



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

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
August 20, 2009

Contact: John Woodling
Executive Director
Regional Water Authority
(916) 967-7692
jwoodling@rwah2o.org

Water Providers Awarded Over \$5 Million for Regional Water Efficiency Projects

SACRAMENTO—The Regional Water Authority (RWA) today announced its members will receive more than \$5 million in federal grant funding to enhance water efficiency projects in the Sacramento region. The awards include a \$5 million grant to accelerate water meter installation and nearly \$295,000 in customer rebates for weather-based irrigation controllers.

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation selected five RWA members to receive \$5 million in grant funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The federal stimulus dollars, along with \$10 million of local matching funds, will allow water agencies to accelerate the installation of water meters in the region.

RWA coordinated the proposal, and Sacramento Suburban Water District (SSWD) applied on behalf of RWA members Carmichael Water District, El Dorado Irrigation District (EID), and the cities of Sacramento and West Sacramento.

“We’re excited to have Reclamation recognize the importance of this regional project,” said John Woodling, Executive Director of the Regional Water Authority.

-MORE-

“It’s satisfying to be successful when competing with proposals from throughout the West.”

Water providers in the greater Sacramento region have aggressively pursued metering over several years. Many agencies’ service areas are fully metered, and the region as a whole has progressed from having one-third of all connections metered in 2000 to one-half today.

“Water meters are a critical water efficiency tool,” Woodling said, “because they help both water providers and customers better understand how water is used and where changes can be made.”

The metering grant follows an earlier award of \$294,184 to RWA from the CALFED Water Use Efficiency Grant Program administered by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation’s Mid-Pacific Region. That grant will be used to offer incentives to customers to install weather-based irrigation controllers. The “smart controllers” use technology to apply only the amount of water necessary for healthy landscaping.

“These controllers will help prevent overwatering, which saves both water and energy, keeps our waterways clean and reduces green waste in our landfills,” said Linda Higgins, RWA’s Water Efficiency Program Manager. El Dorado Irrigation District, City of Folsom, Orange Vale Water Company and Sacramento Suburban Water District will be participating in the irrigation controller program.

About the Regional Water Authority

The Regional Water Authority (RWA) is a joint powers authority formed in 2001 that serves and represents the interests of 22 water providers and affiliated agencies in the greater Sacramento area. The organization’s primary mission is to help its members protect and enhance the reliability, availability, affordability and quality of water resources. For more information, please visit our website at www.rwah2o.org.

###