



Grant Programs Keep Rolling

First Major Effort Nears Completion, New Ones Getting Under Way

Twelve projects funded through RWA's first major grant success are on track for completion by year's end. Seven of the projects planned as part of the American River Basin Conjunctive Use Program (ARBCUP) are now fully complete, with the remainder under construction.

The projects, which include new pipelines, pumps and other facilities, are designed to help the region better manage surface and groundwater supplies. Funded in part by a \$22 million Proposition 13 grant received in 2002, ARBCUP is expected to increase the region's water supply by more than 20,000 acre-feet of water annually.

Meanwhile, RWA is nearing execution of a funding agreement to receive an additional \$25 million in grant funding under Proposition 50 of 2002. That grant will help fund 14 priority projects identified in the American River Basin Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP), a joint program by RWA and the Freepoint Regional Water Authority.

The IRWMP will be updated in late 2007 to identify the next series of priority projects and position the region to compete for additional funding under Proposition 84, the \$5.4 billion bond measure passed in November that includes \$1 billion in statewide funding for integrated water resources projects.

On June 1, RWA received notice that it is being recommended for \$1.1 million in grant funding under Proposition 50 for water use efficiency projects. See story on back page for further details.



DWR representative Judy Colvin views the City of Roseville's water treatment plant expansion during a recent site visit. City of Roseville Principal Engineer Jim Mulligan provided an overview of the project, one of several that will receive funding under a \$25 million Proposition 50 grant for the American River Basin Integrated Regional Water Management Plan.

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

Water Accounting Framework Adopted

The Sacramento Groundwater Authority (SGA) has approved the second phase of a Water Accounting Framework that will guide development of a regional conjunctive use program.

The SGA Board of Directors approved a resolution at its June 14 meeting that formally identifies the framework as an appropriate vehicle to further carry out and implement groundwater management and conjunctive use activities in the region. The framework lays out four objectives consistent with the Water Forum Agreement and Groundwater Management Plan adopted by SGA in 2003. They include:

- Ensuring a safe and sustainable water supply for the region.
- Encouraging water purveyors to bank water in the groundwater basin, when available, for use in dry periods.
- Setting forth rules for operating a model groundwater bank and monitoring the

basin to ensure its sustainability as the program is implemented.

- Refining and enumerating SGA's role in implementing these objectives.

Approval of Phase 2 of the framework effort paves the way for Phase 3 to get under way. Key tasks in that phase will include developing a model groundwater bank with appropriate operating criteria, holding briefings on the framework with stakeholders, and developing monitoring criteria for objectives identified in SGA's Groundwater Management Plan.

Phase 3 efforts will be funded by a planning grant under Proposition 50 of 2002.

Dion Elected to ACWA / JPIA Executive Committee

RWA Chair Joe Dion was elected May 7 to the Association of California Water Agencies Joint Powers Insurance Authority's Executive Committee. Dion also serves on the ACWA / JPIA Board of Directors as the Citrus Heights Water District representative.



Regional Water Authority
BUILDING ALLIANCES IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

5620 Birdcage Street, Suite 180
Citrus Heights, CA 95610
(916) 967-7692
www.rwah2o.org

Water Community Turns Out in Force

Several RWA and SGA members appeared before the Rancho Cordova City Council in March to testify on the importance of protecting groundwater from advancing plumes of contamination associated with Aerojet facilities.

The testimony by Tom Gray, Fair Oaks Water District; Tom Gohring, Sacramento Water Forum; Sandy Kozlen, Carmichael Water District; Michael Benbow, Golden State Water Company; Andy Soulé, California American Water; and Ed Winkler, SGA, helped build the case for the council to vote 5-0 in support of a new treatment facility designed to clean up groundwater contaminated by various chemicals including perchlorate and industrial solvents.

The group noted that spreading contamination could also threaten the region's conjunctive use strategy, which is a cornerstone of the historic Water Forum Agreement.

The positive outcome has been described as an example of the power of regional cooperation.

SGA Leaders Take Message on the Road

In an effort to increase communication among SGA and individual board members, SGA Chair Pam Tobin and Executive Director Ed Winkler have launched a series of presentations to take the message of regional cooperation to members.

Tobin and Winkler already have visited San Juan Water District, Orange Vale Water Company and Citrus Heights Water District. Presentations are planned at Fair Oaks Water District, Rio Linda / Elverta Community Water District and Sacramento Suburban Water District in the coming weeks.

WEP to Receive \$1.1 Million Grant

Funds Will Help Install 12,000 Water Efficient Toilets

RWA'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 a successful rebate partnership between 10 RWA members and the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District, and individual rebate programs managed by the City of Roseville, Placer County Water Agency and El Dorado Irrigation District. 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.

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.

"Be Water Smart" Effort Wins Award

The Water Efficiency Program's "Be Water Smart" campaign won top honors in May from the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC), Sacramento Chapter.

The award in the "overall communications program" category recognized the WEP for creative, innovative and results-driven outreach efforts in 2006. The efforts included a new regional hotline (1-888-WTR-TIPS) in both English and Spanish to connect local residents, landlords and business owners with services and incentives such as toilet rebates and clothes washer rebates from local water utilities. Other elements included a public information campaign, advertising and media outreach activities aimed at encouraging more than

1.7 million water customers to "Be Water Smart."

The IABC Crystals honor regional excellence in the field of communications. RWA Executive Director Ed Winkler credited program participants for their efforts and thanked Interim Program Manager Judy Colvin for stepping in for several months while Lisa Maddaus was on maternity leave. Maddaus resumed her management role in May.

Meanwhile, WEP outreach activities continue at a busy pace with significant media coverage of the Ultimate Garden Makeover Contest, interviews with local radio and television stations, and airing of new water efficiency public service announcements on local stations, including Capitol Public Radio.

RWA Forms Bay-Delta Issues Committee

With key decisions ahead on the future of the Bay-Delta, a new RWA committee has been formed to draft regional policy principles on such issues as Delta conveyance, environmental protection, upstream water supply reliability, water rights protection and other regulatory areas.

The committee, appointed by RWA Chair Joe Dion, is tasked with developing written principles articulating the region's general interests and required assurances on Delta issues. RWA Vice Chair Ane Deister serves as chair of the committee. Other members include Dave Breninger, Placer County Water Agency; Shauna Lorange, San Juan Water District; Ken Payne, City of Folsom; Rob Roscoe, Sacramento Suburban Water District; and Derrick Whitehead, City of Roseville.

Once developed, the principles will go to the Executive Committee for consideration and recommendation to the full RWA Board of Directors.

