

**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

## RWA Adopts Priorities for 2004-'05 Integrated Planning, Water Efficiency a Key Focus

Developing an Integrated Water Resources Management Plan and re-focusing water efficiency efforts to achieve best management practices compliance are two key elements in the 2004-'05 action plan adopted by the Regional Water Authority Board of Directors on July 8.

The plan lays out several priority objectives for the coming year and specific actions to reach those goals. Developed with comments and input from the RWA Strategic Workshop held March 24, the plan is consistent with the RWA budget for the 2004-'05 fiscal year adopted by the Board on May 13.

"The need for integrated planning in the region was a major theme at our strategic workshop," RWA Executive Director Ed Winkler said. "This action plan reflects the importance of integrated planning and the role RWA can and should play in developing and implementing programs that build on cooperative efforts in our region."

Specifically, the action plan calls for RWA to take the lead in developing a subscription-based Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) program. The IRWMP will incorporate and build upon the work of the American River Basin Cooperating Agencies (ARBCA), which formally concluded its work last year with the completion of a Regional Water Master Plan.

Work on the Integrated Regional Water Management Planning Program (IRWMP) is

poised to begin with the approval of the program by the RWA Executive Committee and the circulation of project agreements to potential participants. To date, 12 participants have committed to the program, with more expected to sign up soon.

Other priority objectives identified in the action plan include:

- Providing a forum for regional collaboration and the implementation of important programs.
- Effectively implementing the Regional Water Efficiency Program (WEP).
- Administering the \$22 million (Proposition 13) American River Basin Conjunctive Use grant program.
- Managing the Sacramento Groundwater Authority pursuant to the RWA / SGA services contract.
- Assisting members in identifying additional opportunities for grants and cost-sharing partnerships.
- Representing the mutual interests of RWA members in regional planning forums.
- Representing the mutual interests of RWA members with state and federal legislative and regulatory bodies.
- Assisting members with training, education and public awareness tools.
- Promoting RWA membership.

The full action plan is available on the RWA Web site at [www.rwah2o.org](http://www.rwah2o.org).

## SGA Recognizes Corps for Supporting Groundwater Efforts

The SGA Board of Directors formally commended the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in June for its support and skillful assistance in developing the regional groundwater Data Management System (DMS) and Groundwater Management Plan (GMP).

In a formal resolution adopted by the Board on June 10, SGA acknowledged the Corps' contribution to the effort and cited the partnership between the two agencies as a major factor in completing the DMS and GMP on time and within specified budgets.

The project included three key deliverables made possible through the Corps' support: 1) development and population of a database of

all SGA member agency water supply-related data, 2) development of a user-friendly computer interface to view and analyze the data, and 3) preparation of a groundwater management plan for the basin underlying northern Sacramento County.



SGA Chair Ron Bachman (l) presents a resolution commending the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for its support and assistance on the regional groundwater DMS and the GMP. Phil Brozek (r) accepted the resolution on behalf of the Corps.

"The SGA Board of Directors hereby acknowledges and commends the United States Army Corps of Engineers for its generous support and project management in the successful completion of a Data Management System and Groundwater Management Plan, which will serve as valuable tools in SGA's efforts to manage the north-area groundwater basin for the benefit of current and future generations."



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

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## AB 303 Grants a Success for Region

The 2004 round of AB 303 grants was a success story for our region, with three agencies securing a combined total of nearly \$700,000 in grant funding. The success of the three agencies – the City of Folsom, the City of Lincoln and the Sacramento Groundwater Authority – demonstrated that multiple agencies from the region could obtain grant funding from the same pool of resources.

Folsom will use its grant to study groundwater resources within the city. The study includes an analysis of existing data and exploratory drilling and monitoring. The City of Lincoln will use its grant to support the management objectives of Lincoln's recently adopted groundwater management plan. Plans call for constructing up to five dedicated monitoring wells within the city.

SGA will use its grant funds to improve the existing regional monitoring well network. The project will include installing 11 dedicated monitoring wells, which will be monitored by SGA and owned by local water agencies. (See story below.)

