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Press Release: California Symposium Explores Ways to Safeguard State from Climate Change

SACRAMENTO – Hundreds of people will gather this morning to hear and discuss the latest climate change research at “California Climate Change Symposium 2017: Science to Safeguard California,” a symposium that begins with a keynote speech by California Secretary for Natural Resources John Laird.

The two-day gathering at the Sheraton Grand Sacramento Hotel is co-hosted by the California Natural Resources Agency, the California Environmental Protection Agency, and the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research, and features presentations on emerging research from top climate scientists as well as discussions with policy-makers and community leaders.

Panels and sessions include discussions on cutting-edge research on extreme heat, drought, ocean acidification, wildfire, sea-level rise, fuel system vulnerabilities, biodiversity in coastal ecosystems, public health, and water supply and land use in the Central Valley. Also featured are preliminary reports from California’s Fourth Climate Change Assessment and a status report on the state’s Climate Change Research Plan.

For nearly a decade, state agencies have hosted similar events to explore the latest climate research and consider policies to address the dangers of climate change.

“Despite skeptics’ claims, climate change poses unique challenges for California’s diverse regions,” said Secretary Laird. “With valuable input from nearly 750 representatives of the non-governmental, governmental, and private sectors, this symposium demonstrates the state’s commitment to using the best and latest research to create policies that will protect California’s people and environment for years to come.”

Symposium highlights include:

- High-level opening plenary with Secretary John Laird of the California Natural Resources Agency and Secretary Matt Rodriquez of the California Environmental Protection Agency
- “Addressing Climate Resilience Through Local Leadership” and “California Leadership on Climate Action” panels with representative from various state agencies
- “Drought and Water Management” panel
- “Environmental Justice and Climate Adaptation” panel

- Lunch panel on “Communicating Science to the California Public and Policymakers”
- Fourth Assessment poster session and projected climate scenarios.

The complete program can be found on the California Climate Change Symposium website:

<http://www.californiascience.org>.

California is leading the way on greenhouse gas emissions reductions to avoid the worst consequences of climate change. For more information on the state’s efforts, visit: <http://climatechange.ca.gov/> and <http://resources.ca.gov/climate/safeguarding/>

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