



California Water and Environmental Modeling Forum

Promoting Excellence and Consensus in Water and Environmental Modeling

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October 07, 2011

To the CWEMF Membership,

As we start a new Water Year, I thought it was timely to review CWEMF's accomplishments from the past year and preview a few of the activities slated for the coming year. The past several years have seen financial upheaval, both in the State of California and in CWEMF. With the support of the Steering Committee and the general membership at the 2011 Annual Meeting, the recommendations of the CWEMF Budget Committee for cutting costs and raising revenue were implemented. As a result of these actions and hard work by the Officers and our new Executive Director, Elaine Archibald, CWEMF marked its first year since 2005 where revenue exceeded expenses. With our fiscal crisis now under control, CWEMF has also been able to resume some of its core activities.

With the US Bureau of Reclamation providing matching funds, CWEMF is in the initial phases of a Peer Review of three groundwater models. CWEMF will sponsor a pre-review informational workshop for the Peer Reviewers on the models and a post-review workshop to disseminate Peer Review findings. These workshops will be open to the public. The Peer Review process will be completed within two years.

CWEMF has historically accomplished its educational mission by holding day-long technical workshops. Due to State budgetary restrictions, CWEMF had to alter this format resulting in a half-day "Technical Briefing" series covering timely issues of interest to our members. The first Briefing on the Biological Opinions was a success, with high attendance, an increase in membership, and very good reviews. The next Technical Briefing will be held on October 28th on "Ammonia/Nutrient Issues and Regulatory Oversight in the Delta". For more information or to register for the event, please visit CWEMF's website.

With travel restrictions limiting the participation of State employees at our long-time Annual Meeting site at Asilomar, we were dismayed when Asilomar informed CWEMF that they could not accommodate our proposal for the 2012 Annual Meeting. With an increasing number of our membership choosing to lodge off-site, Asilomar could not provide us the meeting space for our expected level of attendance. Asilomar's response to CWEMF's 2012 proposal is incorporated at the end of this letter.

Under the direction of the Steering Committee, we are investigating alternative sites for our 2012 Annual Meeting. We are also exploring the feasibility of a joint meeting with the Interagency Ecological Program (IEP) - their representatives are very interested in holding a joint session with CWEMF as we have in the past.

The 2012 Annual Meeting location will be settled in the next month. If you have questions or suggestions on the location or if you would like to be a moderator or a speaker at the Annual Meeting email us at cwemf@cwemf.org with "2012 Annual Meeting" in the subject line.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marianne Guerin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marianne Guerin, CWEMF Convener

Asilomar's Response to CWEMF's 2012 Proposal:

Subject: RE: California Water and Environmental Modeling Forum Annual Meeting in Feb 2012

Hello Elaine,

I have reviewed your letter and your meeting requirements in great detail and have also discussed the group with our Leadership Team here at Asilomar. Given the substantial amount of meeting space the group requires versus the relatively low number of guest rooms needed at Asilomar, coupled with the majority of attendees desire to stay at hotels other than Asilomar, we have decided not to submit a proposal for hosting the February 2012 meeting at this time.

Unfortunately, we are unable to provide meeting space to groups at Asilomar when the majority of the attendees are staying elsewhere. Our number one business goal is to generate guest room sales at Asilomar and our meeting space is one of the key commodities that allow us to do that. When the guest room to meeting space ratio becomes too unbalanced, as in this case, we must withdraw ourselves from consideration.

We wish you all the best in locating another facility that can better fit your current needs this February.

Very Kindly,

Mike

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