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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**UC MERCED SCIENTIST ROGER BALES TO DISCUSS  
HOW TO AVOID CALIFORNIA'S NEXT WATER CRISIS**

Livermore, Calif. — Roger Bales of the University of California Merced will discuss what was learned from the 2011-2015 drought and the measures that need to be taken to secure the state's water future in a Rae Dorough Speaker Series presentation at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 15 in Livermore's Bankhead Theater.

Director of the UC Water Security and Sustainability Research Initiative, Bales' current work focuses on California's effort to build the knowledge base and implement policies that adapt our water supplies, critical ecosystems and economy to the impacts of climate warming. He works with leaders in state agencies, elected officials, federal land managers, water leaders, non-governmental organizations, and other key decision makers on developing climate solutions for California.

"We must use systemic thinking to integrate management of our source water areas such as the Sierra Nevada — much of which is federal land — with our largely state-controlled groundwater aquifers," Bales wrote in a Merced Sun-Star commentary in 2016. "Even if El Nino brings more rain and snow this year, the state will still have a large imbalance between supply and demand; and the greater uncertainty added by climate warming makes managing those imbalances even more challenging."

Bales also is a Distinguished Professor of Engineering at UC Merced and an Adjunct Professor at UC Berkeley. He has conducted water and climate related research for 30 years, with over 150 publications, as well as numerous presentations, reports and book chapters. In addition, Bales is Director of the Sierra Nevada Research Institute (SNRI), and a researcher at the Center for Information Technology in the Interest of Society (CITRIS).

Tickets are available for the remaining speakers in the series as well as for individual presentations. Individual presentation tickets are \$16 for students and range from \$32 to \$40 for adults. Tickets are now available online <http://raedoroughspeakerseries.org/tickets/> or may be purchased at the Bankhead Theater box office, 2400 First Street, Livermore, Tuesday through Saturday, noon to 6 p.m., or by calling (925)-373-6800.

The speaker series honors the late Rae Dorough, a respected Livermore resident and strong supporter of cultural events. Members of her family were the initiating sponsors in 2008. The series is sponsored in part by Lawrence Livermore National Security, LLC, The Hertz Foundation, Sandia National Laboratory, Tri-Valley Conservancy and ImageSetters. Zone 7 Water Agency is a special sponsor of Mr. Bales February 15 presentation.

The speaker programs begin at 7:30pm, followed by a lively audience Question and Answer (Q&A) from the stage, and culminate in a reception for the speaker that is held in the lobby of the Bankhead.

[www.RaeDoroughSpeakerSeries.org](http://www.RaeDoroughSpeakerSeries.org) | <http://www.facebook.com/RaeDoroughSpeakers>