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## **Groundwater Management Plan Adopted for Region** *Major Milestone Achieved in Sacramento Water Planning*

**SACRAMENTO, Calif** – The Sacramento Groundwater Authority (SGA) has adopted a groundwater management plan that will play a key role in protecting local groundwater resources and furthering the goals of the Water Forum Agreement.

The plan, which covers the groundwater basin in Sacramento County north of the American River, provides an essential tool for local water managers to ensure the viability of the region's groundwater resources. Developed with input from technical review and policy committees as well as the public, the groundwater management plan (GMP) lays out five management objectives for the basin and includes several components aimed at monitoring and managing groundwater quality and levels.

“This plan provides a critical framework for managing and sustaining our local groundwater resources,” SGA Chair Ron Bachman said. “We now have an action plan with specific goals and objectives providing a road map for coordination among the 14 overlying water purveyors.”

SGA Executive Director Ed Winkler said the plan was developed to address several factors affecting the long-term health of the groundwater basin. These include declining groundwater levels due to historic pumping, threats to water quality posed by contamination plumes and the need to better manage surface and groundwater supplies to meet the region's growing water demands while protecting the environment.

The plan also incorporates and reinforces regional objectives included in the Sacramento Water Forum Agreement, a landmark accord signed in 2000 by local water purveyors, business and agricultural leaders, environmental interests and citizens groups. The agreement is aimed at furthering the co-equal objectives of providing a reliable and safe water supply for the region's future while preserving the environmental, recreational and aesthetic values of the lower American River.

“One of the challenges we face as a region is ensuring a reliable water supply – even in prolonged droughts,” Winkler said. “Our groundwater reserves are an integral part of the equation. This plan provides the tools we need to further understand our groundwater basin and pursue actions to better protect and sustain the water resources so critical to our future.” The plan also meets the requirements of Senate Bill 1938 of 2002. Under that legislation, public agencies seeking state funding for groundwater projects are required to prepare and implement a groundwater management plan that includes specific elements.

Winkler noted that the plan, which is one of several components of a long-term groundwater management program for the region, was developed with funding and technical assistance provided through partnerships with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the California Department of Water Resources.

The plan and further details about regional groundwater management can be accessed at <http://www.sgah2o.org/sga/>.

SGA is a joint powers authority created in 1998 to collectively manage the Sacramento region's north area groundwater basin. Its mission is to manage, protect and sustain groundwater resources consistent with the Water Forum Agreement for the benefit of water users within the basin and to coordinate with other water management entities and activities throughout the region.

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