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The Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, the Colorado River, drinking water quality, Integrated Regional Water Management and climate change were among the issues featured in the Foundation’s publications, conferences, tours and other programs in 2013.

Founded in 1977, the Foundation’s mission is to create a better understanding of water resources and foster public understanding and resolution of water resource issues through facilitation, education and outreach. The Foundation reaches a broad audience including policymakers and leading agricultural, environmental and urban stakeholders; journalists; and school children – and their families – in grades K-14.

Leading the effort to provide impartial education is a 35-member volunteer Board of Directors.

Members come from the business, agricultural, municipal, environmental, education and public interest communities. In October, longtime Executive Director Rita Schmidt Sudman announced her plans to retire in early 2014. Her contributions to the water world were subsequently recognized by, among others, the Association of California Water Agencies at its December conference.

The work of the Foundation’s 10-member staff is supported by federal, state and private grants; contributions from consultants, water districts, attorneys, farmers, environmentalists and others interested in the dissemination of unbiased, thorough and easy-to-understand information about water; attendance at Foundation-sponsored events; and the sale of our materials.

During 2013, the Foundation’s six issues of Western Water examined topics ranging from drinking water quality to the proposed Bay Delta Conservation Plan. Colorado River issues related to the Salton Sea Plan and water banking were featured in River Report. Foundation staff conducted seven water tours, held the 30th annual Executive Briefing and made numerous presentations.

Many special projects were undertaken in 2013 in which the Foundation:
- Launched Aquapedia, an online encyclopedia of water terms vetted by experts
- Held the ninth biennial, invitation-only Colorado River Symposium
- Graduated 21 young professionals from the William R. Gianelli Water Leaders Class
- Cosponsored a major two-day conference focused on California’s Integrated Resources Water Management program and the one-day Integrated Water Management Summit
- Expanded digital publications to include editions of River Report and other briefing publications. Also broadened the formats so viewers can read via Flash (computer), iOS and Android (cell phones and tablets)
- Partnered with The Coalition to Support Near-Term Delta Projects for a one-day Delta tour to view sites identified by the Coalition as examples of near-term Delta projects
- Served as the California coordinator for the national Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) program, conducting 62 teacher workshops throughout the state
- Coordinated the fifth annual Santa Ana River Watershed conference “The Power of Partnerships”
- Presented the second annual Water 101: the Basics and Beyond, course
- Wrote text for the California Department of Public Health’s newest portal, Is Our Water Safe to Drink?
- Sponsored the second annual Anne J. Schneider Foundation Lecture Series
- Redesigned the Foundation’s primary logo, plus designed new logos for Aquaifornia and Aquapedia
Western Water Magazine

The January/February issue of Western Water featured a roundtable discussion with water experts from different viewpoints: Martha Davis, executive manager of policy development with the Inland Empire Utilities Agency; Ellen Hanak, co-director of research and senior fellow at the Public Policy Institute of California; Stuart Leavenworth, editorial page editor of The Sacramento Bee’s and Anthony Saracino, who serves on the California Water Commission.

For the March/April issue, “Nitrate and the Struggle for Clean Drinking Water,” Writer Gary Pitzer explored drinking water challenges facing agricultural and rural communities. The edition included coverage of the Human Right to Water Act, methods people are exploring to provide better drinking water to the communities now faced with nitrate contamination and how to better manage fertilizer use and nitrate pollution.

In the May/June issue, “Meeting the Co-equal Goals? The Bay Delta Conservation Plan,” Gary noted whatever direction the BDCP takes, it will represent a major milestone in the history of California water.

July/August’s “Adjusting to the New Reality: Climate Change in the West,” looked at climate change through the lens of some of the latest scientific research and responses from experts regarding mitigation and adaptation.

In the September/October issue of Western Water, “Two States, One Lake: Keeping Lake Tahoe Blue,” Gary discussed some of the issues associated with the effort to preserve and restore Lake Tahoe’s clarity.

