

July 2018

Building Alliances in Northern California

## MISSION

To serve and represent regional water supply interests and assist Regional Water Authority members with protecting and enhancing the reliability, availability, affordability and quality of water resources.



## Powerhouse Science Center Breaks Ground

RWA Board Chair Marcus Yasutake joined Congresswoman Doris Matsui, Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg and other Sacramento-area leaders to break ground on the new Powerhouse Science Center, a \$50 million regional center of science, nature and technology along the banks of the Sacramento River.

The Regional Water Authority is an inaugural supporter of the Powerhouse Science Center and is funding several

permanent exhibits, including an immersive life-sized house where kids can uncover ways to save water.

Once completed in 2020, this regional science and educational attraction is expected to draw more than 20,000 visitors per month and include 22,000 square feet of exhibit space, a 120-seat digital planetarium and revamped water front park.



# SAVE The DATE

## SGA 20th Anniversary Celebration Set for October 18

Please join us as we celebrate the 20-year anniversary of the Sacramento Groundwater Authority (SGA) on **Thursday, October 18, 2018 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.** at **North Ridge Country Club in Fair Oaks.** Formed in 1998, SGA was created to collectively manage the Sacramento region's north area groundwater basin and was one of the first agencies of its kind in California. Anniversary event details will be posted soon to the SGA website at [sgah2o.org](http://sgah2o.org).

## Steve Nugent Awarded 2018 Excellence in Water Leadership Award

Carmichael Water District General Manager Steve Nugent was awarded the 2018 Excellence in Water Leadership Award by the Association of California Water Agencies at its spring conference in May.

Nugent earned the award for his leadership and commitment to the American River Pipeline Conveyance Project, an innovative water supply project and partnership with Aerojet and neighboring Golden State Water Company that recovers remediated groundwater for beneficial use within the region.

"Steve has demonstrated remarkable leadership throughout his career but especially with regard to the American River Pipeline Conveyance Project," said ACWA President Brent Haste when presenting the award. "His commitment to collaborative integrated regional water

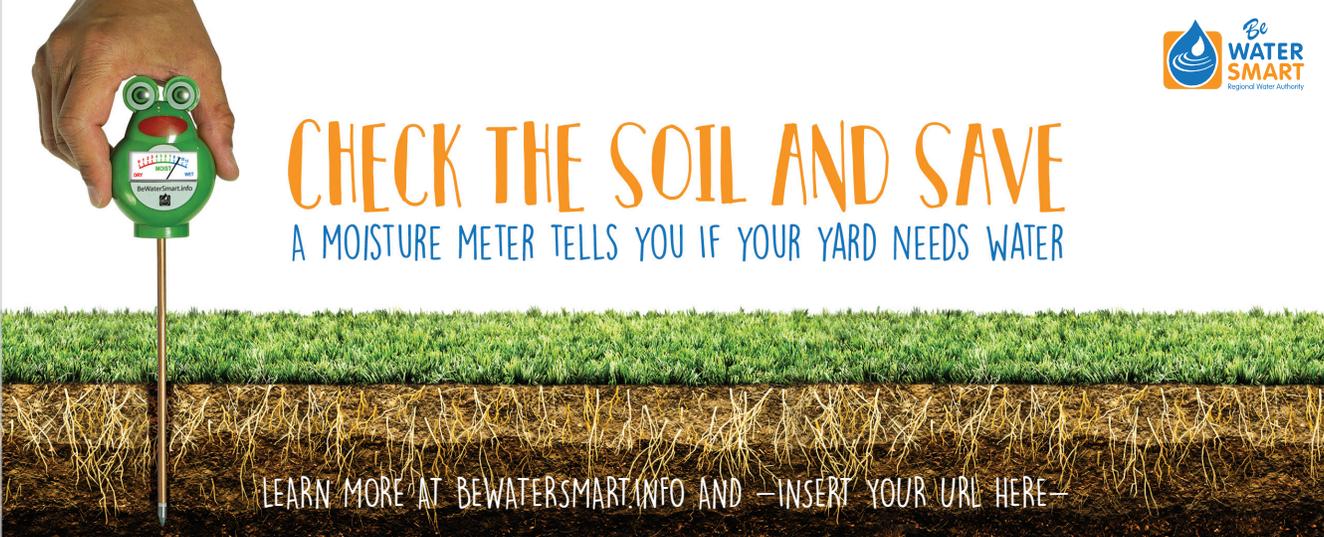


management resulted in an important and highly successful regional water infrastructure project, and his innovative approach to public-private partnerships serves as a model for future efforts."

