

Vernal Pool Forum 2009

The US Army Corps of Engineers, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the US Environmental Protection Agency sponsored the initial Vernal Pool Forum consisting of two meetings, the second of which was held in April 1994, to discuss technical, scientific, and policy issues related to the regulation and protection of vernal pools. Much has changed in the intervening 14 years, so these same agencies, along with the Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region; CA Department of Fish and Game; and the Sacramento County Department of Planning are sponsoring another Vernal Pool Forum on January 29, 2009 from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm.

We intend to have presentations and panel discussions on a wide variety of topics ranging from scientific updates on vernal pool mapping and vernal pool vegetation communities, to construction, management, and monitoring of compensatory mitigation and restoration sites. A full agenda with information on the meeting location is attached (see below).

While we hope that participants will benefit from the full-day meeting itself, the sponsoring federal agencies are also committing to holding follow-up meetings on topics selected by the participants at the Forum. With the assistance of the meeting facilitator, one or more topics will be selected for a future meeting to be held within a few months to delve more deeply into the issues with the expectation that consensus could emerge on how to resolve or what to do regarding a particular issue. We believe that this commitment to continuing the dialogue with the regulated community, environmentalists, consultants, and academicians can only lead to more technically sound approaches to the regulation and management of vernal pools. Results of follow-up meetings will be posted to those who sign up for future updates.

If you plan to attend the Vernal Pool Forum, please send an RSVP to **FW8vpf09@fws.gov** with your name and email address.

We're looking forward to seeing you there.

Paul Jones

US EPA, on behalf of the coordinating committee

Terry Adelsbach

USFWS, on behalf of the coordinating committee