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## **Sign Up for the *Be Water Smart* School Program in May** *RWA, Sacramento Bee Team Up to Offer Free Classroom Materials*

**SACRAMENTO, Calif.** – Water conservation doesn't have to be a dry subject. The Regional Water Authority (RWA) and the *Sacramento Bee* have created a fun and exciting way to bring water-related educational tools to area classrooms this May.

Part of the popular Newspaper in Education (N.I.E.) program, the “Be Water Smart” project is designed to help students understand the importance of water in their daily lives. It is a great classroom unit for May, which is widely recognized as Water Awareness Month in California.

“Be Water Smart” is suggested for grades K-8. There is no cost to classroom teachers. RWA and its participating member agencies sponsor all participation costs for local schools.

Teachers who enroll in the project will receive:

- **Student supplements** that tell the never-ending story of the water cycle and introduce students to ecology through math, science and language arts. A class set of supplements will be delivered to schools May 1.
- **Teaching materials**, including a “Be Water Smart” teacher guide with practical applications in language arts, social studies and science. A poster / map called “California Waterways” will also be provided for the classroom bulletin board.

- **A special N.I.E. subscription** that includes a class set of the *Sacramento Bee* delivered to the school on four consecutive Tuesdays beginning May 1. Teaching materials provide 12 newspaper-based lessons for grades K-4, and 15 lessons for grades 5-8.
- **Additional material.** K-4 teachers will receive a class set of "Water Conservation and You" booklets, featuring Mr. Leaky.

Students in participating classrooms will also have the chance to win cash awards and other prizes, including a special guest appearance from the famous water conservation mascot "Mr. Leaky."

Teachers can sign up for the "Be Water Smart" program by calling the *Sacramento Bee's* customer service line at 916-321-1785 (enter option one) or by visiting us on-line at <http://guide.sacbee.com/community/nie/> .

Participating RWA members agencies include the cities of Folsom, Lincoln, Roseville, Sacramento and West Sacramento, California American Water, Carmichael Water District, Citrus Heights Water District, El Dorado Irrigation District, Elk Grove Water Service, Fair Oaks Water District, Golden State Water Service, Orange Vale Water Company, Placer County Water Agency, Rio Linda / Elverta Community Water District, Sacramento County Water Agency, Sacramento Suburban Water District, and San Juan Water District.

RWA is a joint powers authority representing 22 water providers in the greater Sacramento area. Its primary mission is to help its members protect and enhance the reliability, availability, affordability and quality of water resources. For more information, see [www.rwah2o.org](http://www.rwah2o.org).

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