

February 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.



“The Regional Water Authority has elevated the Sacramento region’s position at the State Capitol as a respected voice on water policy issues. We are now an integral player in shaping legislation to protect our constituency.”

~ Mayor Jeff Slowey
City of Citrus Heights

ACWA Honors RWA with Legislative Outreach Award

The Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) honored RWA and the Irvine Ranch Water District with the 2017 “Most Compelling Case” Outreach Award for their role in co-sponsoring and advocating for legislation on drought preparedness and long-term water use efficiency.



From left: RWA Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Program Manager Adam Robin, IRWD Government Relations Officer Christine Compton and IRWD Board President Douglas J. Reinhart.

2017 Advocacy Program Report Highlights Accomplishments, Hot Topics for 2018

The Regional Water Authority in 2017 marked several significant milestones. For the first time ever, RWA sponsored legislation—Assembly Bills 968 and 1654 authored by Assembly Member Blanca Rubio (D-Baldwin Park)—and worked in partnership with Irvine Ranch Water District to build a statewide coalition of more than 100 water providers, local governments and others to help push these bills forward. While these bills ultimately were not enacted into law last year, the effort cemented a new place for RWA—and the Sacramento region—as a proactive voice and leader on water policy at the state Capitol.

In 2018, RWA’s legislative priorities include continuing our work to further a locally-based approach for implementing the Governor’s framework on long-term conservation, as well as helping to identify alternatives to a proposed tax on residential water bills to help make safe, clean, affordable and accessible water a reality in California.

You can learn more about RWA’s 2017 legislative accomplishments and 2018 priorities in the Advocacy Program Report found at rwah2o.org.



Symposium on Making Safe, Clean, Affordable and Accessible Water a Reality

Leaders from state government, local agencies and the non-profit sector will come together Thursday, March 15, beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Capitol Event Center in Sacramento to explore the challenges and potential solutions that can help make safe, clean, affordable and accessible water a reality in California.

Hosted by the Regional Water Authority, the event will feature introductory remarks by Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg and two panels focused on identifying the challenges and then discussing potential solutions. You can

learn more about the event and purchase tickets at <https://wateraffordabilityevent.eventbrite.com>



Featuring Introductory Remarks By
Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg

Thursday, March 15, 2018
8:30 a.m. – noon

Capitol Event Center at the MAY Building
1020 11th Street, Sacramento

Regional Drought Contingency Plan Completed

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation has accepted the North American Basin Regional Drought Contingency Plan, a multi-year effort designed to help Sacramento-area water managers recognize the next drought in the early stages, anticipate its effects, protect the region from drought impacts and build long-term resiliency to drought and climate change.

The plan examines vulnerabilities to local water supplies caused by drought and climate change, and outlines priority actions to take over the next several decades to address them. The plan also establishes new drought indicators—water storage thresholds and unimpaired inflow for Folsom Reservoir and the Central Sierra Nevada snowpack—with the goal of decreasing the time needed to recognize and act on local drought conditions.

Seventeen local water providers, the Regional Water Authority, Water Forum, California Department of Water Resources and Reclamation participated in the plan's development. The plan is a companion to a related study also underway—the Regional Water Reliability Plan. Once complete, both will identify actions to ensure the long-term sustainability of the region's water resources.

The North American Basin Regional Drought Contingency Plan, the first to be completed under Reclamation's new Drought Response Program, was supported by a \$200,000 grant. You can find the complete plan at <http://rwah2o.org/regional-water-reliability-and-drought-contingency-plan/>



Region Welcomes Three New General Managers

Mark Martin, Rancho Murieta Community Services District: Martin has 26 years of experience in public infrastructure management, urban planning, organizational improvement and using technology to improve customer service. He has been with Stockton's community development department for 14 years, most recently serving as Assistant Director of Community Development. "What resonated for me was his private and public agency experience, ability to problem solve and his use of technology to advance business process improvements," said CSD Board Present Mark Pecotich.

Tim Shaw, Rio Linda/Elverta Community Water District: Formerly the General Manager for Olivehurst Public Utilities District, Shaw has many years in water and wastewater treatment, which will be an asset for the District as it develops its surface water treatment program and implements conjunctive use. "Tim is exceptionally well qualified and a great fit," said RLECWD Board Member Brent Dills. "He brings the experience to work through the kind of growth we are about to see."

Dan York, Sacramento Suburban Water District: York has nearly 40 years of water utility experience with 22 years at Sacramento Suburban Water District. He has served as the District's Assistant General Manager since 2013, responsible for supervising SSWD's employees and all aspects of the utility's operations and planning. Prior to that, he was Operations Manager for both SSWD and its predecessor, the Arcade Water District. "SSWD's ratepayers are fortunate to have a General Manager with Dan's wide range of talents," said Craig Locke, SSWD Board President. "Coming up through the ranks of operators, Dan demonstrated competency and leadership with staff responsible for producing, treating and distributing the District's water, and now his focus on legislation, long-range planning and policy continues SSWD's legacy of leadership in the region."

New RWA Leadership Elected for 2018



2018 Chair and Vice Chair

Marcus Yasutake
City of Folsom
Chair

Paul Schubert
Golden State Water Company
Vice Chair

2018 Executive Committee Members

Robert Dugan
Placer County Water Agency

Ron Greenwood
Carmichael Water District

Kerry Schmitz
Sacramento County Water Agency

Debra Sedwick
Del Paso Manor Water District

Jim Peifer
City of Sacramento

Pam Tobin
San Juan Water District

Dan York
Sacramento Suburban Water District

RWA Board of Directors meetings occur on the second Thursday of every-other 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.

Awards and Recognition



From left: Andy Fecko, Rob Roscoe and Jim Peifer receive awards from RWA.

Fecko, Peifer Receive RWA Water Statesperson of the Year

Andy Fecko, Director of Resource Development for the Placer County Water Agency, and Jim Peifer, Senior Engineer for the City of Sacramento: For their leadership and work on legislative and regulatory issues that

impact the Sacramento region, including long-term conservation legislation, the Modified Flow Management Standard, regional water supply reliability, watershed protection and much more.

Roscoe Honored with RWA Distinguished Service Award

Rob Roscoe, Sacramento Suburban Water District: For his 40-year career in water engineering and management that includes serving as SSWD's General Manager for the past 15 years. Roscoe also recently received the

2017 Emissary Award from the Association of California Water Agencies and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Water Efficiency Campaigns Earn Top Honors

RWA's 2016 "Rethink Your Yard" program received an Influence Award in the External/Community Relations Campaign category, and RWA's 2015 **"Drought Face" campaign** received a Merit Award in the Social Media Campaign category from the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA), California Capital Chapter. PRSA is the nation's largest professional organization serving the communications community.



Local Interests Represented on ACWA Board

Representatives from the Regional Water Authority and four local water providers have been selected to provide statewide leadership and represent the region's interests on the 2018-19 ACWA Board of Directors. They include:

- **John Woodling, RWA Executive Director, Groundwater Committee Chair**
- **Brian Poulsen, El Dorado Irrigation District General Counsel, State Legislative Committee Chair**
- **Josh Alpine, Placer County Water Agency Board Member, Region 3 Chair**
- **Pam Tobin, San Juan Water District Board Member, Region 4 Chair**
- **Mark Emmerson, Carmichael Water District Board Member, Region 4 Vice Chair**