

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

Strategic Plan Adopted to Guide RWA Activities

The RWA Board of Directors has adopted a Strategic Plan that calls for the organization to play an active role in improving regional water management and educating key audiences on the region's issues and needs.

The plan, adopted by the board in July, lays out four foundational goals RWA will pursue to serve its members' needs. The goals include:

- Continuously improving an integrated regional water management plan to guide effective water resources management in the region.
- Assisting members with implementing water resources management strategies, including securing external sources of funding.
- Informing and educating members and interested parties by providing a forum for discussion of issues, conducting outreach and offering a clearinghouse for sharing information.
- Representing regional needs and concerns in legislative and regulatory arenas.

"RWA has made important progress since its formation just eight years ago. But the world has changed considerably since then, and it was time to step back and refocus," RWA Chair Shauna Lorance said. "This plan has clarified our mission, vision, and goals and will help guide us for the next several years. We look forward to providing the services and the exchange of ideas needed to help meet our regional goals."

Specifically, the plan calls for RWA to develop an updated American River Basin Integrated Regional Water Management Plan by June 30, 2011, and to complete a study of potential impacts of climate change on regional water supply reliability by Sept. 30, 2011. RWA will also seek to identify ways to expand recycled water use and recommend opportunities to better coordinate groundwater management and policy throughout the region by Dec. 31, 2011.

The plan also calls for RWA to help its members achieve water-use efficiency targets and reach out to local elected officials and others on regional water issues. Briefings for city councils, boards of supervisors and other groups and educational workshops for RWA members are just some of the tools to be employed. The RWA Strategic Plan is available at www.rwah2o.org.



Rob Roscoe, RWA Vice Chair, solicits input at the Strategic Planning Workshop.

Federal Grants Awarded for Water Efficiency Efforts

RWA members are poised to receive more than \$5 million in federal grant funding for water efficiency projects in the Sacramento region. The awards include a \$5 million grant to accelerate water meter installation and nearly \$295,000 in customer rebates for weather-based irrigation controllers.

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation selected five RWA members to receive \$5 million in grant funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The federal stimulus dollars, along with local matching funds, will allow water agencies to accelerate the installation of water meters in the region.

RWA coordinated the proposal, and Sacramento Suburban Water District submitted the application on behalf of Carmichael Water District, El Dorado Irrigation District and the cities of Sacramento and West Sacramento.

Water providers in the greater Sacramento region have aggressively pursued metering over

several years. Many agencies' service areas are fully metered, and the region as a whole now has about half of all connections metered. Only about one-third was metered in 2000.

"Water meters are a critical water efficiency tool," RWA Executive Director John Woodling said. "They help water providers and customers better understand how water is used and where changes can be made."

The metering grant follows an earlier award of \$294,184 to RWA from the CALFED Water Use Efficiency Grant Program administered by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's Mid-Pacific Region. That grant will be used to offer incentives to customers to install weather-based irrigation controllers. The "smart controllers" use technology to apply only the amount of water necessary for healthy landscaping.

El Dorado Irrigation District, City of Folsom, Orange Vale Water Company and Sacramento Suburban Water District will be participating in the irrigation controller program.

State Unfreezes Grant Funding

The State of California has resumed reimbursements and other payments for state-funded grants. RWA recently received payments from the state for invoices submitted under several grant programs, including \$639,000 from the Proposition 50 Integrated Regional Water Management grant program, \$411,522 from the Proposition 13 Conjunctive Use grant program, and \$226,202 for toilet rebates.

Work is also authorized to continue under RWA's Proposition 50 planning grant and the Sacramento Groundwater Authority's contaminant study, funded through the Department of Water Resources' 2008 Local Groundwater Assistance Grant Program (AB 303).

State funding for grants and other programs was frozen earlier this year due to the state's budget crisis.



Regional Water Authority
BUILDING ALLIANCES IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

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New General Manager at EID

Jim Abercrombie became general manager of El Dorado Irrigation District on Sept. 8. A long-time El Dorado County resident, he previously served as general manager of Amador County Water Agency.

Abercrombie has more than 30 years of management experience, including 11 years as Amador Water Agency's general manager and 20 years at Pacific Gas and Electric Company.

Soulé Promoted at California American Water

California American Water promoted Andy Soulé to the Northern Division general manager position earlier this year. In his new position, Soulé is responsible for overseeing the company's Northern California division, which includes 11 water systems within Sacramento, Sonoma and Placer counties.

Soulé joined California American Water in 2002 as an engineer. His resume includes more than 20 years of engineering and management experience with a variety of consulting firms.

Executive Director's Message

by John K. Woodling

A Delta solution and new requirements for water conservation took center stage in the final weeks of the 2009 legislative session. A far-reaching package of five water-related measures was assembled in the waning hours, but ultimately fell short of a vote as the Legislature adjourned Sept. 11.

Though there is widespread support for solving the water supply and ecosystem crisis in the Delta, elements of the package could have adversely affected the water supplies and economy of the Sacramento region – without significant benefit to the area. RWA joined other water agencies, environmental groups and stakeholders in urging the Legislature to set the package aside until key concerns could be resolved.

The silver lining in this cloud was that RWA and its members were closely engaged and well coordinated in attempting to get our issues addressed. Representatives of RWA members and I closely tracked

developments and kept each other informed as legislation rapidly developed. Many of us testified at committee hearings and echoed similar messages on our key issues.

We were able to mobilize several of our local legislators to speak out and ensure that our needs were not overlooked. We developed and agreed on amendments to be pursued. We helped to mobilize a regional coalition of broader interests in our region, and engaged other water users from upstream of the Delta.

As you read this, the Legislature may be at work again on potential solutions to the state's water woes. Water managers in the Sacramento region need to play a part in developing those solutions. Fortunately, we now know that we can successfully mobilize behind a regional message – and we have shown other players in the debate that we will not be overlooked.

Water Efficiency Program in Full Swing

RWA's Water Efficiency Program partnered with the Sacramento River Cats and Raley Field this summer to promote water efficiency and showcase the recent water audit of Raley Field. As part of the promotion, WEP participants received 1,000 ticket vouchers for River Cats games to use as incentives for homeowners to sign up for Water-Wise House Calls.

The River Cats helped promote the program through e-mail blasts, information on the team's Web site and a video board slide featuring the Be Water Smart logo. Signs promoting toilet rebates were also placed in restroom stalls at Raley Field.

RWA launched a 10-week Green Gardener Training Program in September designed to help local gardeners learn sustainable practices and water-smart techniques for gardens and landscapes. Geared toward landscape professionals, the program provides high-quality training in all the key principles of River-Friendly Landscaping.



Raley Field Water Audit.

RWA's WEP staff will convene a workshop later this fall with general managers and conservation staff from RWA members to explore the future direction of the regional water efficiency program.

Save the Date for 2009 Holiday Social

Mark your calendar for the RWA/SGA annual awards banquet and Holiday Social, set for Thursday, December 10, 2009. Further details will be available soon.