

**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  
 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  
 Golden State 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  
 West Sacramento, City of

**RWA Associates**

El Dorado County Water Agency  
 Sacramento Municipal Utility District  
 Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District

## Regional Water Plan Poised to Receive \$25 Million Grant

### *RWA, Freeport Authority Program Among 7 Selected for Funding*

A cutting-edge water plan for the American River basin is poised to receive a \$25 million grant from Proposition 50 of 2002.

The American River Basin Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, developed jointly by RWA and the Freeport Regional Water Authority (FRWA), is among seven projects recommended for funding statewide in a two-step grant proposal process. The RWA / FRWA application was the third-highest ranking program in the state.

RWA and FRWA formally adopted the American River Basin Integrated Regional Water Management Plan earlier this year to better integrate their water supply planning efforts. The plan will increase water supply reliability, improve water quality, enhance local flood control and help protect the lower American River and the lower Cosumnes River watersheds.

"This funding assistance will help our region move forward with a variety of projects that will produce real improvements in water supply, water quality and protection for the American River and the lower Cosumnes River," RWA Executive Director Ed Winkler said.

Local projects benefiting from the funding include: the Freeport Regional Water Project, which will supply surface water from the Sacramento River to customers in central Sacramento County and the East Bay area; a flood management and habitat restoration project by the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency; expansion of water recycling by Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District and the City of Lincoln; construction of new groundwater production wells or improvements to existing wells by Placer

County Water Agency, Sacramento Suburban Water District, San Juan Water District, Orange Vale Water Company and Citrus Heights Water District; water treatment plant expansions by Carmichael Water District and the City of Roseville; development of river management and conjunctive use opportunities on the Cosumnes River by The Nature Conservancy; construction of a new pipeline to serve surface water to an area currently served exclusively by groundwater by the City of Sacramento; and improvements to local surface water quality through improved storm water diversions by Sacramento County.

"The state is clearly rewarding regional solutions to water resource problems," said FRWA General Manager Eric Mische. "I expect the ongoing partnerships with our member agencies, East Bay Municipal Utility District and the Sacramento County Water Agency, and RWA to pay dividends for years to come."

Sacramento County Water Resources Director Keith DeVore pointed to the value of regional collaboration on water. "Working together maximizes our ability to provide the greatest benefits to residents of our communities," he said.

Anthony Saracino, director of California water policy for The Nature Conservancy, said the successful collaboration has yielded a progressive groundwater management plan that begins to address linkages to the Cosumnes River. "We look forward to continued collaboration to further our efforts in protecting the Cosumnes River ecosystem while providing for a sustainable water supply," Saracino said.

A final decision on the draft funding recommendation is expected in early 2007.

## Forum Explores Emerging Water Issues

### *Event Organized by West Yost Draws 80 Attendees*

Regional approaches to water management and future funding opportunities were among the topics discussed at a November 2 forum hosted by RWA.

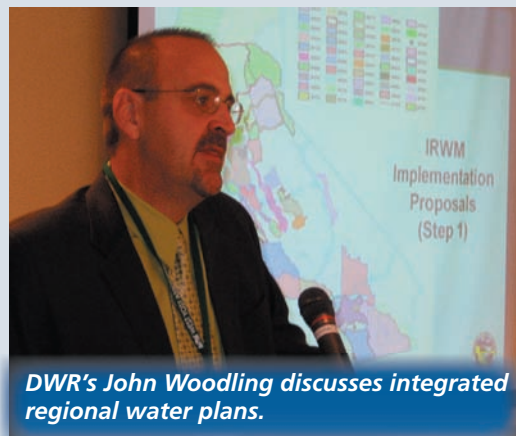
About 80 people attended the session, held at Lion's Gate Hotel and Convention Center in the McClellan Business Park. The program offered an overview of the most recent California Water Plan, efforts to develop a new Delta vision, and key provisions of Proposition 84, a \$5.4 billion water and resources bond approved by voters November 7.

Case studies on water planning efforts in Davis and Alameda County's Zone 7 Water Agency were also on the agenda.

John Woodling, principal geologist with the California Department of Water Resources, noted the growing trend toward regional water plans and described current grant programs to improve local and regional water supply reliability. He noted that Proposition 84 includes \$1 billion in funding for integrated regional water management programs.

