



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Ed Winkler 916/967-7692

December 12, 2003

*Note to editors: A photo of Dave Breninger is available in electronic format.*

## **Regional Water Authority Honors Dave Breninger As Water Statesperson of the Year**

**3 Area Water Leaders Also Recognized for Career Achievements**

**SACRAMENTO, Calif.** – The Regional Water Authority (RWA) this week presented its annual Water Statesperson of the Year award to Dave Breninger, general manager of the Placer County Water Agency.

In addition, three individuals received the Authority's Distinguished Service Award for their career contributions to the region's water community. The recipients include Lyle Hoag, director of San Juan Water District; LaNell Little, recently retired general manager of Carmichael Water District; and Jim English, retiring general manager of San Juan Water District.

Paul Selsky, director of Carmichael Water District and chair of the RWA Awards Committee, said the award recipients have been instrumental in building alliances and advancing programs to improve the region's water supply reliability. "The leadership and achievements of these individuals have made a significant difference to our region," Selsky said. The awards were presented December 9 at the Authority's annual holiday social.

Breninger, who joined Placer County Water Agency as general manager in 1992, was honored for his role in bringing new members to RWA this year and for providing leadership on several key initiatives at PCWA in 2003. Specifically, Breninger was instrumental in securing tens of millions of dollars in federal funding for water supply and efficiency projects in the region and helped launch the American River Pump Station Project and the collaborative

-MORE-

Sacramento River Water Reliability Study this year. Breninger serves on the board of directors of the Association of California Water Agencies and the National Water Resources Association.

The Water Statesperson of the Year award was presented for the first time in 2001. Awardees are selected for specific timely achievements in building successful alliances in the RWA service area.

Hoag, Little and English were honored with this year's Distinguished Service Award, established in 2002 to recognize service and leadership in the water community over a period of years.

Hoag, who has been a director of San Juan Water District since 1998 and previously served on the board of Fair Oaks Water District, was honored for his 50 years of service to the water industry. His long career has included overseeing construction of the Sacramento Regional Wastewater Management System as well as top leadership positions with the California Urban Water Agencies (CUWA) and the California Urban Water Conservation Council (CUWCCC). Hoag has served on RWA's Executive Committee since 2001.

Little retired in June after 17 years with Carmichael Water District, including the past eight years as general manager. Under her leadership, the district planned and built a water treatment plant on the American River that supplies some of the purest water in the nation to the Carmichael area. Little served as Carmichael Water District's representative to the landmark Water Forum process.

English is retiring at year's end from San Juan Water District, which he has guided as general manager since 1989. His water career has spanned nearly 40 years, including 28 with San Juan. During his tenure as general manager, the district firmly established itself as a leader on regional issues and pursued water efficiency programs that led to an overall decrease in water use despite an increase in retail and wholesale customers. An active member of the Association of California Water Agencies and the American Water Works Association, English is a past president of the Sacramento Area Water Works Association.

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.

# # # #