Program Director Sue McClurg wrote the November/December issue “An Era of New Partnerships on the Colorado River,” which examined how the various stakehold—ers have begun working together to meet the planning challenges for the Colorado River Basin, including agree—ments with Mexico, increased use of conservation and water marketing, and the goal of accomplishing binational environmental restoration and water-sharing programs.

Layperson’s Guides

In 2013 the Foundation published two new guides and updated four of the existing titles in this well—respected series.

The new 28-page Layperson’s Guide to California Wastewater provides background information on the history of wastewater treatment and how wastewater is collected, conveyed, treated and disposed of today.

The new 24-page Layperson’s Guide to Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) provides background information on the principles of IRWM, its funding history and how it differs from the traditional water management approach.

The popular Layperson’s Guide to Colorado River was expanded to 32 pages in 2013. It covers the history of the river’s development and current issues. Also included are sections on Mexico and each of the seven states – Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming – that share the river.

As the state’s population continues to grow and traditional water supplies grow tighter, there is increased interest in reusing treated wastewater for a variety of activities. The updated, 24-page Layperson’s Guide to Water Recycling provides an overview of the history, treatment, legislation, financing, projects and challenges of water recycling in California.

A technical topic made easy—to—understand: the updated, 28-page Layperson’s Guide to Water Rights Law, published in 2013, traces the authority for water flowing in a stream or reservoir, from a faucet or into an irrigation ditch through the complex web of California water rights.

Also updated in 2013: the Layperson’s Guide to the State Water Project, which provides an overview of the California—funded and constructed State Water Project.
Executive Briefing
The 2013 Executive Briefing, “Changing Currents” was held March 14-15 at the Doubletree Hotel in Sacramento. About 150 people attended the briefing, which featured presentations by California Senator Fran Pavley; Phil Isenberg, chair of the Delta Stewardship Council; and Thomas Howard, executive director of the California State Water Resources Control Board.

Panels at the briefing included current issues and future challenges in agriculture; desalination; Assembly Bill 685, the Human Right to Water Bill; Delta plans and programs; floods and storm emergencies; and stormwater.

Santa Ana River Watershed Conference
The Santa Ana River Watershed 2013 conference, “The Power of Partnerships,” was held April 11 at the Westin South Coast Plaza in Costa Mesa. Convened by the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA) and coordinated by the Foundation, the conference featured discussions about energy in water management and highlighted key examples of innovative partnerships among stakeholders – regional water districts, governmental agencies, businesses, communities and residents – that are models for the Santa Ana River watershed.

Major sponsors were Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, Inland Empire Utilities Agency, Riverside Public Utilities, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District, and Western Municipal Water District.

Water 101: The Basics and Beyond
The Foundation went back to school Feb. 14-15 with its second annual day-and-a-half course on California water basics and water district board member governance at the Irvine Ranch Water District in Irvine. The course, open to anyone interested in learning more about the management structure of water in California and about the water issues, drew 100 participants. Foundation Board Member Byron Buck, executive director of the State and Federal Contractors Water Agency, teamed up with Foundation personnel to coordinate the event.

The first day offered participants an overview of California’s natural water environment; water demand and use; current issues; and the legal and institutional management framework. The second day featured a governance primer for water district directors.

Speakers included Eric Garner, a partner at Best Best & Krieger and author of *California Water*, Richard Atwater, executive director of the Southern California Water Committee and Tom Philp, executive strategist for MWD of Southern California.

Learning about Integrated Water
The Foundation partnered with the California Department of Water Resources on two major events in 2013 that highlighted the importance of regional water management. The April 4-5 Integrated Regional Water Management Conference held at the Sacramento Convention Center featured more than 50 speakers discussing their experiences of transforming California’s water management culture to advance water supply reliability, flood management and ecosystem objectives on a regional, watershed scale. The conference also included a brainstorming session in which the 175 participants were encouraged to share their ideas about securing stable funding to continue to develop projects and programs designed to serve regional water needs.

