The last Advisory Committee meeting for Update 2009 will be held Wednesday, Jan. 20, at the Doubletree Hotel Sacramento. The day-long session will provide an overview of the Water Legislation Package, IRWM Grant Guidelines, and Concepts for Update 2013. The agenda is posted here. Please RSVP to Virginia Sajac at (916) 653-7101 or by email.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger on Tuesday appointed DWR Director Lester Snow as secretary for the state’s Natural Resources Agency, replacing Mike Chrisman who is retiring. Replacing Snow at DWR will be Mark Cowin, a 29-year veteran of DWR. Read more.

The California Water and Environmental Modeling Forum will hold its 16th Annual Meeting from Monday, Feb. 22, through Wednesday, Feb. 24, at the Asilomar Conference Center in Pacific Grove. The theme of the 2010 Annual Meeting is “Modeling in the Eye of the Storm,” and the program includes more than 20 technical sessions, including California Water Plan Update 2009, and Ellen Hanak of the Public Policy Institute of California in her keynote will discuss the economics of Delta facilities. You can find more information here.

Caltrans has scheduled six meetings statewide beginning Feb. 16 in Sacramento and ending April 6 in Oakland to gather input on the next update of the California Transportation Plan and the new California Interregional Blueprint, both of which will influence the state’s transportation system and policies through 2035. Water resources is a component of the plan. Read more.

A day-long conference on California water law will be held on Saturday, Jan. 30, in San Francisco. Titled: Who Controls the Water? Reforming California Water Law Governance in an Age of Scarcity, the symposium will focus on new California water legislation and its effect on governance. Discussions will include, “Will the legislation’s new governance structures help resolve the Delta’s challenges?” and “What further reforms in California’s institutions are needed to meet the state’s future, competing, water needs?” DWR Chief Counsel David Sandino is the symposium’s opening speaker. You can find details here.