

### **Background**

The importance of the Sierra Nevada Region to California's water needs is often misunderstood and/or underappreciated. As policy discussions occur, such as those surrounding last year's water bond debate, it is common for policy makers and others to have a "disconnect" between California's primary watershed and downstream benefits. This often results in inadequate investment and policy that does not address the Region's needs.

### **Current Status**

In an attempt to make educational information available to policy makers, the media and public, the SNC contracted with the Water Education Foundation (WEF) to produce a publication detailing the Sierra's water contribution to California and the various issues affecting water quality and quantity. WEF is an impartial, nonprofit organization whose mission is to create a better understanding of water resources and foster public understanding and resolution of water resource issues through facilitation, education and outreach. While WEF has produced reports on a number of key water issues, they have not produced material with a Sierra Nevada focus.

In order to ensure the credibility of the document, WEF maintained final editorial control of the report, although the SNC and various other stakeholders had an opportunity to comment and provide information.

### **Next Steps**

It is anticipated that the Sierra Nevada Water Report will be released in conjunction with Sierra Day in the Capitol. The SNC intends to work with WEF in disseminating the report and a companion Sierra Water Facts booklet during Sierra Day and beyond.

### **Recommendation**

**This is an informational item only; no formal action is needed by the Board at this time, although Boardmembers are encouraged to share their thoughts and comments on how to use the final report would be welcome.**