



Historic Accord Reached on Flood Control / Water Supply

Congressman John Doolittle and Congressman Robert Matsui have reached agreement on plans to improve flood control and water management in the region. The agreement, included in a larger water resources bill passed by the House September 24, would increase flood protection and local water supplies by raising Folsom Dam and authorizing \$135 million for water conservation and infrastructure projects in Placer, El Dorado, and other counties.

The agreement also would authorize construction of a new four-lane bridge 1,000 feet downstream from Folsom Dam. The bridge would resolve traffic problems caused by the closure of Folsom Dam Road due to security concerns.

The Doolittle-Matsui accord is seen as a turning point in efforts to address water and flood control needs in the region. Adding seven feet to the height of Folsom Dam is the last major element sought by the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency to provide

a minimum level of protection from American River flooding.



Brian Jensen, senior field representative for Doolittle, briefed RWA members on the agreement at the September 11 Board of Directors meeting. He said the accord stemmed from a

growing need to address water issues on a regional basis.

Butch Hodgkins, executive director of the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency, applauded Doolittle and Matsui for their leadership. He said there is a growing sense of commitment on many fronts to come together as a region.

John Kingsbury, director of customer relations for Placer County Water Agency, commended Doolittle and his staff for developing water efficiency strategies that will benefit the region.

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

El Dorado Irrigation District

Fair Oaks Water District

Folsom, City of

Fruitridge Vista Water Company

Lincoln, City of

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 Associates

El Dorado County Water Agency

Sacramento Municipal Utility District

Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District

**Flood Control / Water Supply Accord
HR 2557 includes the following provisions:**

- \$135 million for local water projects
- Increases flood protection by raising Folsom Dam
- Authorizes new four-lane bridge downstream

News from the Ground Up: SGA Readies Draft Groundwater Management Plan

The Sacramento Groundwater Authority in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers continues to make progress on a groundwater management plan (GMP) for the north area groundwater basin and expects to release a public review draft on October 9.

Developed with the help of technical review and policy committees, the plan lays out five management objectives for the basin and includes several components aimed at monitoring and managing groundwater quality and levels. The overall goal of the plan is to maintain a sustainable, high-quality groundwater resource for users of the basin consistent with the Water Forum Agreement. Management objectives include:

- Maintaining or improving groundwater quality
- Maintaining groundwater levels that result in a net benefit to basin groundwater users
- Protecting against potential land subsidence
- Protecting against adverse impacts to flows in the American and Sacramento Rivers
- Protecting against adverse water quality impacts resulting from groundwater and surface water interaction

Contact Rob Swartz at (916) 967-7692 or

rswartz@rwah2o.org if you would like an opportunity to comment on the draft.

RWA Signs Contract for Grant Funds

RWA and the California Department of Water Resources on September 23 executed a \$21.7 million contract to provide Proposition 13 grant funds to implement the American River Basin Regional Conjunctive Use Program. The funds will go toward needed water infrastructure improvements.

Seven RWA member agencies – including Sacramento Suburban WD, Citrus Heights WD, Fair Oaks WD, San Juan WD, Placer County WA and the cities of Roseville and Sacramento – will each receive a portion of the grant and provide matching dollars for a variety of projects.

“This grant underscores the power of regional collaboration,” said RWA Chair Gary Reents. “These facilities will strengthen the region’s efforts to better manage its valuable surface and groundwater resources, consistent with the Water Forum Agreement.”



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(l-r, EID Director John Fraser, EID General Manager Ane Deister, RWA Executive Director Ed Winkler.)

RWA Membership is Growing

El Dorado Irrigation District recently joined the Regional Water Authority, marking the seventh large agency to join RWA and the authority's first full member in El Dorado County. El Dorado County Water Agency joined RWA as an associate member in May.

Ane Deister, general manager of El Dorado ID, said the district looks forward to working with RWA on regional water issues. "We are delighted to have the opportunity to join the RWA and be part of the regional water dialog," Deister wrote in a letter to RWA Executive Director Ed Winkler.

RWA also welcomed two new associate members in recent months. Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District was approved for associate membership in September, while Sacramento Municipal Utility District became an associate in July.

The RWA Board of Directors created the associate membership class last May for entities that are not water purveyors but have an interest in regional water issues. Associate members do not become members of the Joint Powers Authority, but are able to participate in RWA's subscription services.

WEP Update

RWA's Water Efficiency Program (WEP) is moving ahead with an aggressive menu of projects designed to help area water providers fulfill Water Forum best management practices (BMPs). With on-the-ground activities in Sacramento, El Dorado and Placer counties, the program continues to take its message to new audiences and open new channels of cooperation.

To help water suppliers gear up for 2004 BMP targets, Program Manager Charlie Pike is working directly with Water Forum staff to clarify what's required and explore cost-effective ways to satisfy upcoming commitments. A workshop will be scheduled soon for participants to review Water Forum commitments, discuss concerns and develop a plan of action for implementing BMPs in 2004-2005.

"Rinse and Save" Program Nears Halfway Point

Restaurants throughout the region are saving water and energy thanks to the innovative "Rinse and Save" program. More than 200 low-flow spray nozzles have been distributed to area restaurants so far, and RWA estimates a savings of about 10 million gallons of water a year. Additionally, the nozzles will save participating businesses about 80,000 therms of natural gas energy, or about \$63,000 in utility costs. The program is funded primarily by a grant from the California Public Utilities Commission.

Toilet Replacement Program Gets the Word Out

Partnering with the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District, seven water providers are taking part in a rebate effort aimed at replacing high-volume toilets with new ultra-low flush units. The sanitation district is providing up to \$350,000 per year on a matching basis and has distributed 270,000 bill inserts to its customers this summer.

Lincoln Moves Ahead with Groundwater Plan

The City of Lincoln expects to adopt a groundwater management plan (GMP) at a public hearing November 11. The plan, developed with input from the public and an Advisory Committee of local stakeholders, will help guide management of the basin for long-term groundwater sustainability for the city and local users.

The City of Lincoln invites the public to review the current draft of the GMP.

It is available on-line at www.ci.lincoln.ca.us, under *City Departments*, under *Public Works/Engineering*.

Training Classes A Success Thanks to Districts

RWA thanks Citrus Heights Water District and San Juan Water District for providing instructors for recent training classes.

John Townsel, operations superintendent for Citrus Heights Water District, served as instructor for the 15-week Beginning Water Supply Principles workshop for treatment plant operators.

Gayne Johnson, relief operator for San Juan Water District, currently is instructing the 10-week Beginning Water Treatment Plant Operation class. The class continues through November 4.

Water Community News

Mal Toy to Direct Planning Services at PCWA

Mal Toy has been appointed to serve as Placer County Water Agency's new director of planning services. Toy, who previously served as the agency's planning administrator, joined PCWA in 1995 and has played a key role in water resource planning throughout the county.

Lorance to Be Next General Manager at San Juan

San Juan Water District has announced the appointment of Shauna Lorance as the next general manager of the district. Lorance, who currently serves as assistant general manager and has been with the district since 1996, will succeed long-time General Manager Jim English when he retires later this year.

"Shauna understands the value of regional thinking and working in a collaborative manner," English said. "Her credentials, strong work ethic, and support she receives from employees and colleagues make her an excellent choice for the position."

RWA Director Moeszinger Will Be Missed

The water community mourns the loss of Bob Moeszinger, a long-time director of the Orange Vale Water Company and member of the RWA Board of Directors. Moeszinger, 73, passed away July 29 after serving 15 years on the Orange Vale Water Company board and 35 years with the Citrus Heights Fire Department. He had served on the RWA Board since 2001.

