

CALIFORNIA WATER INSTITUTE

Partnership Prospectus & Capabilities Statement *University-Based Expertise Advancing Water Resilience Across California*

ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW

The **California Water Institute (CWI) at Fresno State** is a statewide, university-based institute dedicated to advancing **applied water research, policy-relevant analysis, and collaborative implementation**. Located in the San Joaquin Valley, CWI operates at the intersection of science, policy, and practice—translating academic research into actionable strategies.

WHY PARTNER WITH CWI?

- ✓ University-based credibility with a strong applied research orientation
- ✓ Demonstrated ability to align science with policy and implementation
- ✓ Neutral convening role that builds trust across sectors
- ✓ Commitment to equity and collaboration

CORE CAPABILITIES

Applied Research and Technical Services

CWI provides research and technical assistance tailored to partner needs, including:

- ▶ Groundwater sustainability analysis and compliance support
- ▶ Recharge feasibility studies and site identification
- ▶ Stormwater capture, conveyance, and management strategies
- ▶ GIS mapping, spatial analysis, and decision-support tools for water planning, infrastructure, recharge, land use, and watershed management
- ▶ Environmental and ecosystem assessment, including habitat evaluation, soil and vegetation analysis, climate resilience, and watershed health indicators
- ▶ Economic studies

Planning, Policy and Implementation

- ▶ Policy-relevant research informing local, regional and state decision-making
- ▶ Technical studies supporting small-system consolidation and access to safe drinking water
- ▶ Data integration, modeling and analysis to support agency planning and reporting
- ▶ Facilitation of collaborative regional planning efforts, to align data, priorities, and investments
- ▶ Water quality assessment for planning, funding and regulatory needs

Innovation, Technology and Workforce

In partnership with Fresno State's Center for Irrigation Technology (CIT) and Water, Energy and Technology (WET) Center, CWI supports:

- ▶ Irrigation performance and efficiency analysis
- ▶ Testing, validation, and advancement of emerging water/irrigation technologies
- ▶ Innovation supporting irrigation efficiency and climate-smart agriculture
- ▶ Evaluation of integrated water–energy solutions
- ▶ Workforce development aligned with agency, industry, and community needs

Convening and Stakeholder Engagement

- ▶ Structured convening of universities, agencies, nonprofits, industry, and community partners
- ▶ Facilitation of shared learning, technical dialogue, and coordinated action
- ▶ Translation of research into decision-support tools, guidance documents, and practitioner-focused resources

EXPERIENCE AND IMPACT

CWI's work has directly supported:

- Identification of groundwater recharge opportunities
- SGMA-related analysis informing sustainable groundwater management strategies
- Research guiding small-system consolidation to improve access to safe drinking water
- Regional coordination through multi-agency planning initiatives

PARTNERSHIP MODELS

CWI collaborates through flexible engagement models, including:

- Technical assistance and applied research agreements
- Multi-agency and regional planning initiatives
- Grant-funded partnerships and program development
- Pilot projects and demonstration studies
- Long-term strategic collaborations

WHO WE WORK WITH

Irrigation Districts & Water
Agencies

Disadvantaged & Rural
Communities

Cities, Counties & Public
Agencies

Agricultural Producers & Large Operations

Utilities, NGOs & Industry Partners

Partner with the California Water Institute to advance informed, collaborative, and implementable water solutions that support California's communities, agriculture, and ecosystems.

MISSION & VALUE PROPOSITION

Mission

To strengthen California's water resilience by delivering rigorous, applied research; fostering regional coordination; and supporting equitable, science-based water management decisions.

Value to Partners

- *Objective, evidence-based analysis grounded in academic rigor*
- *Practical solutions aligned with regulatory and operational realities*
- *Capacity to convene diverse stakeholders and align regional efforts*
- *Proven experience supporting implementation—not just planning*

California Water Institute | Fresno State

www.californiawater.org