



**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Katy Mamen, Ag Innovations Network, (707) 331-1846, [katy@aginnovations.org](mailto:katy@aginnovations.org)

**New, expanded water management tools for California agriculture released**  
***Collaborative effort includes interactive case study map and database, a toolbox of on-farm practices, and a library of technical assistance information***

*December 8, 2011 – Sebastopol, CA*—Today, the California Roundtable on Water and Food Supply launched a new and expanded online Agricultural Water Stewardship Resource Center to assist growers and ranchers, water suppliers, and others in making effective farm water management decisions. The resource center, online at <http://www.agwaterstewards.org>, includes a new searchable database and interactive map of innovative and effective efforts around California to improve on-farm and regional water management. In addition, the tool includes an expanded set of information about a range of on-farm practices, their benefits and drawbacks, as well as a range of additional technical support information and policy documents.

The effort, the California Agricultural Water Stewardship Initiative, was first initiated by a small group of agriculture organizations in 2008 and is now being re-launched in expanded and updated format as the Agricultural Water Stewardship Resource Center by the California Roundtable on Water and Food Supply, a consensus-based forum for a broad range of thought leaders established to uncover obstacles, identify solutions, and take action to enhance water security for agriculture, the public and the environment. A Roundtable-appointed Editorial Board, responsible for moderating the content of the Resource Center and ensuring balanced content, includes technical experts from the agricultural sector, University of California and California State University systems, the environmental community, and the water supply community.

According to Editorial Board member Sarge Green of the California Water Institute, “California agriculture needs access to reliable information on successful best practices so as to remain viable yet integrated into common goals of social and environmental sustainability. No one can afford to waste or mis-manage water in the future and these online resources of best practices will help deliver better management results when used properly.”

The Resource Center is an important clearinghouse of solutions and practical case studies for a broad audience of water decision-makers. “With diminishing water supply and future uncertainty from climate change, figuring out the best ways to manage our scarce water resources will be increasingly critical,” said Dr. Juliet Christian-Smith of the Pacific Institute and a member of the Editorial Board. “We hope that Resource Conservation Districts, irrigation districts, and individual growers will continue to add their own experiences to this interactive database of case studies.” The non-partisan research organization, the Pacific Institute, created the interactive case study database that forms part of the Resource Center.

More information and background on the Agricultural Water Stewardship Resource Center is online at <http://www.agwaterstewards.org>. Information about the California Roundtable on Water and Food Supply can be found at <http://www.aginnovations.org/Roundtables/CRWFS>.

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