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RWA Receives Community Energy Award *SMUD Recognizes Efforts on Water, Energy Savings*

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – The Regional Water Authority (RWA) today received a Community Energy Award from the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) for its efforts to save water and energy in the Sacramento region.

SMUD Board Member Linda Davis, who presented the award to RWA Executive Director Ed Winkler at a regular meeting of the SMUD Board of Directors, praised RWA for its leadership and cooperation on water- and energy-saving programs.

She cited RWA's efforts to promote water/energy partnerships among area water suppliers and to merge water-use efficiency best management practices with SMUD's peak load reduction goals. Since local water suppliers use a significant amount of energy to treat and deliver water to homes and businesses, reducing water consumption translates directly into energy savings.

“The Regional Water Authority's programs will offset nearly 70,000 kilowatt hours per year,” Davis said. “This commitment to environmentally friendly electricity production is equal to planting 12.9 acres of trees per year or equal to the electricity needed, on average, to power approximately 6.4 homes for a year.”

Launched in 2001, RWA's Water Efficiency Program is a large-scale effort designed to bolster water use efficiency in the Sacramento region and help local water suppliers meet commitments to protect the Lower American River. In addition to implementing region-wide

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efforts to reduce water use, the program has drawn attention to the link between water and energy use and encouraged local residents to replace toilets and appliances with high-efficiency models that save both water and energy.

In 2006, the program brought water efficiency messages to dozens of area billboards, reached out to area businesses and introduced a new hotline for water efficiency tips. It also promoted sign ups for free irrigation checkups for homes and businesses, high-efficiency clothes washer rebates in conjunction with SMUD and PG&E, and the popular Rinse & Save program, which has distributed hundreds of water- and energy-efficient pre-rinse spray nozzles to local restaurants.

RWA Executive Director Ed Winkler said the SMUD award demonstrates the value of partnering with utilities and other organizations to reduce water and energy use. “It’s an honor to be recognized for our role in improving regional water and energy efficiency. We thank SMUD for being a leader and a strong partner in these efforts.”

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.

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