The Pacific Process and HR 2828:

In July 2003, several large water contractors and state and federal agencies held private negotiations resulting in the “Napa Agreement.” There was a negative reaction from key lawmakers and members of the public who were not involved in these discussions. This larger group was brought together at Pacific resulting in further, more inclusive discussion, which became known as the “The Pacific Process.” This process helped broaden and make more public the discourse on the management of natural resources in the state associated with the operation of the state and federal water projects. Meetings were held on the Pacific campus over the course of a year. The outcome of these meetings was the drafting of language that was incorporated into federal legislation (HR 2828, Water Supply, Reliability and Environmental Improvement Act) reauthorizing the California Bay-Delta Program, also known as CALFED, (the ongoing state-federal-stakeholder process to manage California’s water systems and associated natural resources). HR 2828 was signed into law in October 2004.
The Pacific Process

Pacific has taken a leadership role by providing a forum for full and open discourse on critical natural resource issues in California. The Natural Resources Institute (NRI) was created to foster and support this role, and to allow the many resources of Pacific to be available for this discourse. Over the last several years, this process has been labeled the “Pacific Process” and has resulted in fostering agreements and legislation that have supported the resolution of key natural resources issues. There is an acute need to continue the role of the NRI in the immediate future, as well as to develop and enhance additional roles and activities.

Main Institute Objectives:

• To provide a forum for full and open public discourse engaging key stakeholders involved in critical natural resource issues in California
• To develop policy analysis models and methodologies and consensus building approaches
• To conduct studies and research related to major natural and water resource issues facing California
• To foster education and knowledge dissemination activities
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Recent Activities of the Institute:

Delta Levees — Avoiding the Next Break
The NRI, under then Dean Gary Miller, helped develop and host a conference on the Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta Levees on the Pacific campus. The one-day conference was held June 2005; it attracted attendees from throughout the region.

Striking a Balance
In October 2005, Pacific again served as a forum for open public debate of critical issues when the NRI hosted a one day forum called “Striking a Balance” to discuss restoration of the San Joaquin River cut off by the construction and operation flows to Friant Dam in the late 1940s. These discussions helped the settlement of long standing litigation amongst environmentalists and water users in the San Joaquin Valley.

Developing a Delta Vision: How to Connect the Dots
A second regional conference on preparing a future vision for the Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta was held in June 2006 on the Pacific campus. The NRI again helped develop and host the two-day conference, planned in the winter of 2005 and spring of 2006. The conference concluded with workshops conducted by the Center for Collaborative Policy and a group of University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law professors. Conference proceedings have been prepared and released by the Water Education Foundation.

Calaveras River Restoration Project
Pacific faculty and students have been actively participating in the development of a plan to restore the Calaveras River within the Pacific campus. An engineering surveying study was carried out in 2005 and a report released in early 2006. This project will enhance understanding and respect for the riverine habitat that is a part of the campus and the
surrounding community, and serve as a working laboratory for the sciences at Pacific. An application for permits and construction funding will be submitted in the near future.

**Academic Year 2006–2007 Activities**

In the fall of 2006, the NRI started a series of dialogs to address issues of future development in the flood plain — a key issue for California since the Katrina floods in New Orleans, and an issue unresolved in the previous session of the state Legislature.

The NRI gathered a group of individuals with knowledge and interest in the issue including state Legislators and staff, local government representatives, local flood agencies, non-governmental organizations, councils of governments, building industry representatives and others who had previously participated in discussions of this issue. Attendance has been between 25 and 30 persons per meeting; the meeting notice list now includes about 60 persons. Meetings were held in October, November, December (2006), January, March and June (2007), on the Stockton campus.

The group broke the overall issue into three sub-issues. After extensive discussion of the state’s role in providing leadership through *preparation of a State Flood Plan*, a letter summarizing a series of recommendations was sent by the NRI to the Governor and members of the Legislature. The second issue was *expenditure of the flood bond funds* approved in November 2006; the group discussion has triggered focused discussions by three major regional flood control bodies. Lastly, the group discussed the *roles of the state, of local government, and of private individuals*. NRI staff have been monitoring the many bills addressing governance and will be scheduling additional dialog discussion as needed.
Natural Resources Institute
Organization:
Executive Director: Ravi Jain, Dean, School of Engineering and Computer Science
Director: Margit Aramburu, Visiting Associate Professor
Dean/Faculty Advisory Board
Community Advisory Board

The Pacific Process:
• Involves key impacted and interested parties
• Provides access to decision and policy makers
• Serves as an open and honest forum to discuss differences productively

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