**Major Economic Earth's Resources**

According to the CSET test guide, there will be a total of 50 mutliple choice questions and three constructed response questions for CSET 122.

**a. Understand the importance of water to society, the origins of California’s fresh water, statewide water distribution, and the environmental and economic impact of water redistribution**

**Importance of Water to Society:**The biggest consumer of water by far is agriculture, which takes approximately 60% from rivers. Most of the water is for irrigation, and once this water has been used, it often evaporates into the atmosphere, instead of draining back into the natural waterway. As a result, some major rivers has been slowed to a trickle.

**Water Wars:** Many of the worlds largest river basins are found in more than one country. As a result, with an increase in population, there are threads of “water wars”. A UN report predicted that the average supply of water per persons would fall over a third in approximately 20 years. In addition, there is the threat that by 2050, billions of people would face a water shortage.

**Origin of California's Fresh Water:**California has an abundance of fresh water, that is supplied by precipitation and melting of the snow up in the Sierra Nevada and other mountain ranges. However, water is not distributed evenly as Northern California receives much more rainfall and snow melt than southern California. Through pipes and canals, water is transported from northern CA to southern CA.

**b. Describe resources of major economic importance in California and their relation to California’s geology (e.g., oil, gas, gold, sand, gravel, salts, open space, soil, arable land, clean air)**

**Need to finish this up**

Many of the important natural resources of California needed to sustain life is related to some sort of geologic event.

In the Central Valley's basin, a major economic importance is agriculture, oil, and natural gas. These are due to the deposition of sediments in the valley (the central valley was created when the Farallon Plate subducted. Later, the valley was surrounded by the Sierra Nevada and the Coastal Ranges when faulting took place). At one point, CA was covered by an epieric sea. As a result,dead marine life filled the ocean floor and was compacted. Over the years, their remains eventually turned into petroleum or natural gas.

Gold in California is produced through plate tectonics.