## Official Grant Award Letter Received

SGA has received an official letter from the Department of Water Resources confirming the award of \$250,000 to SGA as part of the 2004 Local Groundwater Management Assistance Program (AB 303). The June 30 letter serves as a preliminary commitment of the grant funds, which will be used to improve and expand a regional monitoring well network.

The DWR grant will provide funds for installing wells, outfitting them with water level and temperature sensors, and analyzing two full sets of water chemistry samples.

## New Strategy Committee To Look at Contamination

Spurred by the discovery that contamination from Aerojet has migrated under the American River, SGA has established an ad hoc Groundwater Contamination Strategy Committee to address the issue and potential impacts in the north-area groundwater basin.

Composed of representatives from Fair Oaks Water District, Carmichael Water District, Southern California Water Company, California-American Water Company, Sacramento Suburban Water District and Sacramento County, the committee will coordinate with the Water Forum Successor Effort to develop regional strategies for approaching groundwater contamination in the basin.

The migration was discovered in February when rocket fuel component N-nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA) was detected in a monitoring well on the north side of the river in the Carmichael area. The discovery prompted Carmichael Water District to cut back on pumping from its groundwater wells and step up groundwater monitoring and testing. Sacramento Suburban General Manager Rob Roscoe said water suppliers north of the river need proactive strategies to respond to contamination and other threats to the basin's groundwater resources.

"We've watched what has happened south of the river, and we want to learn from that," Roscoe said. "The plume is upon us. Water purveyors need to have a plan in place for getting alternative water supplies and treatment on line when and if it hits their wells."

Formation of the committee is consistent with SGA's groundwater management plan objective of protecting the basin's groundwater resources. A key function will be to communicate with responsible regulatory agencies to ensure the interests of SGA member agencies are served.

Groundwater contamination is a major concern for the region because it could reduce the overall yield of the groundwater basin and jeopardize the ability of local water purveyors to meet their Water Forum commitments.

## WEP Update

As the new fiscal year gets underway, RWA's Water Efficiency Program is pursuing a number of initiatives to help member agencies fulfill Water Forum best management practices (BMPs).

A key focus is the process of updating BMPs as part of the Water Forum Successor Effort.

Ed Kriz of the City of Roseville and consultant Betsy Reifsneider have been appointed co-chairs of the Water Forum's Water Conservation Negotiating Team, which will spearhead the BMP update. The Water Forum has set an aggressive schedule to complete the process by January 2005.

## BMP Clarification

In response to concerns raised by RWA members, Water Forum staff convened a meeting of the Water Caucus in June to delineate which BMP elements are satisfied by RWA's Water Efficiency Program and which need to be implemented by individual water suppliers. A table detailing the latest understanding on WEP compliance was developed for discussion at the meeting and has been sent to RWA members for comment. The table is available on RWA's Web site at <http://www.rwah2o.org/rwa/files/pub-BMPlist04-05.pdf>.

## Water Efficiency Services

To help RWA members meet BMP targets for 2004, the program has engaged contractors to provide a number of services, including landscape irrigation reviews (BMP 5). The successful "Rinse and Save" program will again be offered, and a consultant will be available soon to audit business water use and suggest water and energy-saving measures.

## Proposition 13 Grant Status

Five consultants provided proposals in response to RWA's request for proposals for irrigation expertise for a new incentive program aimed at improving landscape irrigation in the Sacramento area. The WEP was awarded a \$975,000 grant under Proposition 13 for the program.

## Water Community News Deister Elected to Executive Committee

El Dorado Irrigation District General Manager Ane Deister was elected to the RWA Executive Committee in May. Her election filled a vacancy created by the departure of Rich Plecker from his position as general manager of the Fair Oaks Water District. Plecker resigned to take a new job with Montgomery Watson Harza in Sacramento.

## Breninger & Fraser on NWRA Board

Placer County Water Agency General Manager Dave Breninger has been elected to serve on the National Water Resources Association (NWRA) Board of Directors, representing the California Caucus. John Fraser, a member of the El Dorado Irrigation District Board of Directors, has been elected to serve as an alternate on the NWRA Board.

