Reforming California’s Groundwater Management: Exploring Regulatory Options for Change
Friday, May 11, 2012
Embassy Suites, River City Ballroom
100 Capital Mall, Sacramento, CA

9:00 – 10:00 Continental Breakfast

10:00 – 10:30 Welcome and Introductions – Andrew Fahlund, Stanford University

10:30 – 11:30 Setting the Stage

Overview of Previous Uncommon Dialogues on Groundwater (5 minutes) – Buzz Thompson, Stanford University

Ongoing studies: An Assessment of Groundwater BMPs in California and A Comparative Analysis of Groundwater Regulation in the Western States and Australia (10 minutes) – Rebecca Nelson, Stanford University

Recap of legislative hearings, debates and legislation on management of groundwater in California (10 minutes) – Dennis O’Conner, California Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee

Evaluation of groundwater dependent ecosystems in California (10 minutes) – Maurice Hall, The Nature Conservancy

Implications of SB X2 1, the California Nitrate Project (10 minutes) – Tom Harter, UC Davis

11:30 – 12:30 Carrots Only: How far can voluntary approaches take us toward improving groundwater management? What are the most promising mechanisms? Which are the most important areas requiring improvement?

Working Lunch

12:30 – 1:30 Sticks too: How far can or should regulatory approaches go? What are the most politically promising approaches? Leaving aside politics, what would be the most effective and valuable approaches?

1:30 – 2:30 Hurdles to Reform: What stands in the way of more fundamental reform? What might help to change the dynamic?

2:30 – 3:30 Wrap up and next steps

3:30- 4:30 Reception