As part of DWR’s Water 360 program, the Foundation cosponsored the April 3 Integrated Water Management Summit at the California Museum in Sacramento. This half-day event featured individual presentations and panel discussions on strategies to advance a holistic approach to statewide investment in integrated water management. More than 200 participants attended the summit. Featured speakers included DWR Director Mark Cowin and Steve Stockton, director of civil works for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
In 2013 California Project WET Coordinator Brian Brown conducted teacher professional development workshops, attended conferences and assisted water districts with teacher workshops.

**Project WET**
The Water Education Foundation is the designated Host Institution for the California Project WET program in an agreement dating back to 1992. The Foundation has been aided in offering Project WET by grants from the federal Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), Mid-Pacific Region and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), California Water Science Center with additional support from the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). This support has been vital in helping our program meet the rise in interest from teachers during this time of economic turmoil for schools and some local partnering agencies.

California Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) had a very successful 2013 thanks to the efforts of our network of volunteer workshop facilitators around the state. Our annual goals to offer a minimum of 50 Project WET workshops per year, training an average of 1,000 educators were exceeded with 62 workshops conducted in 2013 for 1,125 educators who stated they would be use Project WET activities with more than 95,291 students during the 2013-2014 school year.

Project WET helps students understand the science and societal impacts of conserving and protecting water resources. Brian Brown, the California Project WET Coordinator, conducts workshops throughout California to train teachers and workshop facilitators. He also creates the quarterly *California Project WET Gazette* newsletter emailed to more than 7,500 educators. It’s also available on the Foundation’s website.

**Advanced Water Education Workshops**
Brian worked in collaboration with USGS California Water Science Center researchers and DWR to provide a number of in-depth education experiences for teachers on current water issues and research. These events included the integration of USGS and DWR researcher presentations into teacher education workshops on storm water, stream monitoring and floodplain ecology.

**Related Activities**
California Project WET remains a member of the California Environmental Education Interagency Network and will be hosting a number of these meetings at the Water Education Foundation in 2014.

Brian continues as a member of the DWR Water Education Committee, the Ag in the Classroom Educational Resource Committee, a judge for the ‘Caring For Our Watersheds’ contest through the Center for Land-Based Learning, Forestry Institute for Teachers Steering Committee, and Project Learning Tree & Project WILD Advisory Committees. He also continues to serve on the Project WET USA Council as the elected representative for the Colorado River states and is a member of the Project WET USA Instruction & Training and Project Development Committees.
In 2013 the Foundation conducted six regular tours and one private tour under the direction of Tour Director Renée Cashmere.

The **Lower Colorado River Tour, March 20-22**, traveled from Hoover Dam to the Salton Sea and the Coachella Valley, and included a private tour of Hoover Dam.

The **Central Valley Water Tour, April 17-19**, traveled the length of the San Joaquin Valley – starting and ending in Bakersfield.

The **Flood Management Tour**, May 16-17, focused on the Sacramento Valley. Stops included Folsom Dam, Plumas Lake, Tisdale Weir and the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area.

The **Bay Delta Tour**, June 12-14, traveled through the Delta to San Francisco and participants learned about Delta conveyance, Delta farming and the fishery collapse.

The **Northern California Tour**, October 16-18, helped participants learn about farming, fishery restoration, and the major water projects.

The **San Joaquin River Restoration Tour**, November 7-8, took participants to Friant Dam, Chowchilla Bifurcation and Mendota Pool.

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### Tour Sponsors

**Major sponsors**
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- California Department of Water Resources

**Trailblazer sponsor**
- HDR

**Traveler sponsors**
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- GEI Consultants
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**Organizations that hosted or co-hosted meals, provided refreshments or offered other support**
- Clarksburg Community Church; Contra Costa Water District; East Valley Water District; Friant Water Authority; Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District; Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District; Kern County Water Agency; Kern Water Bank Authority; Kip Sturgeon, Director, East Valley Water District; Metropolitan Water District of Southern California; Northern California Water Association; Panoche Water District; San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority; San Luis Canal Company; San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority; Semitropic Water Storage District; SAWS – Stockton Area Water Suppliers: City of Stockton, Stockton East Water District, County of San Joaquin, California Water Service; Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority; West Coast Grape Farming; Western Canal Water District; Westlands Water District; and Yuba County Water Agency.

