



**WATER EDUCATION
FOUNDATION**

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**CENTRAL VALLEY TOUR ITINERARY
April 14-16, 2010**

Sponsored by: Water Education Foundation

Resource speaker (entire trip):

***Douglas DeFlicht**, Supervisory Hydrologist, South Central California Area
Office, Bureau of Reclamation, Mid Pacific Region*

***Carl Hauge**, Former Chief Hydrogeologist, California Department of Water
Resources*

***Peter Vorster**, Hydrogeographer, The Bay Institute*

Tour staff: ***Rebecca Scott**, Events/Tour Director, Water Education Foundation*
***Robin Richie**, Editorial Assistant, Water Education Foundation*

DAY 1: Wednesday, April 14 - BAKERSFIELD

Introduction to San Joaquin Valley; Kern County water supply and water rights, groundwater quality, conjunctive use, water marketing, water banking, East side agriculture, irrigation practices, local water supply and flood control

7:30 a.m. **CHECK-IN, Doubletree Hotel Bakersfield (in front of hotel at Orange Belt bus)**
3100 Camino Del Rio Court, Bakersfield, California, 93308
Tel: 1-661-323-7111

7:45 a.m. **Introduction**
Overview of the tour route
***Peter Vorster**, Hydrogeographer, The Bay Institute*

8:00 a.m. **Depart** for Kern County Water Agency
3200 Rio Mirada Drive Bakersfield, CA 93308
Tel: (661)634-1400

En Route:

Introduction to the geology of the San Joaquin Valley.

Carl Hauge, *Former Chief Hydrogeologist, California Department of Water Resources*

8:10 a.m. **Arrive** at Kern County Water Agency

Water 1-A: Kern County Water Agency, local operations and California's water crisis.

Speaker: *Kern County Water Agency (KCWA) Staff*

9:45 a.m. **Depart** for Cross Valley Canal

En Route: Expanding the capacity of the Cross Valley Canal and connecting it to the Friant-Kern Canal.

Zach Smith, *Engineering and Groundwater Assistant, KCWA*

10:05 a.m. **Arrive** Cross Valley Canal

Construction progress and timeline; potential for increasing flexibility of water supply for southern San Joaquin Valley.

Speaker:

Trent Taylor, *Water Resources Planner, KCWA*

10:30 a.m. **Depart** for Kern Water Bank and view Kern Fan Projects on the way

En route: Pioneer Recovery & Recharge Facilities, City of Bakersfield 2800 Spreading Grounds

Current recovery operations; land exchange property and well sites; overview of recharge activities

Zach Smith, *Engineering and Groundwater Assistant, KCWA*

11:00 a.m. **Arrive** Kern Water Bank: Travel to Aqueduct and return to Kern Water Bank pump station.

Speakers and tour of Water Bank:

Jon Parker, *General Manager, Kern Water Bank Authority*

Ken Bonesteel, *Facility Manager, Kern Water Bank Authority*

12:00 p.m. **LUNCH**

12:45 p.m. **Depart** for Semitropic Water Storage District (meeting at Wasco Valley Rose Golf Course, 301 N. Leonard Avenue, Wasco, CA 93280)

En Route:

Peter Vorster, Hydrogeographer, *The Bay Institute*
Oil-field Produced Water

Intro to Climate Change Video: *Carl Hauge*

View video: "A Climate of Change: Water Adaption Strategies"

2:00 p.m. **Arrive** Semitropic WSD.

Presentation to discuss conjunctive use program, groundwater management, water marketing in Semitropic WSD.

Speaker: **Will Boschman**, *General Manager, Semitropic Water Storage District.*

3:00 p.m. **Depart** for Kaweah Delta Water District and Terminus Dam

En Route: Kaweah and St. Johns Rivers. Urban and agricultural water supply and flood control.

Mark Larsen, *General Manager of Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District*

4:15 p.m. **Arrive** Terminus Spillway at Lake Kaweah

Lake Kaweah enlargement project. Fuse gates and flood control.

Speakers:

Mark Larsen, *Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District*

5:00 p.m. **Depart** for Marriott Hotel

Route: 198 west to Central Visalia exit to Court.

5:30 p.m. **Arrive** Marriott Hotel, 300 S. Court St., Visalia, 559-636-1111.

6:45 p.m. **Depart** for barbecue dinner at Country M Ranch

7:00 p.m. **Arrive** for dinner at Country M Ranch, 3103 East Oakdale, Tulare (559) 688-2276
(No host bar available)

Welcome: **Mark Larsen**, *General Manager, Kaweah Delta WCD*

Speaker: **Don Mills**, *Board President, Kaweah Delta WCD*

9:00 p.m. **Depart** for Marriott Hotel.

