

# Advancing Research During Uncertain Times

## 2025 Priorities for California's Water

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Caity Peterson, Associate Director  
and Research Fellow



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- Headwater forests



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- Biodiversity and ecosystems
- Monitoring
  - Water use and availability
  - Weather



# Why focus on research at a time like this?

- California's water challenges are not going away
- We need research to help us do more with less



# Three priorities for research

- Measuring things
- Paying for things
- Doing things

# Good accounting is the foundation for good policy and management

- California has invested a lot in accounting
- Modern information systems are needed to understand:
  - Water availability and use
  - Who has a claim?



# Big investments are needed. How do we pay for them?

- Research is needed to:
  - Guide investment decisions
  - Find new ways to fund projects
  - Tap into markets to reduce costs
  - Safeguard affordability



# Moving from *what* to do, to *how* to do it

- Models are essential tools for rising to current challenges
- But often they are poorly integrated
- Research needs to build tools that can:
  - Quantify multiple benefits
  - Handle complex future conditions



# The need for good research is greater than ever

- We can't rise to current challenges without research.
- We've identified three areas that need special emphasis.
- The current research context is among the most challenging in decades.
- How can California keep making progress?