

Regional Issues Committee UPDATE



RIC Becomes RWA!

The Regional Issues Committee is pleased to announce the birth of the Regional Water Authority. This is the culmination of a two-year process of creating an organization that combines regional water efforts within the greater Sacramento area water community. The formation process is nearly finished and the RWA is about to become a legal entity. This newsletter is an FYI to keep you up-to-date on the progress.

Celebrating the Regional Water Authority: Get Ready to Party!

To celebrate the official formation of the RWA, a kick-off event is planned for mid-June. Social hour will start at 6 p.m. with dinner at 7 p.m. There will be a keynote address from a surprise speaker, followed by special presentations and other benchmark activities. The event will celebrate the hard work and effort that has been put into the RWA.

Don't miss out on the fun! Take the opportunity to network with water industry friends and associates in celebrating RWA's inauguration. Watch for invitations and further details!

Sponsorship packages are in the mail to solicit support for the kick off event. The \$1,000 sponsorship qualifies as a tax-deductible contribution to your "favorite" nonprofit organization. Sponsors receive recognition at the event and in all event communications. For more information about sponsorships or the event, please contact Angie Dixon at Lucy & Company at (916) 491-3161.

Ed Winkler Named RWA Executive Director

The search for the RWA director is over! Ed Winkler was named executive director of the RWA. During his 20 years in water management, Ed has led a variety of programs with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) and the California Department of Water Resources (DWR).



At MWD, Ed managed the activities of the Bay-Delta Branch, which promoted projects to help maintain a reliable and high-quality water supply to 17 million people while protecting and restoring the Bay-Delta environment. This included coalition-building activities between water agencies north and south, environmental, agricultural and other

interests. Previous to working for MWD, Ed served as DWR chief of operations planning, responsible for scheduling the water and power operations of the State Water Project.

Initially, Ed is directing the 17 member agencies of the Sacramento Metropolitan Water Authority and the Sacramento North Area Groundwater Management Authority, responsible for providing water to over 500,000 people in the greater Sacramento/Placer County areas. SMWA promotes interaction and communication between local water suppliers concerning regional water issues at the policy level. SNAGMA is a recently formed agency responsible for protecting and managing the groundwater basin north of the American River through economic incentives. To further promote regional coordination and efforts, it is expected that SMWA will evolve this spring into the newly formed RWA.

"I look forward to working with area organizations at RWA to help secure high quality, affordable and reliable water supplies to the people of our region well into the future," said Ed.

A local raised in Sacramento, Winkler earned his bachelor and master of science degrees in civil engineering from California State University, Sacramento.

RWA Membership: It's Not Too Late

Of course it's not too late to join the RWA! The RWA will be consolidating current regional association efforts to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of all water organizations in the greater Sacramento/Placer County areas. Agencies who have participated throughout the RIC process and may become members include:

- Arcade Water District**
- Carmichael Water District**
- Citizens Utilities Company of California**
- Citrus Heights Water District**
- City of Folsom**
- City of Roseville**
- City of Sacramento**
- City of West Sacramento**
- County of Sacramento**
- Del Paso Manor Water District**
- Fair Oaks Water District**
- Florin County Water District**
- Fruitridge Vista Water Company**
- Florin Resource Conservation District**
- Northridge Water District**
- Placer County Water Agency**
- Rancho Murieta Community Services District**
- Rio Linda/Elverta Community Water District**
- San Juan Water District**
- Southern California Water Company**

RWA MISSION

The Regional Water Authority (RWA) serves and represents the regional water supply interests to help members protect the reliability, availability and quality of water resources.

Please see "Guide to Acronyms" on the back page.



