

May 19, 2010

TO: Barbara Allen-Diaz, Associate Vice President
University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources

FROM: Thomas Baldwin, Dean, College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences 
Ruth M. Jackson, University Librarian

RE: Proposal to assume responsibility for the UC Water Resource Center Archives
through joint management by the University of California, Riverside and
California State University-San Bernardino 

Background. The UCR College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences (CNAS) has been affiliated with the UC Water Resource Center Archives (WRCA) through its management of the UC Water Resources Center for many years. While the UC Water Resources Center has now been discontinued, UCR has developed a new Water Science and Policy Center (WSPC), with leadership committed to the facilitation of research and other activities to promote sound water policy solutions for California (<http://www.wspc.ucr.edu/>). CNAS, with its new Center, together with the UCR Libraries, recognize the importance of the WRCA as critical resource for informing these policy solutions. We have a strong interest in preserving and digitizing the collection for the future and ensuring wide access to all of its contents through electronic means.

The California State University-San Bernardino (CSUSB) College of Natural Sciences is responsible for the activities of the Water Resources Institute (<http://wri.csusb.edu/>) that established an extensive Water Resources Archives in 1999 that is housed in the John M. Pfau Library (comprised of approximately 2,200 linear feet; see Appendix I). This resource focuses primarily on the Santa Ana River watershed and the Colorado River, but includes records for other areas both in and outside of Southern California. The Water Resources Institute, together with the CSUSB College of Natural Sciences and the Pfau Library, also have a strong interest in the future of the WRCA as a complementary resource. The WRCA is also viewed as an important resource to the statewide CSU Water Resources and Policy Initiative (WRPI), which is designed to target the capabilities and resources within the twenty-three (23) California State University campuses. CSU Chancellor Charles B. Reed has indicated the support of the WRPI to make the WRCA collection accessible throughout the CSU system via a shared database with UC (see Appendix II).

Proposal. UCR and CSUSB propose to collaboratively manage the WRCA as a statewide resource for all of UC and CSU, as well as external stakeholders who benefit from the information contained within the Archives. The attached MOU between UCR and CSUSB indicates the commitment from our colleges, libraries, and campus leadership to make this a successful collaboration.

Proposed physical location. UCR and CSUSB will jointly house and manage the physical materials of the WRCA housed at UC Berkeley's Obrien Hall (currently 3,830 linear feet) in available space within the UCR Raymond L. Orbach Science Library and the CSUSB John M. Pfau Library. Upon receipt of the collection, UCR agrees that the collection will be evaluated to

determine which components would best be housed at UCR and at CSUSB to form the proposed statewide network and resource service. CSUSB has expressed strong interest in receiving materials related to the Santa Ana Watershed to complement the strengths of its existing Southern California collection (approximately 2,200 linear feet). We propose that the 3,200 linear feet of the WRCA materials currently stored in the Northern Regional Library Facility (NRLF) continue to be housed there until UCR and CSUSB have absorbed the first 3,830 linear feet from O'Brien Hall and can determine if another mechanism to support preservation and access is desirable. Access to and delivery of print resources will be continued through Interlibrary Loan (ILL) and TRICOR delivery services. We have visited the WRCA, discussed space needs with the WRCA staff, and have concluded that we have ample space between our two institutions to meet the present and future physical requirements of the Archives, currently comprised of approximately 200,000 technical reports and other research resources.

Management of the Archives. The WRCA will be managed synergistically between dedicated WRCA staff and existing staff and archivists of the UCR Science Library, the CSUSB Pfau Library, and the Water Resources Institute. This will be considerably more efficient than the current management of the WRCA as a stand-alone unit. Management oversight of the Archive would be assumed by the two campuses through the existing administrative structure of their libraries (University Librarian of UCR and Dean of Libraries of CSUSB or their designates). Cooperative oversight will be maintained for policy formulation, program directions, space planning, and funding. A collaborative infrastructure would also be formed by UCR and CSUSB with UC campuses known to currently collect and make available water resources (Davis, Berkeley, Santa Barbara, and Santa Cruz) as well as with other CSU campuses as applicable. A central focus of the collaborative will be to ensure the survival and development of a sustainable water information resource and a preservation archiving program which is relevant and responsive to both UC and CSU research needs as well as those of corporate bodies and government agencies across the state of California and nationally.

This proposal provides a unique opportunity to combine the resources of UC and CSU to develop a sustainable state-wide network and cooperative service to support water resources research with the costs being born jointly by both systems. Cataloging records from each of the collections would, for example, be combined and deduped for entering into each of the campuses' local catalogs as well as the Next General Melvyl with location holdings. Both collections will work closely and jointly within the UCs and CSU campuses. A major goal will be to work closely with the California Digital Library and the campuses of both systems to develop and coordinate potential digitization projects, including seeking external funding.

Advisory Boards. In addition to the administrative management structure described above, we propose to continue and expand current external and internal academic governing boards. The WRCA has an existing Advisory Board that meets semi-annually and includes both external water experts and internal (UC) academic members. The CSUSB Water Resources Institute has both a Community Advisory Board and a Faculty Council. We propose to expand membership of the current WRCA Advisory Board to include members from the CSUSB Water Resources Institute advisory boards and an advisory board being established by the UCR Water Science and Policy Center and the CSU Water Resources and Policy Initiative (Southern Region). The Advisory Board will help set priorities, help with fund raising, and assist in outreach efforts.

Funding mechanism. UCR and CSUSB agree to develop a mechanism for proportional cost-sharing based on the percentage of the WRCA collection that is housed at each institution. Initially, the UCR College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences and the CSUSB College of Natural Sciences will assume responsibility for ensuring that sufficient funding is obtained at each campus to maintain the WRCA as a functioning collection. Budgetary responsibilities between the two colleges will be proportionate to the percentage of collection (linear feet) that is held in each library. While our libraries are providing space and synergies among their existing staff, it is recognized that they do not have resources to fund additional staff or operating expenses for the WRCA. The WRCA currently has four staff. Initially, two dedicated WRCA staff, including the existing Director and one cataloger, will be funded with a moderate operating budget from the UCR College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences resources. UCR anticipates a need for two dedicated staff at Raymond L. Orbach Science Library when the Archives are incorporated. CSUSB anticipates the need for one dedicated staff for six months at John M. Pfau Library and the dedicated Archivist/Historian of the CSUSB Water Resources Archives to be funded by the CSUSB College of Natural Sciences. Together with 50% of the staff from the WRCA and additional resources described above, considerable personnel savings are expected through this cooperative venture. A new mechanism for charging fees for access to digitized material to non-UC/CSU users will also be developed that in addition to external fundraising, is expected to cover a large portion of the WRCA budget needs. Income from electronic access fees will be distributed to cover campus costs proportionate to the percentage of collection (linear feet) that is held on each campus.

Support for Collaboration. UCR and CSUSB have assembled a portfolio of letters of support for this collaboration from CSU Chancellor Charles B. Reed, CSUSB President Al Karnig, CSU WRPI Director David Zoldoske and a number of Southern California water agencies and opinion leaders (see Attachment II). The level of support indicated for this proposal is a reflection of the value of historical materials in charting a course to sustain California's water resources and water supply system.

Plan for transference of the archives. UCR recommends that UC-ANR absorb the cost for moving expenses, in that all other costs as outlined in the proposal will be born by UCR and CSUSB. The move will be scheduled for August 2010 to allow sufficient time for planning to receive the materials.