



5620 Birdcage Street, Suite 180
Citrus Heights, CA 95610 www.rwah2o.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 19, 2008

Contact: Lisa Maddaus
916/967-7692

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

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – A Carmichael couple has won a \$40,000 front yard makeover in the second Ultimate “Water Smart” Garden Makeover Contest sponsored by the Regional Water Authority (RWA) and local water providers.

Gregory and Sharon Fong won the drawing for the grand prize in July. Their home on Hillgrove Way in Carmichael will receive a front yard makeover featuring a custom water-smart landscape designed by Cheryl Buckwalter of Landscape Liaisons as well as equipment and services donated by RWA’s partners.

A celebratory event is planned for the end of September to unveil the completed makeover.

Helga Friesen of Sacramento won the drawing for a professionally designed, custom water-wise landscape plan by Joseph Pattin of Garden Retreats. Norma Udell of Folsom won the drawing for two trees in 24-inch boxes donated by Capital Nursery. The trees will be chosen for the winner’s location using the “River-Friendly Landscaping Guidelines” published by the Sacramento Stormwater Quality Partnership.

The contest, launched in March, was aimed at helping local homeowners learn how to save water and money by incorporating low-water use plants, trees and other water-smart

concepts into their landscaping.

“Last year’s contest showed in dramatic fashion that water-wise landscaping doesn’t have to be cactus,” RWA Chairman Joe Dion said. “We want to take every opportunity possible to demonstrate the benefits of water-smart landscapes, especially in this time of drought. It will help our region save water and energy, and help us better protect the American River.”

Key contest sponsors include Landscape Liaisons, English Garden Care, Rhodes Landscape Design Build, Pacific Grass & Turf, Bedrock Pavestone, Village Nursery, Atlas Disposal, Pavestone, Hunter Irrigation, Unique Lighting and Michelle McKnight Photography. The Water Forum also provided a grant in support of the project.

Homeowners entered the contest by completing an entry form that also signed them up for a free Water Wise House Call. To be eligible for the grand prize, entrants had to complete the house call, during which a trained water efficiency professional visited their home free of charge to check the irrigation system and provide a custom watering schedule. If requested by the homeowner, the trained professional would also check indoor plumbing fixtures for leaks and provide free water-saving materials and devices. The contest has been a success, with close to 550 entries from throughout the region.

For more information about Water Wise House Calls, please call the “Be Water Smart” Hotline at 888-WTR-TIPS (888-987-8477) or log onto www.rwah2o.org.

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.

#