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### Additional Tours

On Sept. 25 the Foundation partnered to do a **One Day Tour of the Delta** with the Coalition to Support Delta Projects. Projects visited were those placed on a list after they were agreed upon by the various Coalition members. The tour was open for registration to only Coalition members the first few weeks of registration, then was marketed to the public. It was sold out in one month and had a waiting list of 32 people.

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Top to bottom: Central Valley Tour participants learning about agriculture and salt management from Dennis Falaschi, Panoche Water District; resource speakers on the Lower Colorado River Tour included, L to R, Bill Hasencamp, MWD, and Chuck Cullom, Central Arizona Project; resource speakers Alicia Forsythe, Bureau of Reclamation, and Carl Hauge, formerly with DWR, on the Central Valley Tour; Tour Director Renée Cashmere, R, with Leon Woods, Water and Energy Technology, on the Lower Colorado River Tour at Brock Reservoir.
Other Highlights

Water Leaders


The graduates: Jarvis Caldwell, Aquatic Science Manager, Hydropower Services, HDR Engineering, Inc.; Shaun Horne, Watershed & Flood Control Resource Specialist, Napa County Flood Control District; Holly Jorgensen, Acting Executive Director, Sacramento River Watershed Program; Amy Kwong, Senior Engineer, West Yost Associates; Dustin La Vallee, Associate Civil Engineer, Sacramento Municipal Utility District; Sandra Lynch, Water Quality and Environmental Compliance Specialist, California American Water; Shane McConi, Associate Attorney, Ellison, Schneider & Harris; Linda-Esteli Mendez, Research Analyst, Environmental Defense Fund; Brandon Minto, Deputy District Director, Congressman John Garamendi (CA-10); David Mooney, Program Engineer, Bureau of Reclamation; Derek Nguyen, Water Quality Engineer, Yorba Linda Water District; Ashley Orsaba-Finders, Civil Engineer, Parsons Brinckerhoff; Audrey Patterson, Associate Attorney, O’Laughlin & Paris LLP; Caitrin Phillips, Policy Associate, Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC); Howard Quan, Legislative Consultant, Office of Assemblymember Paul Fong; Laura Rocha, Managing Associate, Environmental Science Associates; Brinda Sarathy, Pitzer College; Andrew Schwarz, Engineer, California Department of Water Resources; Jessi Snyder, Senior Community Development Specialist, Self-Help Enterprises; Eric Tsai, Senior Water Resources Engineer, MWH; and Kristin White, Modeler, Bureau of Reclamation.

The Water Leaders Class is a one-year program that educates up-and-coming community leaders and water professionals about water issues and prepares them to take an active, cooperative approach to decision-making about water resource issues. The 2013 Class studied and prepared a presentation on stormwater management.

An annual silent auction held at the Foundation’s 2013 Executive Briefing generated $10,200 for the class.

Aquapedia – Water A to Z

In June, the Foundation launched a new website Aquapedia.com, an interactive online water encyclopedia that provides easy-to-understand factual information on water issues, facts and basic terminology. Aquapedia features more than 200 searchable topic pages, 30 biographies of historical water leaders, a glossary of water terms, directories of water agencies and organizations, maps and multimedia components.

Aquapedia features balanced, unbiased reference articles that explain specific terms, topics and issues. Each entry is supplemented with photos, videos, interactive maps and other online tools to understand California’s complex water issues. All terms and definitions in Aquapedia are from Foundation publications and other vetted resources.

The target audience is broad – teachers, students, journalists, water professionals, policymakers and the general public.

In the first month that Aquapedia was up and running there were more than 3,000 visits to the site. The site continues to average about 1,000 visitors per month. By year’s end, visitors had viewed 28,500 pages, viewing, on average, 4.5 pages per visit. The majority of visits are from the United States, but Iran and India are the second and third countries, respectively, that access the site the most.

