



## THE REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY MISSION

To serve and represent regional water supply interests and assist Regional Water Authority members with protecting and enhancing the reliability, availability, affordability and quality of water resources.

## MEMBER AGENCIES

California-American Water Company  
Carmichael Water District  
Citrus Heights Water District  
Del Paso Manor Water District  
Fair Oaks Water District  
Florin Resource Conservation District/Elk Grove Water Service  
Folsom, city of  
Fruitridge Vista Water Co.  
Orange Vale Water Company  
Placer County Water Agency  
Rancho Murieta CSD  
Roseville, city of  
Rio Linda/Elverta CWD  
Sacramento, city of  
Sacramento Suburban Water District  
San Juan Water District  
Southern California Water Co.

## RWA Receives \$22 Million For Conjunctive Use

### Proposed Projects Will Improve Regional Water Reliability

The RWA has received a commitment for nearly \$22 million in funding from the California Department of Water Resources for the American River Basin Regional Conjunctive Use Program. The Groundwater Storage Program Construction Grant will support 11 projects that will strengthen the region's efforts to better manage its valuable surface and groundwater resources.

Six RWA member agencies — including Sacramento Suburban, Citrus Heights, Fair Oaks, and San Juan water districts and the cities of Roseville and Sacramento — will each receive a portion of the grant to expand current and/or build new facilities for conjunctive use.

Projects will include expansion of surface water treatment plant capacities, water transmission system improvements such as pipelines, a pump station and an aboveground water storage tank, and development of groundwater extraction wells.

These facilities will make possible a groundwater banking and surface water exchange

program that is capable of producing 25,000 acre-feet per year (AF/year) of dry-year water supply yield. The increase in yield will improve local water supply reliability and provide system-wide benefits by improving Bay-Delta water quality and enhancing lower American River flows for environmental and recreational purposes consistent with the Sacramento Water Forum Agreement.

RWA members are looking forward to putting the funds to use. "By securing the grant funding, we will be able to produce local as well as statewide water system benefits at a significant savings to the rate payers throughout the Sacramento area," said RWA Executive Director Ed Winkler.

### WHAT IS CONJUNCTIVE USE?

Conjunctive use is the coordinated management of surface water and groundwater supplies. Conjunctive use increases total available water supplies, enhances water supply reliability and provides the opportunity for enhanced environmental uses of water.

## Urban Water Conservation Grant Awarded to WEP

The RWA Water Efficiency Program (WEP) is set to receive over \$500,000 from the California Department of Water Resources for projects aimed at improving water use efficiency in the Sacramento area.

The Proposition 13 Urban Water Conservation grants will provide participating agencies with a total of \$386,750 for leak detection and repair projects, enabling them to purchase state-of-the-art monitoring devices and data loggers that will help detect water leaks quickly and efficiently.

Another \$150,000 will be made available to the agencies for large landscape irrigation system improvements. These funds will help create rebates for customers with large landscapes (more than one acre) who

participate in irrigation reviews. Participating agencies expect to offer at least 50 rebates at up to \$5,000 per site.

"We are very excited about these grants and what they mean to area water providers," said Program Manager Charlie Pike. "The funding will enable us to continue our efforts to maintain successful water efficiency programs and ensure a reliable water supply."

The agencies that will receive funding from the grants include Carmichael, Citrus Heights, Fair Oaks, San Juan and Rio Linda/Elverta water districts, the cities of Folsom and Sacramento, FRCD/Elk Grove Water System, Orange Vale Water Company and Placer County Water Agency.

## This Traffic Report is Brought to You By the Regional Water Authority

The RWA recently kicked off a radio advertising campaign to spread the word about the importance of water efficiency, reaching approximately 962,400 households.

For five weeks in May and June, 10-second advertisements aired after traffic reports approximately 300 times, rotating through 43 radio stations. The RWA-sponsored spots reached a variety of listeners in the Sacramento, Placer and San Joaquin counties.

Listeners were asked questions such as "did you know that more plants die from over-watering than under-watering?" and "are your sprinklers watering your sidewalk more than your lawn?" Messages offering tips about maintaining outdoor landscape while conserving water were also included.

More traffic spots will be aired this fall, so stay tuned!



