



## The Regional Water

### Authority 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

Fair Oaks Water District

Florin Resource Conservation District/  
Elk Grove Water Service

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 Launches Ambitious Water Efficiency Program

RWA's Board of Directors has approved an ambitious 18-month, \$1.7 million Water Efficiency Program (WEP) that will bolster regional water use efficiency efforts and help member agencies meet Water Forum commitments.

"The Regional Water Efficiency Program had an excellent year in 2002," Program Manager Charlie Pike said. "We look forward to building on that success to provide better programs to serve our customers through 2004."

Accomplishments in 2002 included:

- More than \$1.1 million in grant funding
- Numerous workshops and certification courses
- Water awareness radio advertising campaign
- Assistance to water suppliers with Urban Water Management Plans
- Bulk purchase and printing of water efficiency materials
- Coordination of local water efficiency programs

Over the next 18 months, an array of new programs will be launched to help participating agencies implement best management practices (BMPs) for water efficiency on a regional basis.

Upcoming programs include leak detection and repair projects, landscape irrigation efficiency incentives, expanded school education programs and cooperative marketing with retailers.

Continued investment in the WEP better positions the region to collectively meet Water Forum commitments as well as potential future certification requirements of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, said Pike.

Pooling of resources and expertise also saves money for RWA members. "Our water efficiency program assists our communities to actively participate in using water, our most valued natural resource, in the most effective manner possible. We all benefit and save money when we work together," said RWA director Pauline Rocucci.

## EWA Pilot Project Completed

The Sacramento Groundwater Authority (SGA) has completed a first-of-its kind conjunctive use pilot project in partnership with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) and five SGA member agencies to make water available to CALFED's Environmental Water Account (EWA).

As part of the project, Citrus Heights Water District, Fair Oaks Water District and the city of Sacramento extracted and used a total of 7,150 acre-feet of groundwater, freeing up a portion of the surface water supplies they normally would have used. San Juan and Sacramento Suburban water districts provided banking and wheeling services. The unused surface water was purchased for \$536,000 by the USBR to benefit fish and habitat through the EWA.

The project demonstrated SGA's ability to coordinate and implement conjunctive use activities on a regional scale. It also contributed to RWA's successful application for a \$22 million Proposition 13 grant for its American River Basin Regional Conjunctive Use Program.

## 2003 Leadership Elected

The RWA Executive Committee and officers were elected January 9 by the RWA Board of Directors.

Gary Reents, director of utilities for the City of Sacramento, was elected chair of the Authority,

## And the Award Goes to...



Former City of Sacramento Utilities Director Jim Sequeira (left) is presented with the first-ever RWA Distinguished Service Award by FOWD General Manager Rich Plecker. See other side for complete story.

and Bob Churchill, general manager of Citrus Heights Water District, was elected vice chair.

Other committee members include John Downing, board member, Del Paso Manor Water District; Lyle Hoag, board member, San Juan Water District; Rich Plecker, general manager, Fair Oaks Water District; Pauline Rocucci, board member, Placer County Water Agency; Rob Roscoe, manager, California-American Water Company; Paul Selsky, board member, Carmichael Water District; Derrick Whitehead, environmental utilities City of Roseville.

On November 14, 2002, new officers were selected for the Sacramento Groundwater Authority. Rob Roscoe, manager of California-American Water Company, is the new chair of SGA. Ron Bachman, board member of Sacramento Suburban Water District, is the new vice chair.



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

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Congressman Doug Ose, right, is greeted by RWA Executive Director Ed Winkler at the RWA's annual holiday social.

## Ose Calls for Action on CALFED, Water Supply Issues

"It's time to move forward on expanding the state's water supply," Congressman Doug Ose told RWA members December 4. "I will push for action on the CALFED Bay-Delta Program in Congress this year."

Ose, the guest speaker at the RWA's annual holiday social, said he was hopeful progress would be made in 2003 to reauthorize CALFED and the projects needed to improve water supply reliability. He noted, however, that a great deal of money is being spent on studies when what is really needed is concrete action on water supply projects.

"I will be insistent that when CALFED moves forward, they deliver new water supply," said Ose, a third-term Republican whose district includes suburban Sacramento and much of the Sacramento Valley.

Ose noted that RWA members supply a product that is essential to life, and pledged to provide any assistance he could to help water agencies carry out that task.

## Four Individuals Recognized for Achievements

RWA's first-ever Distinguished Service Award was presented December 4 to **Jim Sequeira**, outgoing director of the City of Sacramento's Department of Utilities.

In addition, the RWA's annual Water Statesperson of the Year Award was presented to three individuals. The recipients were **Vanessa Nishikawa**, supervising engineer with Montgomery Watson Harza; **John Woodling**, chief of the Conjunctive Water Management Branch of the California Department of Water Resources; and **Ed Winkler**, RWA Executive Director.

"These awards are RWA's way of giving recognition to people whose efforts have resulted in exemplary achievements," said **Lyle Hoag**, a member of the RWA's Executive Committee and a director of San Juan Water District. The awards were presented at the RWA's annual holiday social.

Sequeira, who began his career with the City of Sacramento Department of Utilities in 1967, was honored for years of leadership and contributions to the region's water community. He played a key role in developing the Water Forum Agreement to address the Sacramento area's water supply needs.

The Distinguished Service Award, sponsored by RWA Executive Committee member **William Porter**, recognizes service and leadership in the water community over a period of years.

Nishikawa, Woodling and Winkler each were honored with the 2002 Water Statesperson of the Year award for their work in securing a \$22 million Proposition 13 grant for the RWA from the California Department of Water Resources. The grant will support RWA's American River Basin Regional Conjunctive Use Program.

## Reents Takes Helm as Director

The City of Sacramento has announced the appointment of **Gary Reents** as the new director of the city's Department of Utilities.

Reents, who was elected chair of the Regional Water Authority last month, assumed the top Department of Utilities job on January 11. He replaces **Jim Sequeira**, who retired at the end of 2002. In his 12 years with the City of Sacramento, Reents helped implement the Water Forum Agreement and a \$130 million improvement plan for the city's sewer system.

## Statewide Water Issues Highlight Board Meeting

RWA's November board meeting featured presentations on several key topics facing California's water agencies.

### Election Impacts Water Issues

**Steve Hall**, executive director of the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA), briefed board members on the results of the November elections and their likely impact on water issues in both Washington and Sacramento.

At the state level, Hall noted that Proposition 50, the \$3.4 billion water bond, was approved by 55 percent of voters and will provide funding for an array of water programs. He predicted the top legislative issues in 2003 will include groundwater management, water transfers, property tax revenues and a potential water bond for the 2004 ballot.

### CALFED Moves Forward

**Patrick Wright**, director of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, briefed the board on the new governance structure for CALFED established by legislation signed in 2002. Effective January 1, the new California Bay-Delta Authority is the agency responsible for overseeing implementation of the CALFED Bay-Delta Plan.

Wright said top priorities for 2003 include appointing members to the new Authority's governing board, implementing programs funded under Proposition 50, promoting science in all program areas, and continued emphasis on regional and locally driven projects. Citing RWA as a model for regional solutions, Wright called on the water community to look at the big picture and move California into a new era of integrated regional water management.

### Metropolitan Looks to the North

**Tim Quinn**, vice president of State Water Project Resources for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, provided an update on Colorado River issues and the abrupt loss of water supplies if a plan to gradually reduce the state's use is not finalized. He noted that water demand in Southern California is less than it was a decade ago due to major investments in water conservation and recycling. He said MWD is seeking to purchase water from Sacramento Valley interests to help meet water needs this year.

