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RWA Gets National Award for Water Use Efficiency *Regional Effort Praised for Ongoing Success, Leadership*

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – The Regional Water Authority (RWA) has received the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation’s Commissioner’s Award for its regional water use efficiency program.

John Davis, deputy regional director for Reclamation’s Mid-Pacific Region, called the program an outstanding partnership as he presented the award to the RWA Board of Directors on July 14. “Reclamation applauds RWA’s Water Efficiency Program, which has demonstrated ongoing success over its four-year existence based on solid leadership and expertise,” Davis said.

Launched in 2001, RWA’s 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 efforts to reduce water use, this summer the program is bringing water efficiency messages to 24 area billboards and promoting a new hotline for water efficiency tips.

“The Regional Water Authority is honored to accept the 2004 Commissioner’s Award,” RWA Chair Pauline Rocucci said. “We would like to thank the Bureau for its leadership and support of our Water Efficiency Program, as this partnership helps stretch limited water supplies throughout the region.”

RWA’s program helps participating agencies fulfill commitments to implement water use best management practices (BMPs) as part of the Sacramento Water Forum Agreement. Signed in

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2000 by local water purveyors, business leaders, environmental groups and others, the agreement is aimed at providing a reliable water supply for the region's future while preserving the environmental, recreational and aesthetic values of the lower American River.

Roccucci, who also serves as chair of Placer County Water Agency (PCWA), noted that regional efforts allow local agencies to leverage their own investments in water efficiency programs and position the region to achieve greater water savings.

“We are committed to working together as a region to use our water resources as efficiently as possible. It's our top priority,” Roccucci said. “The goal is not only to meet future water needs, but also to protect the environmental values that make this region great.”

RWA has received three water efficiency grants funded by Proposition 13, a statewide bond approved by California voters in 2000. The grants, totaling more than \$1.2 million, provided funding for programs for large landscape irrigation efficiency as well as leak detection and repair.

In addition to the billboard campaign and hotline, RWA's 2005 efforts include sign ups for free irrigation checkups for homes and businesses, toilet replacement rebates, public outreach activities and school education throughout the region. RWA also is continuing the popular Rinse & Save program, which has distributed hundreds of water-efficient pre-rinse spray nozzles to local restaurants through a partnership between RWA and the California Urban Water Conservation Council.

More on RWA's program is available at www.rwah2o.org.

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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