April 13, 2015

**Dear Inyo-Mono Regional Water Management Group member**

It is evident that water crises in California are not new. In recent times, however, record drought and climate change have strained the state’s water supply system and forced many farmers to become heavily reliant on groundwater reserves.

Recognizing the importance of groundwater management for long-term water supply reliability and optimal water quality, the California Roundtable on Water and Food Supply (CRWFS), a project of Ag Innovations, utilized their previous work on connectivity to explore sustainable groundwater management strategies. The resulting report, *Applying the Connectivity Approach: Groundwater Management in California’s Kings Basin* (available at: <http://aginnovations.org/afa_uploads/Kings_Basin_Report.pdf>), examines the Kings Basin of California’s San Joaquin Valley to discover and clarify opportunities for improved connectivity in groundwater management planning and implementation in the state.

Recommendations are identified in four primary areas:

* Upper and lower watershed connectivity
* Surface and groundwater storage connectivity
* Alignment of governance structures and tools
* Improved public and stakeholder engagement

The report’s findings are grounded in the principles of the “connectivity approach,” a framework developed by CRWFS for resource managers, land use planners, and policymakers to discover the linkages, strengths, successes, potentials, and disconnects related to their particular resource stewardship issues. In the case of groundwater, sustainable management is a complex task requiring an integrated resource management approach across whole watersheds.

CRWFS will continue to uncover obstacles, identify solutions, and take action to enhance water security for agriculture, the public, and the environment in California. We invite you to apply the groundwater management recommendations in this report, as well as the connectivity principles upon which they are based, to your local situation for a candid and holistic exploration of water issues. More information about CRWFS and this work, as well as our previous reports on agricultural water stewardship and retention of water in the landscape can be found at: <http://aginnovations.org/>.

We invite you to be in touch with us to share any thoughts or questions about this work.

Sincerely,

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