# RWA Launches Summer Water Efficiency Advertising

RWA is continuing its summer advertising campaign to encourage people to “Check and Save”—use a moisture meter or screwdriver to check soil moisture before turning on sprinklers.

Advertising is currently running on Capital Public Radio, local radio stations in conjunction with weather and traffic reports, and online on Facebook and the Google Display Network. Digital advertising will feature three new “how to” videos, including one on properly watering mature trees in partnership with the Sacramento Tree Foundation.



**Be WATER SMART**  
Regional Water Authority

## CHECK THE SOIL AND SAVE

A MOISTURE METER TELLS YOU IF YOUR YARD NEEDS WATER

LEARN MORE AT [BEWATERSMART.INFO](http://BEWATERSMART.INFO) AND —INSERT YOUR URL HERE—



*Be Water Smart how-to videos*

## Be Water Smart Tool Kit

A tool kit is available to Water Efficiency Program participants to help communicate a consistent regional message on water efficiency. The kit includes key messages, newsletter and website content that can be customized, images for social media, a photo gallery and more. For more information and to access the tool kit, please contact WEP Program Manager Amy Talbot at [atalbot@rwah2o.org](mailto:atalbot@rwah2o.org)

## Amy Talbot Elected Chair of the California Water Efficiency Partnership



A Chapter of the Alliance for Water Efficiency

RWA Water Efficiency Program Manager Amy Talbot has been elected chair of the California Water Efficiency Partnership (CalWEP) Board of Directors. In addition, Greg Bundesen, Water Conservation Supervisor for Sacramento Suburban Water District, was elected Secretary/Treasurer.

CalWEP represents more than 200 water supplier and organization members statewide, working together to foster leadership, expertise and collaboration to advance water conservation and efficiency in California. Board members and officers begin their terms as CalWEP continues its evolution into a new entity focused on helping water providers address new water conservation regulations.

Several significant announcements have been made over the past year, including the selection of Mary Ann Dickinson as the Partnership's Executive Director and its new status as a chapter of the Alliance for Water Efficiency, bringing together two of the country's major organizations dedicated to improving and enhancing water efficiency in California and the United States.

# Legislative Update



## Water Tax: SB 623 and Budget Trailer Bill

California legislative leaders and Gov. Brown in June abandoned a proposed tax on California's drinking water that was opposed by RWA, the Association of California Water Agencies and urban water providers across California.

Senate Bill 623 by Sen. Bill Monning (D-Carmel) and a separate but related budget trailer bill would have imposed a per-connection tax on every public water system customer, ranging from 95 cents to \$10 per month, to fund a "Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund" to address the lack of safe and reliable drinking water in some California communities.

RWA's advocacy on the legislation included building a coalition of a dozen Sacramento-area business organizations to express their concerns about the proposed tax, including the Sacramento Metro Chamber and seven local chambers of commerce.

RWA will continue its work to shape solutions to the critical issues related to access to clean, safe drinking water without taxing one of our most vital necessities.

## Long-Term Urban Water Use Efficiency

On May 31, Gov. Jerry Brown signed into law two new bills that will require urban water providers throughout California to set new permanent water use targets for their service areas by 2022. Senate Bill 606 by Robert Hertzberg (D-Van Nuys) and Assembly Bill 1668 by Laura Friedman (D-Glendale) provide a framework for setting water use targets, as well as implementing and enforcing the new water use requirements.

For the past two years, RWA worked with a broad coalition of water suppliers, associations, and business groups to develop and shape the legislation in a way that strikes the right balance between making water efficiency a California way of life and maintaining local control over water management decisions. Ultimately, the legislation signed into law achieves this by retaining local authority to define water conservation measures that are appropriate for our community and requiring state regulatory agencies to adopt variances that account for unique local conditions rather than handing permanent, unchecked power to regulators to set and enforce water use targets.

Now that the process to develop legislation has finished, RWA will continue to actively work to define the details of its implementation.

## ? Fact Sheet and Frequently Asked Questions Available

RWA has developed a fact sheet and list of frequently asked questions to help members address customer questions about the new water conservation laws. To request a copy, contact Water Efficiency Program Manager Amy Talbot at [atalbot@rwah2o.org](mailto:atalbot@rwah2o.org).



**RWA Board of Directors meetings occur on the second Thursday of every odd-numbered month at 9 a.m.**  
Executive Committee meetings are held monthly, beginning at 8:30 a.m. on the fourth Wednesday.  
Both meetings take place at the RWA Board room. You can find meeting dates and materials at [rwah2o.org](http://rwah2o.org).