



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
- El Dorado Irrigation District
- Fair Oaks Water District
- 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 Associates

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

Regional Collaboration Key to State's Future, New Water Resources Director Says
Lester Snow Cites Regional Water Authority As Example

California's new water resources chief told local water leaders March 24 that regional efforts such as those being pursued by the Regional Water Authority (RWA) will be the driving force in the state's water future.



(l-r) RWA Vice Chair Pauline Roccucci, DWR Director Lester Snow, RWA Chair Bob Churchill.

Addressing RWA directors at a strategic planning workshop, Lester Snow hailed efforts by Sacramento-area water agencies to craft regional strategies that integrate surface and groundwater and increase overall water supply reliability.

"California's water future is clearly multi-purpose, multi-party regional projects," said Snow, who in March took office as director of the California Department of Water Resources. "It's going to be regional strategies, working together to optimize resources and develop regional and integrated plans.

RWA already is going that direction." Snow added that regional programs that emphasize flexibility, conjunctive use of surface and groundwater and water transfers will be ahead of the game in the future.

"Those who get there first will benefit from the programs and funding available. RWA is way down that road already," Snow said, pointing to RWA's success in securing a \$22 million Proposition 13 grant to implement a regional conjunctive use program. He also predicted that the region's recent experiment with making water available to the Environmental Water Account will "bear fruit" for RWA members in the future.

Luncheon speaker Steve Hall, executive director of the Association of California Water Agencies, echoed the notion that local water agencies have emerged as key players in planning and building water facilities, and applauded RWA members for organizing as a region and developing a cohesive approach to water management and protection of water resources.

"Local water agencies working together within and among regions really have taken over leadership in California water," Hall said. "The challenge will be to push the envelope on local innovation and find more ways to get reliable water supplies." See *Strategic Workshop story on other side.*

SGA
SGA Scores Big with AB 303 Grant Application

The California Department of Water Resources recently released preliminary scores for applications for the department's 2003-2004 Local Groundwater Assistance Program. The Sacramento Groundwater Authority's submission for nearly \$250,000 to fund a proposed regional monitoring well program scored 74 out of 76 possible points, placing it among the highest scoring applicants in the state. About \$6 million in funding is available this year, with each project eligible to receive up to \$250,000. A total of 71 grant applications for \$16.7 million were submitted to DWR.

SGA's proposed program calls for installing 11 dedicated monitoring wells in the groundwater basin north of the American River in Sacramento County. The network of wells will allow SGA to better assess conditions in the groundwater basin, which supplies about half the water served to more than 500,000 people in northern Sacramento County.

With SGA members committed to expanding conjunctive use efforts consistent with the Water Forum Agreement, the

monitoring well program will play a key role in managing the basin to meet future water supply needs while protecting the lower American River. The program will assist local water managers to better understand surface water / groundwater interaction along the American River and Sacramento River.

In addition, monitoring wells constructed in the shallower portions of the aquifer will help serve as an early warning system for possible contaminants that could affect public water supplies.

The DWR grant covers the costs of installing the wells, outfitting them with water level and temperature sensors, and analyzing two full sets of water chemistry samples.

Congratulations also are in order for the City of Folsom, which scored well enough to receive funding for a study of its groundwater resources to the south of the American River.

All applications are subject to final approval of the CALFED Bay-Delta Advisory Committee. DWR expects to provide award letters to successful candidates by mid-June.



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Strategic Workshop Focuses on RWA Priorities



More than 60 RWA members, directors and interested parties attended a strategic planning workshop March 24 to explore water issues facing the region and RWA's potential role in addressing them.

The daylong workshop at the City of Roseville Corporation Yard was designed to bring state and regional water issues into focus and identify priorities and objectives for RWA as an organization. A key goal was to identify ways RWA can assist its members as the job of ensuring a safe and reliable water supply for the region grows increasingly complex.

