The California Biodiversity Council has featured Water Plan Update 2009 in its Spring/Summer Newsletter, which was unveiled last week at the Council’s meeting in Fairfield/Suisun. You can find the newsletter here. The Council has 42 members, including 20 State agencies, 12 federal agencies, and 10 local governments. It is chaired by California Secretary for Natural Resources Lester Snow and Bureau of Land Management California State Director Jim Abbott.

In 2008, long before enactment of last fall’s historic package of water legislation, the governor set a goal of a 20 percent reduction in statewide per capita water use by 2020, and asked State agencies to develop an aggressive plan to achieve the goal. The legislation cites the 20x2020 water conservation plan as one approach for meeting the conservation goal at the local level. The final 20x2020 water conservation plan has now been released. You can view it here.

At 10 a.m. next Tuesday, March 23, CalFIRE will hold a Public Workshop/Webinar on assessment results and strategies for the State’s Forest and Range Assessment. The meeting will be held at the Center for Collaborative Policy, Sacramento. Information gathered at the session will be used to highlight key policy issues and options, and provide a framework for State and federal programs that support good forest and rangeland stewardship. Water Managers maybe particularly interested in several strategies under review including Sustainability, Water Resources and Climate Change. Registration and other meeting information is available here.

The Water Science and Policy Center at the University of California, Riverside, will hold an International Drought Symposium next Wednesday through Friday, March 24-26, in Riverside. It will compare drought effects and mitigation under various physical, economic, and institutional situations. Wendy Martin of DWR will be a presenter. Read more.