Aquapedia also is linked to the Foundation’s news blog Aquafornia so readers are able to search for breaking news on these same water topics.
New Logos
With the launch of Aquapedia, the Foundation took steps to brand its identity with three new logos. Building on the new look for the Foundation’s primary logos the flowing “W” formed by white water waves was incorporated into a globe-like logo for the new Aquapedia site. The logo for the Foundation’s water news blog Aquafornia was redesigned to complement the other two logos. Aquafornia also gained a new tagline with the new logo: “Water News You Need to Know.” The Internet news aggregate continued its strong following in 2013 with the launch of a daily email “top of the scroll” to its followers in addition to the weekend wrap up emailed out each Monday morning.

Anne J. Schneider Lecture Series
The second annual Anne J. Schneider Lecture Series was held on April 30 at the Crocker Museum in Sacramento. The goal of the event is to encourage professional and personal commitment to water law and policy and the conservation of our special landscapes in memory of Attorney Anne J. Schneider’s lifelong devotion to these areas. Schneider, a partner at the firm of Ellison, Schneider & Harris and one of California’s foremost water law attorneys, passed away in 2010 at the age of 63.

Professor Joseph Sax, member of the faculty of UC Berkeley Law School and former counselor to the U.S. Secretary of the Interior, delivered the 2013 lecture, “Learning From Failure: California’s 30-Years War in the Delta.” The Water Education Foundation is the fiscal sponsor for the Anne J. Schneider Foundation. The steering committee consists of Art Baggett, Rob Donlan, David Guy, Christy Holloway, Jeff Kightlinger, Robert Maddow, Kevin O’Brien, Richard Roos-Collins, Joseph Scalmanini, Rita Schmidt Sudman and Helen Thomson.

Drinking Water Portal
Writer Susan Lauer wrote the copy text for the California Department of Public Health’s new drinking water portal, expected to launch in 2014. The portal provides answers to frequently asked questions about California drinking water with the text correlated to address issues related the safety of the state’s drinking water, the source of that water, the water treatment process and the rules and regulations that help to ensure public safety. It also provides links to state and federal agencies that can provide more information about these topics, as well as statewide water interest groups that have more details about individual water providers.

Digital Publications
The Foundation continued to expand its catalog of digital publications in 2013. All of the Western Water and River Report issues were published as printed and digital YuDu publications. In addition, an abridged version of the Layperson’s Guide to Integrated Regional Water Management was developed and made available as a free digital publication on the Foundation website. The digital editions feature links to organizations and documents discussed in the publications, and include videos, audio interviews, interactive maps and additional material.
In 2013, the Foundation’s Colorado River Project marked its 16th year. Serving on the Advisory Committee in 2013 were: Michael Cohen, Pacific Institute; Gordon “Jeff” Fassett, HDR Engineering, Inc.; Bob Johnson, Water Strategies; Jeff Kightlinger, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California; James Lochhead, Denver Water; Estevan Lopez, New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission; David Modeer, Central Arizona Project; Patricia Mulroy, Southern Nevada Water Authority; Don Ostler, Upper Colorado River Commission; Jennifer Pitt, Environmental Defense Fund; Stanley M. Pollack, Navajo Nation Department of Justice; Maureen Stapleton, San Diego County Water Authority; Tanya Trujillo, Colorado River Board of California; and Gary Weatherford, California Public Utilities Commission.

River Report

The Foundation’s 12-page River Report Colorado River newsletter is published twice a year. In the Summer issue, Writer Gary Pitzer discussed the dilemma of solving the rising salinity issues at the Salton Sea.

In the Winter issue, Gary used the recorded panel discussion about water transfers at the 2013 Colorado River Symposium for his article, “Water Banking, Transfers and the Future of the Colorado River Basin,” in which experts discussed the potential use of transfers and banking to help stretch supplies among users – especially in the Upper Colorado River Basin.

Colorado River Symposium

In September, the Foundation held its ninth biennial Colorado River Symposium, “An Era of New Partnerships on the Colorado River” at The Bishop’s Lodge in Santa Fe. The invitation-only event featured a lineup of top speakers including Assistant Interior Secretary Anne Castle, Reclamation Commissioner Mike Connor and former Reclamation Commissioner Bob Johnson.

