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Regional Water Authority to Receive \$1.1 Million Grant *Funds Will Help Install 12,000 Water Efficient Toilets in Sacramento Area*

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – The Regional Water Authority’s Water Efficiency Program is poised to receive \$1.1 million in grant funding for its award-winning water use efficiency efforts. The grant, funded by Proposition 50 of 2002, will help finance rebates for as many as 12,000 water efficient toilets for residential and commercial water customers in the region.

The RWA program is among 35 urban water use efficiency projects recommended for grant funding statewide.

RWA will use the funding to help expand existing toilet rebate programs in Sacramento, Placer, El Dorado and Yolo counties. The goal of the grant-funded program is to replace a total of 12,000 fixtures in 2008 and 2009. Studies show that replacing older toilets with new water efficient models can save as much as 26,000 gallons of water per year per toilet.

“The current dry-year conditions remind us how important it is to find new ways to stretch our limited water supplies,” RWA Executive Director Ed Winkler said. “RWA and its members are committed to programs that reduce water demand and at the same time save energy and protect the lower American River. This grant helps extend the reach of our programs by leveraging local ratepayer dollars.”

RWA’s Water Efficiency Program, launched in 2002, is aimed at helping local water purveyors implement best management practices (BMPs) for water use efficiency on a

regional scale. The program promotes water efficiency awareness through community outreach efforts such as the “Be Water Smart” campaign, including the “Be Water Smart Hotline” (1-888-WTR-TIPS), water wise house calls, financial incentives and other activities.

To date, the program has secured more than \$3 million in statewide grant funding. WEP participants include: California American Water, Carmichael Water District, Citrus Heights Water District, El Dorado Irrigation District, Fair Oaks Water District, City of Folsom, Golden State Water Company, City of Lincoln, Orange Vale Water Company, Placer County Water Agency, Rio Linda/Elverta Community Water District, City of Roseville, City of Sacramento, Sacramento County Water Agency, Sacramento Suburban Water District, San Juan Water District, and the City of West Sacramento.

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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