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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Fresno State experts to discuss water, obesity issues at conference

**(EDITORS: Dr. Zoldoske and Ms. Islas-Hooker are available Monday afternoon and Tuesday for interviews. Call Shirley to make arrangements)**

Directors of water and obesity initiatives affiliated with California State University, Fresno will share their expertise at the Great Valley Center's annual conference Wednesday and Thursday in Sacramento.

**Dr. David Zoldoske**, who directs the California Water Institute based at Fresno State will preview the university's work to develop the first-ever regional water plan for the area from Kern County to San Joaquin County.

**Veva Islas-Hooker**, project coordinator for the Fresno State-based Central California Regional Obesity Prevention Program, will discuss how the new initiative seeks to make an impact in the childhood obesity problem of the Central Valley.

Zoldoske will speak Wednesday about the water plan, which will project the Valley's water needs for 25 years, while reflecting the concerns of urban, agricultural and environmental interests. Fresno State was appointed by the Valley's Congressional delegation to facilitate the water plan. Zoldoske is working with the offices of Reps. Dennis Cardoza, Jim Costa, Devin Nunes and George Radanovich.

On Thursday, Islas-Hooker will present an overview of the regional prevention program as well as discuss why the Valley has a childhood obesity problem. She holds a Master of Public Health from Loma Linda University and has more than 10 years of experience working in the health education field in both public and private sectors.

For more information on the conference, please see [www.greatvalley.org/conference/sessions2.aspx](http://www.greatvalley.org/conference/sessions2.aspx).