foundation, and additional support from David and Lucile Packard Foundation and others. Learn more at:

<http://www.californiawaterfoundation.org>.