

January 2019

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.



## New RWA Leadership Elected for 2019

### 2019 Chair and Vice Chair

**Paul Schubert**

Golden State Water Company  
Chair

**Kerry Schmitz**

Sacramento County Water Agency  
Vice Chair

### 2019 Executive Committee Members

**Ron Greenwood**

Carmichael Water District

**Marcus Yasutake**

City of Folsom

**Jim Peifer**

City of Sacramento

**Debra Sedwick**

Del Paso Manor Water District

**Brent Smith**

Placer County Water Agency

**Dan York**

Sacramento Suburban Water District

**Pam Tobin**

San Juan 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 [rwh2o.org](http://rwh2o.org).

## RWA Welcomes Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Manager



RWA has welcomed Ryan Ojikian as the new Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Program Manager.

Ryan brings more than a decade of experience

working on a wide range of complex issues in the California legislature, most recently as senior consultant for the Assembly Committee on Water, Parks and Wildlife. There, he worked on water policy issues, including long-term urban water use efficiency legislation signed into law in May.

“Ryan brings exceptional legislative experience, the ability to craft sensible policy approaches and build coalitions to achieve results,” said RWA Executive Director John Woodling. “He is an outstanding addition to our team and will bring great value to RWA’s members.”

In addition to working for the Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee, Ryan has also served as legislative director for Assembly Member Marc Levine (D-San Rafael) and legislative aide for former California State Senator Joe Simitian (D-Palo Alto).



## Advocacy Transitions to Permanent RWA Program

RWA’s Advocacy Program is poised to achieve yet another milestone. Since 2013, RWA members have worked together to develop the Advocacy Program by creating a structure, identifying priorities, setting goals and engaging members in a vision. In 2016, the program formally launched, with the lobbyist contract on a subscription basis.



In 2019, the Advocacy Program will embark as a permanent program serving and supported by all members.

The transition is testament to the program’s accomplishments and results over the past several years to ensure that regional needs and concerns are positively and proactively represented.

# Awards and Recognition



From left: Ryan Bezerra, John Woodling, and Pam Tobin

## Ryan Bezerra Receives RWA Water Statesperson of the Year

**Ryan Bezerra, Bartkiewicz, Kronick & Shanahan:** For his guidance and work on legislative and regulatory issues that impact the Sacramento region, including the Bay-Delta Water

Quality Control Plan and related Delta discussions. Ryan is the only person to be honored with the Water Statesperson award twice, also receiving the award in 2009.

## Pam Tobin Honored with RWA Distinguished Service Award

**Pam Tobin, San Juan Water District:** For her long-time local, regional and statewide leadership and service as a member of San Juan Water District's Board of Directors, member

of RWA's Executive Committee and Board, Chair and member of the Sacramento Groundwater Authority Board, and chair of ACWA's Region 4.

## ACWA Honors John Woodling with Emissary Award



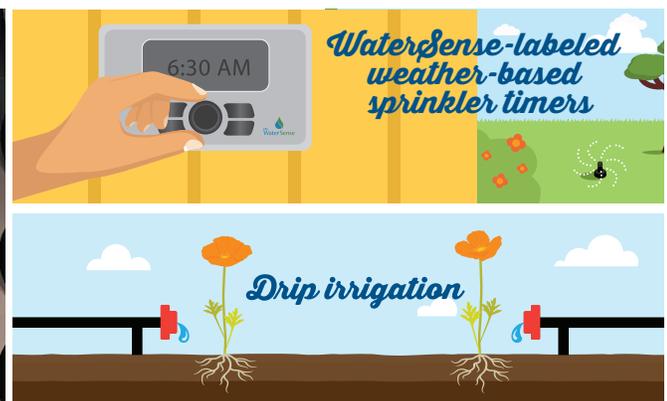
RWA's Executive Director John Woodling was honored in November with the Emissary Award from the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA). The award recognizes individuals who have made remarkable contributions to California water through voluntary service to ACWA.

"John Woodling exemplifies what it means to be a public servant and leader," said Brent Hastey, President of the ACWA Board of Directors. "In addition to his many years of dedicated service in the Sacramento region, John has helped advance numerous critical statewide water issues at ACWA, such as comprehensive groundwater sustainability management and urban water conservation."

During his time on the ACWA Board of Directors, John served as a valuable member of the association's Groundwater, Water Management, and State Legislative committees. He helped create an ACWA policy framework document related to sustainable groundwater management in California, and was actively involved in developing the State's 2017 "Making Water Conservation a California Way of Life" policy document.