Regional Water Authority
BUILDING ALLIANCES IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

c/o Sacramento Metropolitan Water Authority
5620 Birdcage Street, Suite 180
Citrus Heights, CA 95610

Transitioning for Better Service

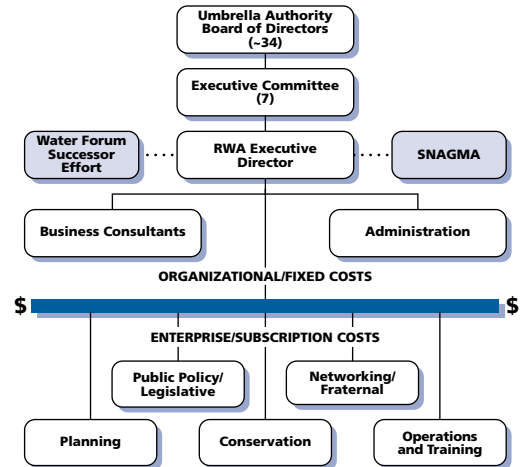
Sacramento Metropolitan Water Authority will evolve into the new RWA once the proposed Joint Powers Agreement is approved by participating members. The Sacramento Area Water Works Association's Conservation Committee has already transitioned its fiscal management and administrative support needs to SMWA. The Sacramento Maintenance and Regional Technology group will likely be the next entity to transition, occurring shortly after the formation of RWA.

The American River Basin Cooperating Agencies is nearing the end of their phase II effort and has tasked its coordinating committee to develop a detailed list of phase III activities and items for transition to RWA. Some of ARBCA's tasks will be directed to RWA, and other tasks will be directed to the appropriate parties (i.e. SNAGMA). Consideration of transitioning SAWWA Backflow and SAWWA General will take place after the RWA is formed.

Benefits Galore for RWA

There's a lot that RWA will offer its members and the community. To start with, RWA will provide:

- collaboration on regional planning and coordination efforts
- organizational economy
- cooperative programs and projects on a subscription basis
- integration of regional water strategy and communications
- a resource for developing and obtaining financing from external funding sources
- professional staffing for organizations to augment volunteer efforts
- cooperation and consistency in dealing with external interests and issues
- coordinated responses to proposed state and federal regulations and policy issues
- a central communication point for regional water issues
- a forum for policy leaders, executive managers, middle managers and employees
- centralized staffing, leadership and location for existing regional organizations and associations
- improved efficiency of meetings for matters of regional concern



We've Got Organization Covered!

The RWA's organizational structure is based on a combination of ARBCA, SMWA, SNAGMA and other successful organizational structures. The structure will include:

- a large board of directors meeting in plenary sessions
- a smaller executive committee directing detailed business activities
- an executive director
- business consultants as needed
- four or five operating departments and program managers, providing desired programs and services to members

Results of Last RIC Workshop

At the last RIC workshop, Ed Winkler was introduced as the new RWA executive director. Final details being sewn up included:

- The JPA was being finalized and will be sent to all potential member agencies.
- The RWA executive board was taking shape based on discussions of size, composition and other details.
- The RWA kick-off event was set for mid-June.
- Media relations were taking place about the hiring of Ed and about the RWA.
- The RWA logo was finalized as a blue design featuring a water drop within the lettering above the tagline.

Keeping You Informed

Web Site Update: It's here! The official RWA Web site is at www.regionalwaterauthority.net. Stay posted for future developments and news.

If your organization would like to receive a presentation or if you have any questions about RWA, please contact Ed Winkler at (916) 967-7692.



The Official Rich Plecker Cheering Section

A special thanks goes out to Rich Plecker, our fearless leader who whipped us along when we were dragging and reined us in when we were getting ahead of ourselves. With gratitude we thank you for all your hard work in building the transition from RIC to RWA. Mostly, we appreciate your unflinching sense of humor and ability to focus on solutions while successfully hurdling many roadblocks encountered along the way.

Guide to Acronyms

ARBCA	American River Basin Cooperating Agencies
JPA	Joint Powers Agreement
RIC	Regional Issues Committee
RWA	Regional Water Authority
SAWWA	Sacramento Area Water Works Association
SMWA	Sacramento Metropolitan Water Authority
SMART	Sacramento Maintenance and Regional Technology Group
SNAGMA	Sacramento North Area Groundwater Management Authority

