



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 18, 2011

Contact: Greg Larsen
916/491-4094

Regional Leadership Drives Progress in Water Policy *RWA's 10th Anniversary Celebrated as Cutting-Edge Plans Advance*

SACRAMENTO, CA – With tangible results on the ground and an innovative plan in place to protect water resources into the future, local water leaders are marking a decade of collaboration through the Regional Water Authority, a joint powers agency formed to take water management and conservation to a new level in Northern California.

Since its creation in 2001, RWA has launched regional-scale programs to make targeted investments in water-use efficiency, conjunctive use, water recycling and other strategies to make the most of existing supplies and ease pressure on ecosystems and environmental resources. RWA has secured more than \$70 million in grants for the region to help local water suppliers meet their customers' needs while limiting rate increases. RWA represents 24 water providers and affiliated agencies in Sacramento, Placer, El Dorado and Yolo Counties.

“RWA’s 10th anniversary is a milestone for the region,” said Bill George, RWA Chairman. “In the late 1990s, water suppliers faced an uncertain future. Communities were growing quickly, concern for the environment was rising and groundwater contamination was a threat. Fortunately, water managers made a conscious choice to work together to address those challenges and we are seeing the benefits of that decision today.”

The creation of RWA was critical for the success of the Sacramento Area Water Forum, a landmark water planning effort that resulted in a historic agreement aimed at avoiding future water shortages, environmental degradation, and limits on economic growth.

“Starting with the Water Forum, RWA members have brought a collaborative, regional approach to ensuring reliable water supplies while protecting our environment,” said John Woodling, Executive Director of RWA. “This consistent commitment has led to a growing list of successful policy initiatives and projects delivering real results for water consumers, our regional environment and the statewide water picture.”

In addition to a successful regional water efficiency program, RWA is implementing the American River Basin Integrated Regional Water Management Plan to improve water supply and quality for all users in the region. With the assistance of a \$25 million grant awarded in 2006 and another \$16 million grant expected later this year, the program is advancing dozens of high-priority projects ranging from new groundwater wells to pipelines to water treatment plants and watershed protection.

“RWA is a model for successful regional collaboration and local water resources development around the state,” said Timothy Quinn, Executive Director of the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA). “Partnerships such as those forged through RWA are widely seen as the future of California water.”

###

RWA is a joint powers authority representing 24 water suppliers and affiliates 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.rwah20.org.