For over 50 years, California has been pumping water through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta for extensive urban and agricultural uses around the state. Today, the Delta is ailing and in urgent need of a new management strategy.

An important and thought-provoking new report from PPIC concludes that building a peripheral canal to carry water around the Delta is the most promising way to balance two critical policy goals: reviving a threatened ecosystem and ensuring a reliable, high-quality water supply for California. The authors note that although it would be best for fish populations if California stopped using the Delta as a water source altogether, this strategy would be extremely costly. If the less expensive option of a peripheral canal is coupled with investment in the Delta ecosystem, the report finds, both environmental sustainability and a reliable water supply can result.

On Monday, September 15, two authors of the report -- PPIC senior fellow and director of research Ellen Hanak and UC Davis professor and associate director of the UC Davis Center for Watershed Sciences Jay Lund -- will be in Washington to present their findings at a luncheon event jointly hosted by the Public Policy Institute of California and the California Institute for Federal Policy Research.

To attend the luncheon briefing (acceptances only), please contact the California Institute 202-974-6384 or rsvp@calinst.org. Alternatively, you may use the PPIC event page at http://www.ppic.org/.

Please join us for this informative luncheon event on Monday, September 15.

To expand communication between Washington and California, the California Institute provides periodic bulletins, briefings, and other information regarding current activity on Capitol Hill and throughout Washington that affects our state. As a central component of this endeavor, we are pleased to partner with the Public Policy Institute of California to convene regular luncheon briefings featuring experts from PPIC.

PPIC and the California Institute are both 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations that do not employ lobbyists. Established in 1994 with an endowment from William R. Hewlett, the Public Policy Institute of California is a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to informing and improving public policy in California through independent, objective, nonpartisan research on major economic, social, and political issues facing the state.