"RWA was formed, in part, to help local water suppliers deal with these complexities and to better position our region in the statewide arena," RWA Executive Director Ed Winkler said. "One theme that resonated with many of the workshop participants was the need for RWA to promote integrated planning in the region."

Asked to list the most critical issues confronting their individual agencies, workshop participants cited population growth, groundwater contamination, infrastructure and funding needs, integrated planning, burdensome regulations, metering and many other topics. All agreed that organizing as a region has better prepared local water suppliers to meet these and other challenges.

SGA Board Is Briefed on Aerojet Contamination

SGA's Board of Directors on April 8 heard the latest on a contaminant plume from Aerojet that has migrated under the American River into the groundwater basin beneath Carmichael.

The discovery of the rocket fuel component N-nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA) on the north side of the American River has prompted Carmichael Water District to increase groundwater testing and reduce pumping from its groundwater wells, which generally are in use only in the summer months. The district relies primarily on the American River for its water supply.

Alex MacDonald, senior engineer with the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, said the contamination north of the river was discovered after Aerojet installed monitoring wells on both sides of the American River to track a plume emanating from the company's facilities in Rancho Cordova.

The regional board asked Aerojet to construct the additional wells after NDMA was detected in wells near Rossmoor Bar Park, an area south of the river that was believed to be outside the contamination area. Tests from wells north of the river in Carmichael showed NDMA had contaminated the groundwater at levels up to 93 parts per trillion, alarming local water suppliers.

Steve Nugent, general manager of Carmichael Water District, said the swiftness with which the contamination was detected in the district was startling. In the 1990s, he said, it became clear the river was not a barrier when the contaminant TCE moved north into the Fair Oaks area. "We all knew there was a possibility the plume could get here," Nugent said of the NDMA plume. "It was a bit of shock how quickly it got here."

Nugent said Carmichael is developing plans to expand its new microfiltration surface water treatment plant from 17 million gallons per day to 25 million gallons per day.

A town hall meeting is planned for June 2 in Carmichael to discuss the contamination and the cleanup plan.

ARBCA "Follow-On"

With the work of the American River Basin Cooperating Agencies (ARBCA) formally completed, RWA has initiated a program to implement elements of the Regional Water Master Plan. The new effort, dubbed the ARBCA follow-on project, marks the third

phase of the development and implementation of a regional conjunctive use program.

RWA's near-term focus is to develop a water accounting framework consistent with the Water Forum Agreement and to develop a regional Integrated Water Management Plan. Congress has authorized \$1.9 million for the follow-on program over five years, and RWA is working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to secure a contract for the funding. Local participating water suppliers are expected to fund 25% of the program cost.

WEP Update

RWA's Water Efficiency Program (WEP) has been active on numerous fronts to help local water suppliers fulfill Water Forum best management practices (BMPs) for water conservation.

On April 21, RWA's Executive Committee reviewed the WEP business plan and approved an agreement for water suppliers to participate in an ambitious array of projects and activities.

"Rinse and Save" Gets Results

The successful Rinse and Save Program netted impressive results and marked the first major achievements for the region under BMP 9, Commercial / Industrial Water Conservation. As part of the program, 475 water-efficient spray nozzles were installed at 348 restaurants and other food service facilities. The nozzles are expected to save an estimated 200 million gallons of water over the next five years, and some 777,000 therms of natural gas.

Importantly for RWA members and the WEP, the Water Forum Conservation Negotiating Team in March decided to give full Commercial / Industrial audit credit for each customer served under the Rinse and Save Program.

Carmichael Wins Clair Hill Award

Congratulations to Carmichael Water District for winning the 2004 Clair Hill Award, presented May 5 at the Association of California Water Agencies' (ACWA) spring conference.

Carmichael WD was honored for its innovative membrane microfiltration water treatment plant. The facility, which produces 17 million gallons a day of ultra-high quality drinking water, was the product of an extensive and often controversial public process to determine how best to comply with new filtration requirements for the American River.

