PREFACE

This publication grew out of a University of California conference on "Competition for California Water: Alternative Resolutions," which was held September 30 to October 2, 1981, at Asilomar. The goals of the conference and of this volume have been to identify competing needs and demands for water in California, to seek out realistic water policy options, and to point out areas where cooperation and compromise can help in developing state water policies.

Planning for the conference began in 1980. By the end of that year the Organizing Committee had invited thirty researchers and other professionals from twenty-five departments and research units on seven campuses of the University to work in teams to prepare drafts of analytical papers. The papers were discussed at a meeting of all of the teams in July 1981. Revised versions then were reviewed, primarily by informed persons outside the University. After further changes, the papers became the basis of a draft volume discussed by the conferees at Asilomar.

The conference was attended by 141 persons representing diverse viewpoints and interests, including water experts, decision makers, planners, administrators, and others from concerned agencies and organizations. Principal groups represented were agriculture, environmental organizations, water districts and associations, state, federal and local agencies, universities and public interest organizations. Also represented were consulting firms, business interests, utilities, labor unions, educational agencies and research institutes.

The conference was structured to encourage discussion both in plenary sessions and in small groups. To assure diversity of opinion, participants were assigned to mixed groups, and to encourage individual expression, persons were not identified by organizational affiliations. Reports from discussion groups and individual responses during plenary sessions were made available to the authors of this volume for their consideration in the revision of their manuscripts.

The first chapter of this volume provides an introduction to California's water resources and problems. It also sets forth the assumptions and future scenarios on which the volume is based. Following the introduction are five chapters that analyze competition over California's water resources from the perspectives of the major water-using sectors: agriculture, municipal and domestic, industry, energy, and the environment including recreation. This analysis is followed by four chapters which examine the major water-using sectors in the context of the social forces and trends which will shape the course of California's development, including lifestyles, economics, institutions and political dynamics. A concluding integrative chapter highlights some of the underlying themes of the volume and reports on reactions of the conference participants to some of the controversial issues.

Each chapter reflects the approach and expertise of its particular team of authors. The policy analyses, findings and conclusions are those arrived at by the author teams after nearly a year of team dialogue and discussion. It should be emphasized that the authors are solely responsible for the contents of their chapters. The contents of the volume do not represent a University position, nor University advocacy of particular viewpoints. Nor, it should be added, does the volume reflect the views of conference participants or those experts who reviewed the manuscripts during the course of their preparation.

The primary purpose of the University in sponsoring the water policy conference and in publishing this volume has been to encourage small teams of faculty members to analyze and participate in public discussion of important aspects of California water needs and water policy implications. This is part of the University effort to encourage faculty to bring research findings to bear upon long-range public policy issues. We recognize that this approach does not necessarily produce a complete and balanced analysis of the entire scope of immensely complex water issues. It may well be that other options and other conclusions should also be considered. The Organizing Committee, however, hopes that the information and views contained in this volume will represent a useful effort by the University to work with others toward resolution of California's difficult water problems.

Robert M. Hagan
Chairman, Organizing Committee