Got Water? Urban Water Supplies in the Arid West

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12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Location: Cal EPA Building
Byron Sher Room, 2nd Floor
1001 ‘I’ Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Are we effectively utilizing water in urban environments?

Many cities in the West face a mounting crisis of increasing water scarcity driven by climate change, population growth, ecosystem demands and deteriorating infrastructure. To address this crisis, more sustainable urban water use, reuse and management solutions are needed. Sustainable water goals require a new vision of engineered systems that decrease reliance on centralized facilities. Distributed energy-neutral treatment systems that reclaim wastewater and recover nutrients, and managed natural systems that enhance the transmission, storage and purification of water are two desired approaches.

Institutional barriers confronting urban water innovation can be identified and overcome through collaborations between industry and universities. This presentation will describe collaborative research by the NSF Engineering Research Center for Re-inventing Urban Water Infrastructure (ReNUWIt)—a collaboration among UC Berkeley, Colorado School of Mines, New Mexico State University, and Stanford University – that focuses on identifying and developing more sustainable solutions to urban water use, reuse and management issues.

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