

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**STATEWIDE LEADERS RELEASE RECOMMENDATIONS TO CONFRONT WATER
SUSTAINABILITY IN TEXAS**

Diverse group of experts release report after 18months of intense study

AUSTIN, TX – A diverse group of water and energy experts, known as the Texas Roundtable on Water, will released a thorough set of recommendations at a Legislative Briefing on February 16, 2015 at the State Capitol in the Auditorium Room E1.004. The recommendations are designed to ensure the security and sustainability of water resources for the long term economic and social viability of Texas. These leaders have worked to find consensus solutions that they can advance in order to spur legislative leadership, state agencies, water stakeholders and the general public to make sorely needed changes in our states public policy and regulatory practices.

Jon Comola, Founder of the Wye River Group said “We were invited by Texas legislative leadership to bring these fragmented interests together, to pool the talent and resources and hammer out workable solutions. We are announcing our first set of recommendations for sustainable water policy in Texas.” Ken Kramer former Director Sierra Club Texas said “ This is a big step forward for water policy in Texas. Wye River Group (WRG) has successfully brought together many disparate water interests to work on behalf of all Texans. I commend WRG for leading this important work”.

The Roundtable includes such notable experts as Ken Kramer, Weir Labatt, Wayne Klotz, Bob King, Craig Pedersen, Carole Baker, Myron Hess, Robert Howe, ect. See http://wrgh.org/TLR_Water.asp for more detail on the recommendations and those endorsing them.

“While the population in Texas continues to boom, the future water supply becomes more uncertain,” said Weir Labatt, former member Texas Water Development Board “If consumption continues at the same pace, and we don’t come together to drastically change how we operate, our state will be in crisis mode before we know it.”

The recommendations are intended to be adopted at multiple levels across the state and include strategies that the group will tackle in the upcoming legislative session as well as strategies that can be adopted at the regional and local level. “It is imperative that we have comprehensive statewide water management in order to ensure we have long term sustainable water resources. These recommendations can move us in that direction” said Craig Pedersen, former Executive Administrator of the Texas Water Development Board.

“This is a balanced vision for the future of water in Texas,” said Wayne Klotz, P.E., D.WRE. “You don’t see a group like this come together very often, and as a person in the engineering business, I was happy to be invited to the table. I am immensely proud of what we have accomplished.”

To see the abbreviated and full set of recommendations, click here: http://wrgh.org/TLR_Water.asp

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**Invitation to the Legislative Briefing on
the recommendations developed by the**

Texas Leadership Roundtable on Water

**Join us February 16, from 2-5p.m.
Room E1.004
Capitol Extension Auditorium**

Join Texas legislative leaders and other key water policy experts for a discussion of the Water Roundtable report. Over the last 18 months the Wye River Group has developed an extensive set of water policy recommendations widely supported by divergent interests across the state. These recommendations are available at:

http://wrgh.org/TLR_Water.asp.

On February 16, three moderated panels will discuss the bold recommendations and the making of a consensus behind them.

Panels will focus on:

- Surface and Ground Water Management
- State Water Plan
- Data Gaps and new technologies

For more information, contact:

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Draft Water Roundtables Legislative Briefing agenda

Feb 16, 2015 2-5 pm

Auditorium Capitol extension E1.004

.....DRAFT (all participants confirmed)

2pm Welcome Jon Comola Founder Wye River Group

2:10 Opening remarks Honorable Doug Miller

2:30 Surface/ground water mgt.: Wendy Foster Foster Solutions Moderator: Myron Hess National Wildlife Federation, Kinnan Golemon KG Strategies and Weir Labatt former Member Texas Water Development Board

3:15 State Water Plan: Craig Pedersen UT Austin and Enviro Water Minerals Co. Moderator: Wayne Klotz Klotz Associates and Coastal Water Authority, CE Williams Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District and Crockett Camp

4:00 Data gaps and new technologies: Mary Ellen Summerlin Eight year Board Member Headwaters Groundwater Conservation District Moderator: Honorable Bill Callegari, Ken Kramer Sierra Club-Lone Star Chapter and Kevin Wagner Texas Water Resources Institute

4:45 Closing remarks Honorable Eddie Lucio

5pm Adjourn to reception 5-7pm Legislative Reference Library