Full draft of Water Plan Update 2009 now online

The full public review draft of Water Plan Update 2009 is now posted online. Workshops on the draft will be held mid-April through May. A printed version of the Highlights document with a CD of all the draft documents is expected to be available in early March. Comments about the draft are due June 5. The document has benefited from the first interagency Steering Committee representing 21 State government agencies and a 45-member Advisory Committee.

State to take on harmful invasive species

The State last week announced a coordinated effort to get rid of harmful invasive species. The California Invasive Species Council will help minimize the negative effects of non-native species on the state’s waterways, agriculture and lands. “The Invasive Species Council will protect California’s consumers and our environment from destructive pests, plants and diseases that also threaten our food supply,” said Secretary A.G. Kawamura of the California Department of Food and Agriculture. Kawamura will chair the council and Mike Chrisman, secretary for the California Natural Resources Agency, will co-chair. Read more.

PPIC explores why it’s hard to finance infrastructure

Financing infrastructure has traditionally been hard, and today’s economic woes are likely to make it even harder. An article in the Public Policy Institute of California’s At Issue explores the topic. Author Ellen Hanak, research director of PPIC, analyzes the impediments to infrastructure financing and describes funding reforms such as loosening the supermajority rules for local infrastructure funding, financing investment through user fees, and expanding public-private partnerships. You can find the article here.

Click on links below for more information.

Upcoming Meetings  www.waterplan.water.ca.gov