



The Regional Water

Authority Mission:

To serve and represent regional water supply interests and assist Regional Water Authority members with protecting and enhancing the reliability, availability, affordability and quality of water resources.

Member Agencies

California-American Water Company

Carmichael Water District

Citrus Heights Water District

Del Paso Manor Water District

Fair Oaks Water District

Florin Resource Conservation District/
Elk Grove Water Service

Folsom, City of

Fruitridge Vista Water Company

Lincoln, City of

Orange Vale Water Company

Placer County Water Agency

Rancho Murieta CSD

Roseville, City of

Rio Linda/Elverta CWD

Sacramento, City of

Sacramento Suburban Water District

San Juan Water District

Southern California Water Co.

RWA Adopts Ambitious Agenda, Budget for Coming Year

The Regional Water Authority has adopted an ambitious agenda for the 2003-'04 fiscal year that calls for expanded water use efficiency efforts, ongoing conjunctive use activities and additional training programs for RWA members.

RWA's Board of Directors voted May 15 to approve a budget of \$870,000 for the next fiscal year to support the Authority's programs and several key objectives.

Priority objectives identified for 2003-'04 include:

- Increasing RWA's membership
- Facilitating implementation of new state laws regarding water supply and land-use planning

- Developing an RWA website
- Implementing the \$22 million grant awarded to RWA for the American River Basin Regional Conjunctive Use Program, and pursuit of additional grant opportunities
- Implementing the Water Efficiency Program and exploring opportunities for expanded use of recycled water.

"We have identified an ambitious set of objectives for fiscal 2004 that will build on the tremendous progress RWA has made in its first two years," RWA Executive Director Ed Winker said. "Each of our programs furthers the goal of positioning our region to take advantage of major funding and partnership opportunities."

Costa Applauds RWA Members, Calls for Further Regional Efforts

Calling regional planning the key to meeting water needs, former State Senator Jim Costa commended RWA members for coming together as a region and urged the Authority to play an active role in supporting the next statewide water bond measure.



Addressing RWA members at the May 15 board meeting, Former Senator Jim Costa addresses RWA members May 15.

Costa said regional efforts such as the Authority offer the best opportunity to move ahead with projects that meet local needs. Waiting for the state and federal governments to provide solutions, he said, is not realistic.

"I don't know if it was ever the case that you could look to Sacramento and Washington to solve your problems," Costa said. "After 20 years' experience, I can tell you it's not going to happen."

A leader on water issues for more than two decades, Costa left the Legislature last year after 24 years of service. During his tenure as chair of the Senate Agriculture and Water Resources Committee, he was credited with forging landmark agreements that led to Proposition 204 of 1996 and Proposition 13 of 2000. The two bond measures provided a total of nearly \$3 billion in funding for water supply reliability.

Costa noted that having a regional plan puts the Authority in a better position to secure grant funding from future water bonds.

"It's becoming clear that regions that come together and develop regional plans are way ahead of the game," he said. "I applaud your efforts and encourage you to do more."

Given the state's budget crisis and diminishing bond capacity, Costa said he is not optimistic that the Legislature will be able to

put a new water bond measure on the ballot in 2004. He noted, however, that California has endured recessionary cycles before and typically emerges in a stronger fiscal position.

"If not 2004, then it will be 2006," he said of the timing for the next bond measure. "Your region is together. When the next bond measure comes along, you'll be in a position to get assistance to match your local efforts."

Water Efficiency Program Set to Receive Grant

Funding for Landscape Irrigation Reviews Will Benefit RWA Members

The RWA Water Efficiency Program (WEP) has been awarded a \$975,000 grant from the California Department of Water Resources for an incentive program aimed at improving landscape irrigation in the Sacramento area.

The Proposition 13 Urban Water Conservation grant will help fund a rebate program for water customers who participate in reviews of their large landscape irrigation systems. RWA members taking part in the program expect to offer rebates of up to \$5,000 per eligible customer.

"This grant will allow us to take our water efficiency programs even further and reach more water customers in the region," Program Manager Charlie Pike said.



Regional Water Authority
BUILDING ALLIANCES IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

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Meet Rob Swartz, Senior Project Manager

The Regional Water Authority and Sacramento Groundwater Authority in March welcomed Rob Swartz as senior project manager.

