Hold the date for the next and last 2009 Update AC meeting

The next Advisory Committee meeting will be held Wednesday, Jan. 20, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Double Tree hotel in Sacramento. This will be the final AC meeting of the 2009 Water Plan Update. Details of the meeting will be posted soon on the Water Plan Website.

Obama Administration releases federal Delta work plan

The Obama Administration on Tuesday released a work plan focusing on the water crisis in California, including the Delta. Six federal agencies have agreed on a list of actions to address the urgent need to provide reliable water supplies for 25 million Californians, while also protecting the Bay-Delta ecosystem upon which the supplies depend. Read more. Also, DWR Director Lester Snow responded to the announcement: “We are encouraged by the initiatives and progress outlined in this action plan for the Delta. It signals the strong commitment of federal agencies to resolve California’s pressing water challenges and, more importantly, to work more closely with state agencies in dealing with the complex resources issues in the Delta.” Read Snow’s complete statement.

Water efficiency to be tested in NRCS ‘high tunnel’ pilot

California’s Imperial and Riverside counties are participating in a 3-year, 38-state U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service pilot project to determine if high tunnels, also known as hoop houses, are effective in improving water efficiency and providing conservation benefits to growers. Read more. Additional links to other NRCS technical assistance programs can be found here.

Irrigation Institute plans Sacramento conference Feb. 1-2

The 48th Annual California Irrigation Institute Conference will be held in Sacramento on Feb. 1 and 2. The conference title is “Running on Empty - Thinking Outside the Tank.” Speakers will make presentations on such topics as agricultural and urban water supply, conservation, management, technologies. You can find details about the conference here.

DWR to conduct workshops on groundwater, IRWM funding

DWR will conduct two workshops to discuss recently released draft guidelines for the next round of local groundwater assistance grant and Prop 50 Supplemental IRWM funding. The first, which will also be webcast, will be held in Sacramento on Jan. 5, and the second will be held in Irvine on Jan. 7. You can find details here.