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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 9, 2005

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Note to editors: Photos of the award recipients are available in electronic format.

**Regional Water Authority Honors Hall, Bartkiewicz
As Water Statespersons of the Year**
2 Other Water Leaders Also Recognized for Career Achievements

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – The Regional Water Authority (RWA) has presented its annual Water Statesperson of the Year award to Stephen K. Hall, executive director of the Association of California Water Agencies, and Paul M. Bartkiewicz, attorney with Bartkiewicz, Kronick and Shanahan.

In addition, two long-time water leaders received the Authority's Distinguished Service Award for their career contributions to the region's water community. The recipients were Frederick S. Tomich, director of the Orange Vale Water Company, and David P. Spath, recently retired director of the California Department of Health Services' Division of Drinking Water and Environmental Management.

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 building partnerships and furthering programs to improve the region's water supply reliability. The awards were presented December 7 at the Authority's annual holiday social.

Hall, who has been executive director of the 440-member association of public water agencies since 1993, was honored for his leadership this year in developing ACWA's comprehensive water policy document, "No Time to Waste: A Blueprint for California Water." The document, which laid out 12 recommendations for meeting the state's future water needs, has

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been endorsed by elected officials, policy makers, opinion leaders and organizations throughout the state.

“The ACWA Blueprint articulated the water community’s vision and helped focus attention on the regional strategies needed to ensure a reliable water supply future,” said Derrick Whitehead, environmental utilities director for the City of Roseville, who presented the award. “Steve has distinguished himself as a leader and a partner, and has blazed a trail for others to follow to make a difference not only in our region, but also throughout the state.”

Bartkiewicz, a partner in the firm Bartkiewicz, Kronick and Shanahan, was honored for his role in negotiating the Yuba River Accord, a collaborative agreement to resolve long-standing conflicts over in-stream flow requirements on the lower Yuba River. Accord participants include Yuba County Water Agency, seven local irrigation districts, four conservation and fisheries groups, the California Department of Fish and Game, the California Department of Water Resources, and three federal agencies.

“Through his professionalism and dedication, Paul accomplished something this year that many of us would hope to accomplish in our careers,” Whitehead said. “He helped negotiate and finalize the Yuba River Accord, which marked a victory for collaboration over litigation and advanced a comprehensive approach that will benefit everyone.”

Tomich and Spath 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.

Tomich was recognized for his leadership and numerous contributions during his 52 years as a director of the Orange Vale Water Company. First elected to the Orange Vale board in 1952, Tomich was instrumental in the formation of the San Juan Water District in 1954 and currently serves on the Sacramento Groundwater Authority Board of Directors.

Spath was honored for over 30 years of service to the water community through his distinguished career with the California Department of Health Services. Widely respected for his commitment to safe drinking water and his ability to work with local water agencies, Spath oversaw California’s drinking water regulatory program until his recent retirement.

RWA also recognized 11 individuals for their role in developing a landmark new flow standard for the American River that is supported by the water community as well as environmental groups. The standard will establish a new minimum flow requirement for the lower American River that will enhance protection for fish, primarily in fall-run Chinook salmon and steelhead. The effort also includes development of a new river management group, a monitoring program and agreements with local water purveyors to reduce diversions from the American River in dry years.

Receiving honors were: Leo Winternitz, executive director of the Sacramento Water Forum; Ron Stork, senior policy advocate for Friends of the River; Paul Bartkiewicz, partner with the firm Bartkiewicz, Kronick and Shanahan; Mike Finnegan, area manager for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation; Kirk Rodgers, regional director for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation; Martha Lennihan, representing the City of Sacramento; Dave Nawi, representing the Water Forum; Stuart Somach, partner in firm Somach, Simmons & Dunn; Ed Winkler, executive director of the Regional Water Authority; Shauna Lorange, general manager of San Juan Water District; and Derrick Whitehead, environmental utilities director for the City of Roseville.

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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