

October 2018

Building Alliances in Northern California

MISSION

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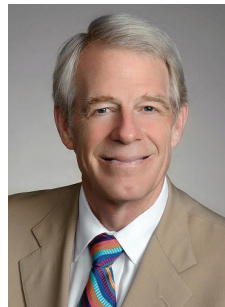


Golden State Water Company
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RWA Board of Directors meetings occur on the second Thursday of every odd-numbered month at 9 a.m. Executive Committee meetings are held monthly, beginning at 8:30 a.m. on the fourth Wednesday. Both meetings take place at the RWA Board room. You can find meeting dates and materials at rwah20.org.

SGA 20th Anniversary Celebration to Feature SGMA Co-Author Roger Dickinson



Roger Dickinson, co-author of the 2014 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), will be the featured speaker at the Sacramento Groundwater

Authority's 20th anniversary celebration on Thursday, October 18, 2018 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at North Ridge Country Club in Fair Oaks.

SGA was established in 1998 to manage the Sacramento region's north area groundwater basin. A product of the Water Forum process, SGA was one of the first groundwater management

agencies of its kind in California. At the time SGA was created, the Sacramento Bee proclaimed in an editorial, "New Groundwater Strategy Offers Hope for the Future," calling SGA "a model for the state." Sixteen years later, SGA became a model for SGMA, California's landmark law that empowers local agencies to sustainably manage groundwater.

Tickets for the SGA anniversary event are still available but going fast. For event details and to purchase tickets, visit <https://tinyurl.com/sga20th>.

SGA Awarded Grant for Groundwater Sustainability Planning

Funding to aid development of first comprehensive plan for entire North American Subbasin

The Sacramento Groundwater Authority has been awarded a \$994,276 grant from the California Department of Water Resources on behalf of five local agencies working to develop the first-ever comprehensive groundwater sustainability plan (GSP) for the entire North American Subbasin.

The grant provides funding for consultant services to fill gaps in data needed to prepare the GSP, as well as develop the final document. When complete, the GSP will outline strategies for sustainably managing groundwater in portions of Sacramento, Placer and Sutter counties. SGA is serving as the contracting lead on the project, which is in partnership with the West Placer Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA), South Sutter Water District GSA, Reclamation District 1001 GSA, and Sutter County GSA. The plan is required by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 and will be the first coordinated effort for the entire subbasin.





RWA Board Adopts Updated Regional Water Management Plan


The Regional Water Authority Board of Directors has adopted an update to the American River Basin Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP), which identifies regional projects and partnerships that will help the Sacramento region best meet its future water resource needs.

The plan, initially developed in 2006 and then updated in 2013, builds upon previous planning efforts to:

- Expand the American River Basin boundaries to include portions of western Placer County that were previously excluded.
- Add descriptions of regional planning efforts, including groundwater sustainability plans, storm water resource plans, North American Basin Regional Drought Contingency Plan, and Regional Water Reliability Plan.
- Update the description of climate change vulnerabilities and resiliency and adaptation strategies.
- Update goals, objectives, principles, and strategies to address sustainable groundwater management, storm water quality, conjunctive use, and engagement of agricultural stakeholders.
- Update and prioritize water management projects necessary for implementing the IRWMP.

The 2018 update was developed over the past year with input by more than 30 organizations during four public workshops. The update was partially funded through a \$250,000 grant from the California Department of Water Resources through Proposition 1. In addition to providing a foundation for guiding water resources management efforts for the coming years, the updated plan will enable the Sacramento region to pursue grant funding for projects.

An electronic copy of the 2018 American River Basin IRWMP is available at <https://tinyurl.com/IRWMP18>.



RWA to host Delta Update Workshop

The Regional Water Authority will hold a workshop on November 8, 2018 following the Board Meeting to provide members with an update on developments on the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan, voluntary settlements, California Water Fix, and negotiations between the Central Valley Project and State Water Project. The workshop will run from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the RWA Board Room.

Legislative Update: Water Tax Abandoned for 2018

The 2018 legislative session closed without a new tax on drinking water, but not before Gov. Brown and legislators attempted to remake the effort as a “voluntary” tax on water bills. Senate Bill 845 by Bill Monning (D-Carmel), would have required water providers to apply a “voluntary remittance to provide safe drinking water to disadvantaged communities” on each customer bill by July 1, 2019. Customers would have to opt-out of the fee.

RWA joined more than 200 water providers, cities, business organizations, and others to oppose the measure, which would have required costly and complex new systems for collecting donations to send to Sacramento. RWA will continue to work with coalition partners to advocate for funding solutions to the critical issue of safe drinking water for disadvantaged communities that do not require a tax on water bills. You can learn more about RWA's position at <https://tinyurl.com/ybqh5tf4>



Water Efficiency Program News



New Report Details Results

RWA has released a new report that details results of the Water Efficiency Program in 2017. The report describes trends in the region's per-capita water use, the number of high-efficiency fixtures and appliances installed, grant funding received, results from advertising and more. You can find the report on RWA's website at rwah2o.org.

Sharing Insights with a National Audience

Water Efficiency Program Manager Amy Talbot will present RWA's 2018-19 outreach campaign and focus group results at the national WaterSmart Innovations (WSI) conference in October. RWA's outreach campaign tackles the problem of landscape overwatering by encouraging people to "Check and Save"—use a moisture meter or screwdriver to check soil moisture before turning on sprinklers—and was created using insights from two residential focus groups conducted earlier this year. WSI is the largest urban water-efficiency conference in the world. Last year's conference drew more than 1,000 participants from 39 states and 21 nations.



Representing Local Water Providers at Regional Events

The Be Water Smart Events team in September represented local water providers at the huge Farm to Fork Festival in downtown Sacramento, which annually draws about 60,000 people. The event was one of three regional events the team attended this year, including Harvest Day in Fair Oaks and the American River Half Marathon in Carmichael. The team's goal is to connect customers with their water provider, provide information about water-wise rebates and services available, and engage visitors in taking a pledge to use water efficiently.