**Regional Water Authority**  
BUILDING ALLIANCES IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

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## Executive Director's Corner

June 30 marked the end of RWA's eventful first fiscal year of operations. In addition to all the activities associated with starting a new regional organization, the year was largely dominated by establishing the Regional Water Efficiency Program and the pursuit of state and federal partnership funding. RWA's formation at the end of a period of great economic growth in California dictated execution of a key initial strategy: move quickly to seize opportunities while funds are available. As you read this issue of *RWA Update*, you will see RWA and its members have done that with marvelous success over the past year.

The coming years, however, present a different picture. While there are still significant Proposition 13 grant funds remaining, a huge state budget deficit (estimated at \$24 billion at the time of this printing) will heighten the competition for remaining funds. In addition, the grants that have been awarded must be properly administered and managed to achieve maximum benefit for RWA members.

With this in mind, the RWA Board approved the following priority objectives for the coming year:

- Increase membership
- Adopt a regional water master plan
- Administer/manage grant awards
- Implement the Regional Water Efficiency Program
- Seek additional grants
- Implement new subscription services

Next year will undoubtedly hold many new water-related challenges, but one thing is certain — the uniting bonds formed through the RWA have better prepared us as a region to meet these future challenges.

*Ed Winkler*

## Sacramento Area Students Are "Water Wise"

Young minds have recently been dedicated to learning about water. Almost 260 teachers and 6,700 students participated in this year's *Sacramento Bee* Newspapers in Education Be Water Wise program.

The program provided students with the opportunity to participate in the Be Water Wise contest, which was designed to promote water awareness at home. The competition for grades K-4 required students to gather water-saving tips with their parents. This year's winners were: Joseph Sims Elementary School in Laguna; Strauch Elementary School in South Natomas; Del Paso Manor Elementary School in Town and Country; and Carmichael Elementary and Starr King Elementary schools in Carmichael.

Students in grades 5-8 completed the Be Water Wise Challenge, which involved answering questions by gathering information from the Sacramento Area Water Works Association Web site. The winners included: Chris Dieng of Elder Creek Elementary School in Sacramento; Chad Fong of Calvary Chapel Christian School in Auburn; Ana Gabriela Gomez of Harmon Johnson Elementary School in Sacramento; and Sokperry Chea of Morada Middle School in Stockton. Each of the top four student winners received \$100.

## Water Community News

### San Juan Water District Among First to be Awarded EPA Grant

San Juan Water District (SJWD) is among the first three water agencies in the country to receive a federal grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) designed to help water providers safeguard themselves against terrorist attacks. The funding will enable SJWD to assess and address vulnerabilities in the district's water supply infrastructure. "We're thrilled about the grant," said SJWD General Manager Jim English. "Providing our customers with a safe, reliable water supply is our highest priority."

### Dave Andres, New GM, Rio Linda/Elverta Community Water District

Dave Andres brings 23 years experience working with local government and 12 years in the water industry to the Rio Linda/

Elverta Community Water District as the new general manager. Andres joins the district after five years with Sweetwater Springs Water District in Sonoma County; he has also worked with the Trinity and Siskiyou Counties and Cambria Community Services District in San Luis Obispo County. Good luck in your new position, Dave!

### Ane Deister Named to CA Water Commission

Congratulations to Ane D. Deister, general manager of El Dorado Irrigation District (EID)! Deister was recently appointed by Governor Gray Davis to the California Water Commission. Prior to joining EID, Deister worked at Las Virgenes Municipal Water District, served as associate vice president of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and was appointed as the national urban water representative to the President's 15-member National Drought Council.

## EWA Pilot Project Approved

The Sacramento Groundwater Authority (SGA) has executed a final agreement with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) for the sale of 10,000 acre-feet of water in 2002 to benefit the CALFED Environmental Water Account (EWA).

The water will be made available through a one-year conjunctive use pilot project, which will be facilitated by SGA on behalf of Citrus Heights, Fair Oaks, Sacramento Suburban and San Juan water districts and the city of Sacramento.

Using existing facilities, water rights and contract entitlements, Citrus Heights and Fair Oaks water districts and the city of Sacramento will extract and use up to 10,000 acre-feet of groundwater. Utilizing the groundwater will make an equal volume of surface water available to the EWA for use in the Folsom Reservoir, Lower American River and Delta.

A key goal of this one-year pilot project is to further develop the institutional and contractual mechanisms that will be necessary to implement a regional conjunctive use program consistent with the Water Forum agreement.



Ed Winkler, left, and Kirk Rodgers of the US Bureau of Reclamation, right, come to an agreement over the EWA pilot project.