DAY 2: Thursday, April 15, 2010 - Visalia to Los Banos

Groundwater management, regional planning, water quality (irrigated lands regulatory program) ; east side agriculture, Kings River, Friant Dam and the Friant-Kern Canal, San Joaquin

River, fish habitat restoration, CVP and SWP operations and storage, wildlife refuges and the Pacific Flyway, Exchange Contractors

7:00 a.m. **BREAKFAST**, Plaza North, Marriott Hotel

7:15 a.m. Resource management within the Kings River watershed
Speaker: *David Orth*, *General Manager of Kings River Conservation District (KRCD)*

8:00 a.m. **Depart** for Alta Growers

En Route: Discuss East Side agriculture and water development.
Randy McFarland, *Public Information, Friant Water Authority & Kings River Water agencies*

8:30 a.m. **Arrive** Alta Growers. Discuss cropping and irrigation. Pump demonstration and discussion of conjunctive use on farm.

Speakers:
Chris Kapheim, *General Manager, Alta Irrigation District*
Jerry Halford, *Board Member, Alta Irrigation District*

9:00 a.m. **Depart** for Orange Cove.

En Route: Discuss Kings River history, administrative structure (KRCD and KRWA), operations and issues as well as types of agriculture.
Randy McFarland, *Public Information, Friant Water Users*
David Orth, *General Manager of Kings River Conservation District (KRCD)*

9:15 a.m. **Arrive** Orange Cove. Citrus ranching. View Orange Cove Irrigation District's new, state-of-the-art water distribution system and Friant-Kern Canal. Local concerns on San Joaquin River decision.

Speaker: *Harvey Bailey*, *Board Member, OCID and Friant Water Authority*

9:45 a.m. **Depart** for Kings River, Pine Flat Dam and Friant Dam

En Route: Discuss water quality issues – Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program; groundwater quality; rural drinking water challenges
David Orth, *General Manager, KRCD*

10:00 a.m. **Speaker: *Steve Haugen***, *Watermaster, Kings River Water Association*

En Route: Discuss Kings River Fisheries Management Program, Urban water impacts and issues in Fresno area.

Explanation of Exchange Contractors

Carl Hauge, *Former Chief Hydrogeologist, California Department of Water Resources*

Peter Vorster, *Hydrogeographer, The Bay Institute*

11:45 a.m. **Arrive** Friant Dam. Discuss Friant operations, increased storage and improved infrastructure. Possible construction of new dam at Temperance above Friant. San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement.

LUNCH

Speakers:

Tony Buelna, *Operations Manager, Central California Area Office, Bureau of Reclamation, Mid Pacific Region*

Randy McFarland, *Public Information, Friant Water Users*

Peter Vorster, *Hydrogeographer, The Bay Institute*

12:45 p.m. **Depart** for Sand Slough Diversion Structure

En route: San Joaquin River fish issues. Environmental water account, "B-2" water; Restoration sites

Douglas DeFlicht, *Supervisory Hydrologist, South Central California Area Office, Bureau of Reclamation, Mid Pacific Region*

Randy McFarland, *Friant Water Users*

Peter Vorster, *Hydrogeographer, The Bay Institute*

2:00 p.m. **Arrive** Sand Slough Diversion Structure, San Joaquin River Restoration of San Joaquin River at reaches #3 and 4.

Speakers:

Steve Chedester, *Executive Director, San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors*

Douglas DeFlicht, *Supervisory Hydrologist, South Central California Area Office, Bureau of Reclamation, Mid Pacific Region*

2:30 p.m. **Depart** for San Luis Reservoir

En route:

Central Valley Project (CVP) and State Water Project (SWP) operations

Douglas DeFlicht, *Supervisory Hydrologist, South Central California Area Office, Bureau of Reclamation, Mid Pacific Region*

View video: "Salt of the Earth" (8 min)

Geologic setting and interaction of surface and groundwater: West San Joaquin Valley salinity problems, San Luis Drain, Endangered Species Act requirements.
Speaker: Carl Hauge, Former Chief Hydrogeologist, California Department of Water Resources

3:00 p.m. **Arrive** San Luis Reservoir Romero Visitors Center.
Discuss off-stream storage projects. San Luis & Delta Mendota Canals, western San Joaquin Valley irrigation supply; increased pumping, SWP-CVP storage
Speaker: Ara Azhderian, Water Policy Administrator, San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority

3:45 p.m. **Depart** for San Luis National Wildlife Refuge

En route: Discuss reason for location for wildlife refuge. Discuss history of wetlands in Central Valley, Pacific flyway. Grasslands Drainage project.
Speakers:
Scott Lower, Asst. General Manager, Grassland Water District

4:30 p.m. **Arrive** San Luis National Wildlife Refuge. Discuss agricultural drainage, Salt and Mud Sloughs and San Luis Drain, need for dependable, high-quality water supply for environment.
Speakers:
Karl Stromayer, Asst. Refuge Manager, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Dennis Woolington, biologist, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

5:30 p.m. **Depart** for dinner at Delta Farms in Los Banos.