A registered geologist and certified hydrogeologist, Swartz has extensive experience in regional conjunctive water management and other groundwater programs. Prior to joining RWA and SGA, he was a senior engineering geologist with the California Department of Water Resources' Division of Planning and Local Assistance in Sacramento. Most recently, he served as statewide coordinator and principal author of DWR's latest update of *California's Water - Bulletin 118*, which was released in draft form this spring.

Swartz has specialized in conducting feasibility studies of proposed regional conjunctive water management programs and developing regional groundwater model applications.

"Rob's experience and technical expertise make him well suited to help develop and implement a regional groundwater management program," said Ed Winkler, executive director. "We are very pleased to have Rob on board as there are many exciting challenges ahead."

New Utilities Director on the Job in Folsom

Ken Payne joined the City of Folsom earlier this year as director of its new utilities department. His responsibilities include overseeing the City's sewer, water and solid waste divisions; developing engineering and operational programs to increase efficiency; and maintaining state and federal regulatory compliance.

Payne, who most recently served as interim program manager of the city's Sewer Improvement Program, brings a wealth of experience in utility program management, regulatory compliance programs, water supply programs, economic and financial studies, and construction management.

News from the Ground Up: SGA Embarks on New Groundwater Management Plan

The Sacramento Groundwater Authority is moving forward with efforts to develop a new groundwater management program for the north area groundwater basin.

A near-term objective of the program is to develop a groundwater management plan (GMP) that satisfies the requirements of legislation signed into law last year. Under Senate Bill 1938 of 2002, public agencies seeking state funding for groundwater projects are required to prepare and implement a groundwater management plan that includes specific elements.

A policy committee and a technical review committee have been appointed to guide development of the plan and its required components.

The technical review committee is tasked with reviewing draft GMP products, reviewing recommended basin management objectives and resolving technical issues.

Plan a Building Block in Overall Groundwater Management Program

The GMP is one of several elements that will comprise a long-term groundwater management program for the region. A key component of that program is implementation of a regional conjunctive use program designed to protect and manage the groundwater basin. The program, which will fulfill an important Water Forum goal, not only will provide long-term water supply benefits for the region but also will have the potential to offer broader statewide benefits.

Data Management System Moves Into Phase II

Another key element is development of a data management system (DMS) to help assess the overall health of the groundwater basin in northern Sacramento County. The DMS is designed to allow users to access essential groundwater-related information from a database. The \$500,000 project is funded through an agreement among the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the California Department of Water Resources and SGA.

Phase I of the effort involved entering data on 60 public supply wells and drafting a preliminary summary of basin conditions. Phase II began in March 2003 and will include the addition of another 196 public supply wells to the database as well as information from

44 monitoring wells provided by DWR. Other Phase II activities include drafting a more detailed summary of basin conditions and preparing the GMP in compliance with SB 1938. The work is expected to continue through January 31, 2004.

Rob Swartz, senior project manager for SGA and RWA, credited the state and federal funding partners for their assistance in moving the effort forward.

"The success of this program has been in large part due to the financial assistance of the Corps and DWR," Swartz said.

RWA Welcomes El Dorado County Water Agency

The El Dorado County Water Agency has joined RWA as the first associate member of the Authority.

The RWA Board of Directors voted May 15 to create an associate membership class for entities that are not water purveyors but have an interest in regional water issues.

Bill Hetland, general manager of El Dorado County Water Agency, called RWA associate membership a great fit for the agency. "This is an exciting opportunity for El Dorado to continue to be a regional player on water issues," he said.

Water Community News Little to Retire After 17 Years at Carmichael Water District

Carmichael Water District General Manager LaNell Little has announced she will retire June 30 after 17 years at the district, including eight as general manager.

Asked to identify the district's greatest achievement during her tenure as manager, Little pointed to construction of a new water treatment plant on the American River. The plant supplies some of the highest quality water in the country to Carmichael residents.

Steve Nugent, the district's assistant manager for the past eight years, will take over as the new general manager beginning July 1. In addition to his other responsibilities, Steve served as project manager during construction of the district's water treatment plant and major pipelines. He was the board of director's unanimous choice to succeed Little as general manager.