Day One opened the Symposium with panel presentations on two big-picture issues: implementation of the Colorado River Basin Study and a discussion from the 30,000 feet view about the significance of the Minute 319 U.S.-Mexico Colorado River agreement.

Day Two featured four panel discussions on key topics: an in-depth look at how to implement the Minute 319 as well as an update on the Quantification Settlement Agreement, the value of recreation in the Colorado River Basin and water banking and transfers. Day Three featured a discussion on lessons learned from the ongoing drought and how they might fit with the projected impacts of climate change with a closing panel that discussed what legal, institutional and political changes are needed to encourage the continued effort to reach agreement on key issues related to water supply and demand and environmental values. The symposium was recorded from start to finish, and the written proceedings will be published in 2014.
A variety of grants from governmental agencies, private foundations and other organizations funded the Foundation’s special programs, publications and projects in 2013. The Foundation’s general activities, in turn, were supported by another primary source of income – contributions.

This diversity of funding helps the Foundation fulfill its mission of providing balance in all written materials, school programs, tours, briefings, videos and documentaries. Reviewers and advisory groups help ensure technical accuracy but the Foundation retains editorial control over all programs and publications – no matter what the funding source.

In 2013, grant funds provided 22 percent of the Foundation’s revenues, funding Project WET, special workshops and conferences and new publications.

Major contributions represented 33 percent of 2013 revenues and helped maintain core programs such as *Western Water* and *Layperson Guide* updates. In 2013, the Foundation continued its “Giving Back” program for our major contributors in which complimentary maps, publications and attendance at Foundation events were awarded to contributors based on their pledge. This is our way of thanking our contributors – who include cities, farmers, law firms, engineering firms, water districts, businesses and other organizations, and private individuals – for their support. (See page 12 for the list of major contributors.)

Additional Foundation income is derived from attendance at briefings and water tours, 32 percent and the sale of our educational materials, 6 percent. In return for all this support, the Foundation continues to serve as the source of impartial information on water issues in California and the West. We thank all the organizations and individuals for the many ways in which they support our work and help us fulfill our mission.

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**Major Grants Awarded in 2013**

*($5,000 and over)*

- **Aquafornia.com – Water News You Need to Know**
  Anonymous, $25,000

- **Colorado River Project – River Report newsletter, Colorado River Tour, Colorado River Symposium Proceedings**
  Bureau of Reclamation, Lower Colorado Region, $50,000

- **Project WET (Water Education for Teachers)**
  U.S. Geological Survey, $51,997
  Bureau of Reclamation, $49,980
  California Department of Water Resource, $35,000

- **Water Tours and Briefings**
  Bureau of Reclamation, Mid-Pacific Region, $45,000
  California Department of Water Resources, $10,000

- **Central Valley Water Tour**
  Bowles Farming Company, Inc., $5,000

- **Sacramento San Joaquin Delta Conservancy**
  Safe Harbor Agreement Briefing Paper, $19,597
  Safe Harbor/Good Neighbor Policy Workshops, $18,000
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The Foundation held its ninth biennial invitation-only Colorado River Symposium in 2013.
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Listening to the echo inside Shasta Dam on the Northern California Tour.
Top to bottom: Executive Director Rita Schmidt Sudman was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by ACWA Executive Director Tim Quinn; Cynthia Koehler, WaterNow, and Bob Johnson, HDR, at the 2013 board and staff retreat; Celeste Cantu, Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, Ane Deister, Parsons Corporation, and Mary Aileen Mathias, Irvine Ranch Water District, at the retreat; Board President Bill Mills, groundwater consulting engineer, congratulates Executive Director Rita Schmidt Sudman on her retirement announcement; Board Member Alexa LaPlante, ICF International, leads a session at the retreat; Byron Buck, State and Federal Water Contractors Agency, spoke on the 2013 Flood Management Tour; Foundation staff, L to R: back row, Diana Farmer, Joan Nordmann, Beth Stern, Patty Wong, Renee Cashmere and Susan Lauer, front row, L to R, Gary Pitzer, Sue McClurg, Rita Schmidt Sudman and Brian Brown.