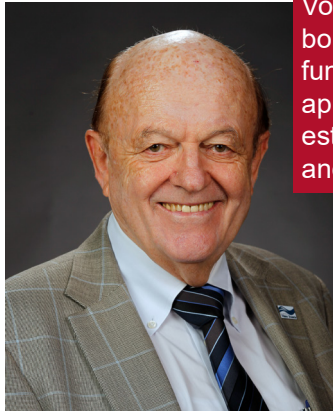


The California Water Institute (CWI), established to address the complex water challenges facing California, has been a cornerstone of sustainable water management since its inception in 2000. The following timeline highlights key milestones, projects, and leadership changes that have shaped CWI's contributions to water management in San Joaquin Valley and beyond over the past 25 years.



Voters approved Proposition 13, a \$2 billion water bond measure that allocated \$3 million in start-up funds for CWI. Founding Director Karl Longley appointed (2000-2004); mission and vision established with input from government, public, and industry organizations.

2000



Leadership transitioned when David Zoldoske was appointed director, serving in that role until 2017.

2004



CWI published a report recommending Integrated Regional Water Management Planning for the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley, Water Work Group. In addition, CWI initiated a field investigation on seepage impacts of San Joaquin River Restoration flows on neighboring farmland.

2009



The institute evaluated the feasibility of using recycled wastewater for agricultural irrigation for the Tulare Irrigation District and City of Visalia Water Supplies Exchange Project, confirming it can be safely integrated with proper management.

2012

Facilitation efforts supported the development of the Stanislaus and Merced County Groundwater Transfer Ordinance, which established permitting requirements for out-of-county groundwater transfers.

2014

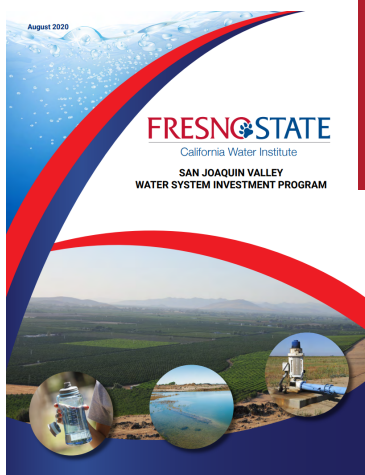


Work expanded to a regional scale with the preparation of the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan for the San Joaquin Valley of California. This plan aligned the efforts of 19 regional water planning entities to enhance water reliability, efficiency, and sustainability.

2016

CWI published Funding a Future for Water in the San Joaquin Valley, a review of public funding for water infrastructure. Additional studies included evaluating the effectiveness of carbonated charcoal as part of a point-of-entry treatment and contributing to PPIC's publication of California's Water: Providing Safe Drinking Water.

2018



2013



In collaboration with the New Jerusalem Drainage District and the Department of Water Resources, CWI assessed alternatives for managing subsurface drainage systems serving farmland near Tracy, California.

2015

- Fresno State President Joseph Castro created the Water Task Force to examine water issues across campus, recommending CWI as the lead institute for water-related activities at the university.



2017



Thomas Esqueda appointed as the first Associate Vice President overseeing water initiatives and led the institute from 2018 to 2020. During this period, CWI contributed to the Public Policy Institute of California's (PPIC) publication, Water Stress and a Changing San Joaquin Valley.

The institute assisted Woolf Farming with B-Corp certification by developing an environmental management system. Other major efforts included the SGMA Governance Strategies Summary Report, assistance with drinking water planning for Nile Garden School (Manteca) and Kernvale Mutual Water Company (Lake Isabella), and contributions to PPIC's Water and the Future of the San Joaquin Valley.



2019

2020

Cordie Qualle was appointed as interim director, serving for the 2020 – 2021 academic year. CWI completed an in-depth analysis of key socioeconomic and demographic trends in the San Joaquin Valley and published major governance, finance, and feasibility studies, including the City of Fresno Department of Public Utilities Regional Consolidation Feasibility Study. The institute launched its Faculty Fellows Program and Water Bootcamp. It also partnered with PPIC on stakeholder engagement for their land repurposing study, and with Stanford on launching the San Joaquin Valley Water Collaborative Action Program.



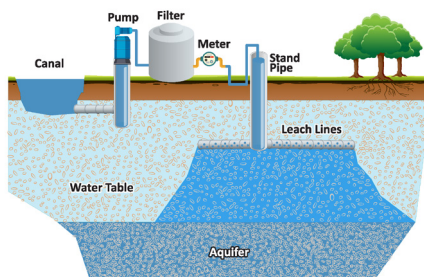
2021



Charles Hillyer became Interim Associate Vice President and led the institute from 2021 to 2023. The Faculty Fellows Program produced white papers on precision agriculture and wastewater treatment innovations. In partnership with the Center for Irrigation Technology, CWI also completed a literature review and meter testing for the Kaweah Subbasin.

2023

CWI published research on stormwater and groundwater impacts on housing markets in Fresno, Clovis, and rural Fresno/Madera, as well as groundwater recharge monitoring using gravimetric survey technology. A research study on Subsurface Agriculture Groundwater Recharge was also completed.



2024



The institute partnered with the San Joaquin Valley Water Blueprint to facilitate board meetings and work groups.

2025

Laura Ramos was appointed as director, marking a new chapter in the institute's leadership.



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