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RWA Announces Winners of Water Smart Garden Contest *Top Prize is Custom Front Yard Makeover Featuring Water-Wise Design*

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – A Folsom couple has won a \$40,000 front yard makeover in the first-ever Ultimate “Water Smart” Garden Makeover Contest sponsored by the Regional Water Authority (RWA) and local water providers.

Richard and Cheryl Walters won the drawing for the grand prize in June. Their home on Briggs Ranch Drive in Folsom will receive a front yard makeover featuring a custom water-smart landscape designed by Christy Tveit, winner of HGTV’s “Landscape’s Challenge,” and equipment and services donated by RWA’s generous partners.

A celebratory event is planned for September to unveil the completed garden makeover.

Jane Flint of El Dorado Hills won the drawing for a professionally designed, custom water-wise landscape plan by Joseph Pattin of Garden Retreats. Peggy Mables of Roseville won the drawing for two trees in 24-inch boxes from Capital Nursery. The trees will be chosen for the winner’s location using the “River-Friendly Landscaping Guidelines” published by the Sacramento Stormwater Quality Partnership.

The contest, launched in January at the California State Home and Garden Show, was aimed at helping local homeowners save water and money by incorporating water-wise gardening concepts such as low-water use plants and trees into their landscaping.

“We know that outdoor water use accounts for more than half of all residential water use in our region,” RWA Chairman Joe Dion said. “If we can find creative ways for homeowners to become more water-efficient in their yards and gardens, it will help our region save water and energy, and help us better protect the American River.”

Key contest sponsors included Sacramento Municipal Utility District, Rainbird, Garden Soft, California State Home and Garden Show, SmartLine, Water Forum, Weathermatic, and Garden Retreats.

Homeowners entered the contest by completing an entry form that also signed them up for a free Water Wise House Call. To be eligible for the grand prize, entrants had to complete the house call, during which a trained water efficiency professional visited their home free of charge to check the irrigation system and provide a custom watering schedule. If requested by the homeowner, the trained professional would also check indoor plumbing fixtures for leaks and provide free water-saving materials and devices. The contest has been a success, with close to 700 entries from throughout the region.

For more information about Water Wise House Calls, please call the “Be Water Smart” Hotline at 888-WTR-TIPS (888-987-8477).

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.

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