## Sacramento Suburban Water District Receives National WaterSense Award

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) honored Sacramento Suburban Water District (SSWD) with a national 2018 WaterSense Excellence in Education and Outreach Award for its creative approach to educating customers about using water efficiently in 2017 and supporting WaterSense. SSWD General Manager Dan York accepted the award during a lunchtime event at the WaterSmart Innovations Conference in Las Vegas.





## Local Interests Represented on ACWA Board

Local water interests are continuing to be represented at the state level through the leadership of RWA, its members and consultants on the 2019-20 ACWA Board of Directors. Board members include:

- **John Woodling, RWA Executive Director, Groundwater Committee Chair**
- **Brian Poulsen, El Dorado Irrigation District General Counsel, State Legislative Committee Chair**
- **Joshua 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**
- **Jennifer Buckman, Bartkiewicz, Kronick & Shanahan, Legal Affairs Committee Chair**

# SGA Marks 20th Anniversary and Progressive Track Record on Groundwater Management

Sacramento-area leaders came together in October to mark the 20th anniversary of the Sacramento Groundwater Authority (SGA) and two decades of progressive groundwater management.

SGA was created in 1998 to manage the groundwater basin in northern Sacramento County. A product of the historic Water Forum negotiations, SGA became one of the first groundwater management agencies of its kind in California.



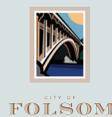
**“What made SGA work was a shared commitment to an overriding public policy goal—to equitably and sustainably manage groundwater,”**

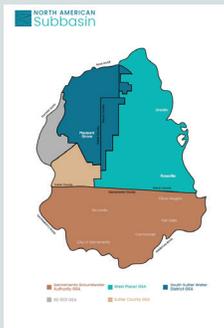
said former Assemblyman Roger Dickinson in describing his involvement with establishing SGA when he was a Sacramento County Supervisor.

During the event, Assemblymember Ken Cooley of California’s 8th District presented a resolution recognizing SGA for its achievements. “The most powerful thing in the way we govern ourselves is when we join together in a common enterprise,” Cooley said.

Looking ahead, SGA is well positioned to continue its work to fulfill the Water Forum Agreement and comply with SGMA. “But that’s only the beginning,” said SGA Executive Director John Woodling. “The groundwater basin will become increasingly important for water supplies and for the ability it provides to maintain the health of the lower American River. There’s a lot more for the future of SGA on the horizon.”

## Thank You SGA Anniversary Event Sponsors!





## New Website Launched for Groundwater Sustainability Plan Outreach

SGA, in partnership with neighboring groundwater sustainability agencies in Sutter and Placer counties, has launched a new website to communicate with stakeholders about the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the North American Subbasin. The plan is required by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 and will be the first coordinated effort for the entire subbasin. Still in the early stages of development, the website ultimately will be used throughout the plan's development process to keep stakeholders updated about the plan's progress, document drafts and opportunities for input. **You can find the site at [nasbgroundwater.org](http://nasbgroundwater.org).**

## RWA Welcomes Fracta as an Affiliate Member

Fracta became RWA's newest Affiliate Member in November, joining 10 other water industry-focused companies as Affiliates. Based in Redwood City, CA, Fracta focuses on bringing artificial intelligence to infrastructure. Its flagship offering is a software application that uses artificial intelligence to assess the condition of drinking water distribution mains. RWA's Affiliate Member category was created in 2014 to promote communication between water managers and the community. Affiliate members may include special districts, trade associations, chambers of commerce, institutions that are major water users, and entities that provide services to water providers.

## Water Efficiency Program News



## Let Your Sprinklers Hibernate: RWA Winter Water Efficiency Ad Tells a 'Beary Water Smart Tale'

RWA's winter water efficiency campaign takes a whimsical approach to asking residents to turn off sprinklers this winter in an animated advertisement running on Facebook. The "Beary Water Smart Tale" features a bear family taking one last step to turn off their sprinkler controller before settling in for a long winter's nap. The ultimate message is that winter's shorter, cooler days mean that sprinklers shouldn't need to run until spring. You can find the ad on [BeWaterSmart.info](http://BeWaterSmart.info).

## Students Challenged to Show Off Their Water Smarts

The 2019 Water Spots Video Contest challenges young film makers to create compelling and original 30-second Public Service Announcement (PSA) videos about using water wisely. The 2019 theme is Show Off Your Water Smarts.

Winning videos will earn cash prizes for both students and their teachers and the chance to premiere at local movie theaters.

In addition, the top video at each school and three teachers that submit the most videos will receive prizes (eligibility rules apply). Entries are due by Friday, March 15, 2019. See all the details at [BeWaterSmart.info](http://BeWaterSmart.info).



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