"Water decisions today are much bigger than how to provide water for customers," Woodling said. "There are many more things to consider. In some cases, there are issues that no single agency can resolve on its own."

The forum was co-sponsored by West Yost Associates, California Bay-Delta Authority, City of Davis, Department of Water Resources, Environmental Science Associates and Zone 7 Water Agency.



*DWR's John Woodling discusses integrated regional water plans.*



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BUILDING ALLIANCES IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

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## Full Agenda for WEP in 2007

RWA's Water Efficiency Program is planning a full slate of community outreach activities in 2007 to encourage local water users to take advantage of water-wise services offered by water suppliers.

Leak detection and repair and large landscape programs will be a key focus, with customer incentives of up to \$5,000 available until late 2007 for improvements to the efficiency of existing irrigation systems serving more than one acre.

Plans also are moving forward to explore a longer term program with Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) for both residential and commercial clothes washer rebate programs. The current pilot program has been a success.

Judy Colvin is serving as interim manager of the WEP through March while Lisa Maddaus is on a planned leave. Colvin comes to RWA from the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), where she was an environmental scientist in the Conjunctive Water Management Branch. Her most recent work there included providing technical assistance on integrated regional water management plans, evaluating grant applications, and managing contracts for AB 303 Local Groundwater Assistance and Prop 50 planning grant awards. She also worked at DWR's Office of Water Use Efficiency and the Southern District Office, reviewing urban water management plans and maintaining CIMIS weather stations.

## Huell Howser Visits Roseville ASR Project

In the Sacramento Valley, it's all about partnerships, as Huell Howser learned in late October while shooting an upcoming segment of "California's Water," a multi-part series for public television underwritten by the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA).

The segment, titled *Sacramento Valley: Working Together Pays Off*, brought Howser to three locations to learn how local, state and federal agencies are coming together to protect fish and the environment, while meeting the water needs of a growing population. The segment is sponsored by RWA.

The first stop on the tour was the American River, where partners are implementing an array of programs to improve water supply while protecting and enhancing the lower American River.

Next, shooting moved to Roseville, where state, local and regional agencies have developed an innovative way to store water underground.

The project, known as aquifer storage and recovery, allows the City of Roseville to inject treated drinking water into a local groundwater basin during wet times. The water is "banked" until needed in dry periods to help meet demands without additional diversions from the American River.



*Huell Howser interviews Chris Petersen, principal hydrogeologist with Montgomery Watson Harza, Inc., and RWA Executive Director Ed Winkler.*

"This is a perfect example of a partnership between a local agency, a regional agency and a state agency all coming together to store water underground, leave it there until needed, and then pump it out. And it's all happening here underneath a park in a new development in Roseville," Howser said. "You never know where you're going to find partnerships in California water."

The final stop in the segment was Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District's state-of-the-art fish screen on the Sacramento River near Hamilton City.

The *Sacramento Valley* segment is set to air in January.

### RWA Receives SMUD Award

RWA has received a Community Energy Award from the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) for its efforts to save water and energy in the Sacramento region.

SMUD Board Member Linda Davis, who presented the award to RWA Executive Director Ed Winkler at a meeting of the SMUD Board of Directors in October, praised RWA for its leadership and cooperation on water- and energy-saving programs.

She cited RWA's efforts to promote water/energy partnerships among area water suppliers and to merge water-use efficiency best management practices with SMUD's peak load reduction goals. Since local water suppliers use a significant amount of energy to treat and deliver water to homes and businesses, reducing water consumption translates directly into energy savings.

RWA's Winkler said the SMUD award demonstrates the value of partnering with utilities and other organizations to reduce water and energy use.

### Input Sought on Water Accounting Framework

Sacramento Groundwater Authority (SGA) held a workshop November 20 to gather feedback on a draft Water Accounting Framework to guide development of a regional conjunctive use program.

Input received at the workshop will be used to prepare a final draft framework and a resolution for consideration by the SGA Board of Directors in early 2007. About 30 people attended the session.

The draft framework lays out policy and technical details needed to help implement a regional conjunctive use program and promote equity among participating agencies. It includes six primary elements that collectively seek to protect the long-term health of the groundwater basin while creating incentives for individual water suppliers to expand their conjunctive use programs consistent with the historic Water Forum Agreement.