En route, CVP water for environmental use (CVP Improvement Act). Grasslands Bypass Project. Drainage and land retirement. Land retirement, Reclamation contracts.
Speaker:
Douglas DeFlitch, Supervisory Hydrologist, South Central California Area Office, Bureau of Reclamation, Mid Pacific Region

History and relationship of salinity and the San Francisco Bay
Speaker: Peter Vorster, Hydrogeographer, The Bay Institute

6:00 p.m. **Arrive** Delta Farms. Discuss exchange contractors' water rights. San Joaquin River issues. San Joaquin River flood flows.

DINNER - Delta Farms Host: Aldo Sansoni

Speaker: *Steve Chedester*, executive director, San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors

8:00 p.m. Depart for hotel in Los Banos area.

8:15 p.m. Arrive Best Western Executive Inn 301 W Pacheco Blvd Los Banos, CA 93635-4046 (209) 827-0954

DAY 3: Friday, April 16, 2010 – Los Banos to Bakersfield

More on salinity, water supply and delivery systems, land retirement, flood management, agricultural irrigation

7:00 a.m. BREAKFAST

8:00 a.m. Depart for Panoche Water District farms

En route: Discuss Grasslands Bypass Project, drain water recirculation, sub-surface drip irrigation, alternative cropping rotations to use saline water
***Dennis Falaschi*, General Manager, Panoche Water District**

8:45 a.m. Arrive Panoche Water District. Discuss subsurface drainage, discharge reduction strategies, drip irrigation. Visit selenium treatment plant.

Speaker: *Dennis Falaschi*, General Manager, Panoche Water District

9:45 a.m. Depart for Mendota Pool, confluence of Delta-Mendota Canal and San Joaquin River.

En route: Discuss groundwater banking in Madera County; confluence of Delta-Mendota Canal and San Joaquin River; contract renewals
***Carl Hauge*, Former Chief Hydrogeologist, California Department of Water Resources**
***Douglas DeFlicht*, Supervisory Hydrologist, South Central California Area Office, Bureau of Reclamation, Mid Pacific Region**

10:15 a.m. Arrive Mendota Pool, confluence of Delta-Mendota Canal, San Joaquin River and Fresno Slough (North Fork-Kings River), and the points of diversion for several Exchange Contractors and Westlands Water District canals.

Discuss significance of Mendota Pool, flood management, challenges related to river and fishery restoration and groundwater pumping issues.

Speaker: *Chris White*, General Manager, Central California Irrigation District

Private land ownership, Phase 1 project for Mendota Pool bypass.

Speaker: Randy Houk, General Manager, Columbia Canal Company

10:45 a.m. Depart for tour of Westlands WD. Discuss west side agricultural water supply, drainage and reclamation issues, efficient irrigation system improvements, groundwater and subsidence, on-farm water management. Salt and selenium management. Land acquisition, fallowing, and management program

Speaker:

Douglas DeFlich, Supervisory Hydrologist, South Central California Area Office, Bureau of Reclamation, Mid Pacific Region

Sarge Green, Project Director, California Water Institute

11:15 a.m. Arrive Three Rocks Area:
Discuss Subsidence and Hydrocompaction

11:30 a.m. Arrive at Red Rock Ranch
Discuss salt management and selenium treatment methods
Speaker: John Diener, Owner, Red Rock Ranch

12:00 p.m. Depart for Harris Ranch

12:30 p.m. Arrive Harris Ranch, Coalinga, 559-935-0717. - **LUNCH**
CVP Project Operations, Westlands Land Acquisition Program, drainage strategies and proposal to run the San Luis unit
Speaker: Jason Peltier, Chief Deputy General Manager, Westlands Water District

2:00 p.m. Evaporation ponds and mitigation environments for migratory birds. Changing selenium standards
Speaker: Doug Davis, General Manager, Tulare Lake Drainage District

3:00 p.m. Depart for Tulare Lake Basin.

En route: Brief history of Tulare Lake Development

Speakers: Carl Hauge, Former Chief Hydrogeologist, California Department of Water Resources

Peter Vorster, Hydrogeographer, The Bay Institute

Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District flood waters detention, snow pack, flood releases

Speaker: Jacob Westra, Assistant General Manager, Tulare Lake Water Storage District

Compensation habitat and north evaporation basin

Speaker: Doug Davis, General Manager, Tulare Lake Drainage District

3:45 p.m. **Arrive** Tulare Lake Basin

Operational aspects of water delivery, cropping patterns, Tulare Lake Bottom flood storage facilities and summer water releases from the flood storage areas to use for irrigation

Speaker: *John Jones, Watermaster, Boswell Corporations*

4:15 p.m. **Depart** for Bakersfield

En route:

Groundwater contamination, local water governance, affordability of drinking water, strategies for improving quality and affordability of drinking water

Speaker: *Phoebe Seaton, Community Equity Initiative, California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc.*

Discuss valley-wide groundwater issues, arsenic in drinking water, arsenic water quality standard.

Speaker: *Carl Hauge, Former Chief Hydrogeologist, California Department of Water Resources*

6:00 p.m. **Arrive** in Bakersfield, Doubletree Hotel