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John Woodling Named RWA Executive Director

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – The Regional Water Authority (RWA) today announced the selection of John K. Woodling as executive director of both RWA and the Sacramento Groundwater Authority (SGA). Woodling assumes the post on June 30.

As acting chief of the California Department of Water Resources' Division of Planning and Local Assistance, Woodling has been the state's point person on integrated regional water management planning. Through partnerships with local agencies such as RWA, he has provided technical support and overseen grant programs to support integrated regional water management plans and conjunctive use projects. In the Sacramento region, he has worked closely with stakeholders to support the American River Basin Conjunctive Use Program, facilitated partnerships with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and supported negotiations to develop a regulatory framework for the City of Roseville's Aquifer Storage and Recovery Project.

"John brings a wealth of expertise and a solid track record of developing partnerships that get results," RWA Chair Joe Dion said. "His experience with integrated regional planning, groundwater and conjunctive use makes him an excellent choice to guide our efforts to better coordinate water supply planning in our region and address the future reliability of water supplies while protecting the environment."

SGA Chair Pam Tobin said Woodling's on-the-ground experience with groundwater issues and strong background in collaborative processes will be a tremendous asset to the region. "We have truly learned the value of working cooperatively to get results," Tobin said. "We are fortunate to

find an individual who combines solid technical knowledge of our region with effective working relationships with key water managers in our area.”

Woodling, whose resume includes 23 years of experience in the field of groundwater and water resources, said he welcomes the opportunity to promote regional solutions and partnerships.

“I am honored to be selected as the next executive director of RWA and SGA. I look forward to helping the organizations build on their history of success as we face a number of water resources challenges and opportunities in the future,” Woodling said.

Woodling joined the Department of Water Resources, Central District Office, in 1985. He spent two years at the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board before beginning 10 years with the California Department of Toxic Substances Control, where he acted as a technical expert and team lead on hydrogeology, groundwater modeling, monitoring and other areas and consulted on hazardous waste cleanup sites such as Aerojet and the former McClellan Air Force Base. He served three years on an interagency assignment with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as part of a group investigating soil and groundwater contamination on military bases.

He rejoined the Department of Water Resources in 1999, holding a variety of progressively more responsible positions in the areas of groundwater, conjunctive use, integrated regional water management planning and other water management activities.

Woodling succeeds Ed Winkler as executive director. Winkler left RWA and SGA in March after nearly seven years at the helm.

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.

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