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RWA Announces “Water Smart” Garden Contest *Top Prize is Custom Front Yard Makeover Featuring Water-Wise Design*

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – The Regional Water Authority (RWA) and local water providers will launch the first-ever Ultimate “Water Smart” Garden Makeover Contest at this year’s California State Home and Garden Show. The show runs January 5-7 at the Sacramento Convention Center.

The grand prize is a free front yard makeover, featuring a custom water-smart landscape designed by Christy Tveit, winner of HGTV’s “Landscape’s Challenge,” and equipment and services donated by RWA’s generous partners. The prize is valued at up to \$40,000.

Two runner-up prizes include a professionally designed, custom water-wise landscape plan by Joseph Pattin of Garden Retreats, and two trees in 24-inch boxes chosen for the winner’s location using the “River-Friendly Landscaping Guidelines” published by the Sacramento Stormwater Quality Partnership.

Key contest sponsors include SMUD, Rainbird, Garden Soft, California State Home and Garden Show, SmartLine, Water Forum, Weathermatic, and Garden Retreats.

The contest is aimed at helping local homeowners save water and money by incorporating water-wise gardening concepts such as low-water use plants and trees into their landscaping.

“We know that outdoor water use accounts for more than half of all residential water use in our region,” RWA Executive Director Ed Winkler said. “If we can find fun and easy ways for homeowners to become more water-efficient in their yards and gardens, it will help our region save water and energy costs, and help us better protect the American River.”

There are two ways to enter the contest. Homeowners can visit the RWA booth (#109) at the California State Home and Garden Show January 5-7 at the Sacramento Convention Center, pick up an application and sign up for a free Water Wise House Call. Go to <http://www.calstatehomeshow.com/rwa.html> for more information.

Homeowners can also enter by downloading an entry form and mailing the completed form by May 31 to “Be Water Smart” – the Ultimate Water Smart Garden Makeover Contest, 10461 Old Placerville Rd., Suite 110, Sacramento, CA 95827. The form is available at <http://www.rwah2o.org/rwa/educated/#UltimateWaterSmart>.

Contest entry forms will be collected from January 5 through May 31. The winning entries will be randomly drawn in early June. A celebratory media event is planned for September to unveil the completed garden makeover.

To be eligible for the grand prize, entrants must sign up for and complete a free Water Wise House Call with their water provider. During the house call, a trained water efficiency professional will visit the customer’s home free of charge to check the irrigation system and provide a custom watering schedule. If requested by the customer, the trained professional will also check indoor plumbing fixtures for leaks and provide free water-saving materials and devices. For more information about Water Wise House Calls, please call the “Be Water Smart” Hotline at 888-WTR-TIPS (888-987-8477).

RWA is a joint powers authority representing 22 water providers in the greater Sacramento area. Its primary mission is to help its members protect and enhance the reliability, availability, affordability and quality of water resources. For more information, see www.rwah2o.org.

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