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## **Regional Water Authority Honors Local Leaders For Achievements, Service to Water Community**

**SACRAMENTO, Calif.** – The Regional Water Authority (RWA) has presented its annual Lifetime Achievement Award to longtime water leader John Fraser and its Water Statesperson of the Year Award to attorney Ryan Bezerra.

Paul Selsky, a member of the Carmichael Water District Board of Directors and chair of the RWA Awards Committee, said the award recipients have been instrumental in representing the region's interests, advancing regional planning efforts and building cooperative relationships. The awards were presented December 10 at the Authority's annual holiday social.

Fraser, a member of the El Dorado Irrigation District Board of Directors since 2001, was honored for his decades of leadership at the local, regional, statewide and national levels. Fraser, who will be president of the EID board in 2010, served as executive director and general counsel of the Association of California Water Agencies for 20 years. He has also served on the boards of RWA and the National Water Resources Association.

“John Fraser is one of the most knowledgeable and intellectually honest water leaders in the state. This region has benefited from his passion for water and the need to ensure adequate supplies for all Californians,” said Ane Deister, former EID general manager and current vice president for sustainable water and executive management at Brown and Caldwell.

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Bezerra, a partner with the firm Bartkiewicz, Kronick and Shanahan, was honored for his efforts to help shape the legislative package on water signed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger last month. As the package made its way through a special legislative session on water, Bezerra worked to craft alternative language and helped build coalitions of northern California water users with common interests to increase the effectiveness of regional efforts with the Legislature.

“Ryan’s competence and tenacity significantly and beneficially affected the outcome of the recent water legislative package,” Sacramento Suburban Water District General Manager Rob Roscoe said during the award presentation.

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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