

April 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.



Executive Director Search Update

The search for a new Regional Water Authority Executive Director is underway. The selection committee will begin interviewing candidates soon. RWA's Manager of Technical Services Rob Swartz is serving as Interim Executive Director until a new Executive Director begins. The new Executive Director will lead both the Regional Water Authority and Sacramento Groundwater Authority.

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.

RWA and SGA Recognize John Woodling for his Decade of Leadership

At consecutive meetings on February 14 and February 15, members of the boards of the Sacramento Groundwater Authority and Regional Water Authority recognized and thanked John Woodling for his decade of service and leadership as executive director. Woodling had announced his departure from the organizations effective March 1.

Woodling became executive director in 2008, and since that time the organizations have flourished under his tenure. Under his leadership, RWA expanded from 22 Members and Associates to 26 and created an Affiliate level of membership, developed and hired permanent staff for a Legislative and Regulatory Advocacy Program, and completed an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan that resulted in bringing in nearly \$30 million in grant funding to the region. At SGA, Woodling was instrumental in the development of a Water Accounting Framework that promotes sustainable groundwater basin use, and in the successful transition of SGA to meet the requirements of

the 2014 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

The Association of California Water Agencies recently honored Woodling with the Emissary Award for his remarkable contributions to California water, including his service on 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.

"Under John's leadership, RWA developed an ambitious Strategic Plan that brought together our region's diverse interests to accomplish exceptional things," said RWA Board Chair Paul Schubert of Golden State Water Company. "While he will be missed, John did what a great leader does—he set the stage for reaching even higher goals."



RWA Finalizes Regional Water Reliability Plan

Launches New Effort to Explore Development of the Sacramento Regional Water Bank

RWA is finalizing a Regional Water Reliability Plan (RWRP), which evaluates the region's supply vulnerabilities and identifies the most promising opportunities to improve long-term reliability at the water provider, community and regional levels.

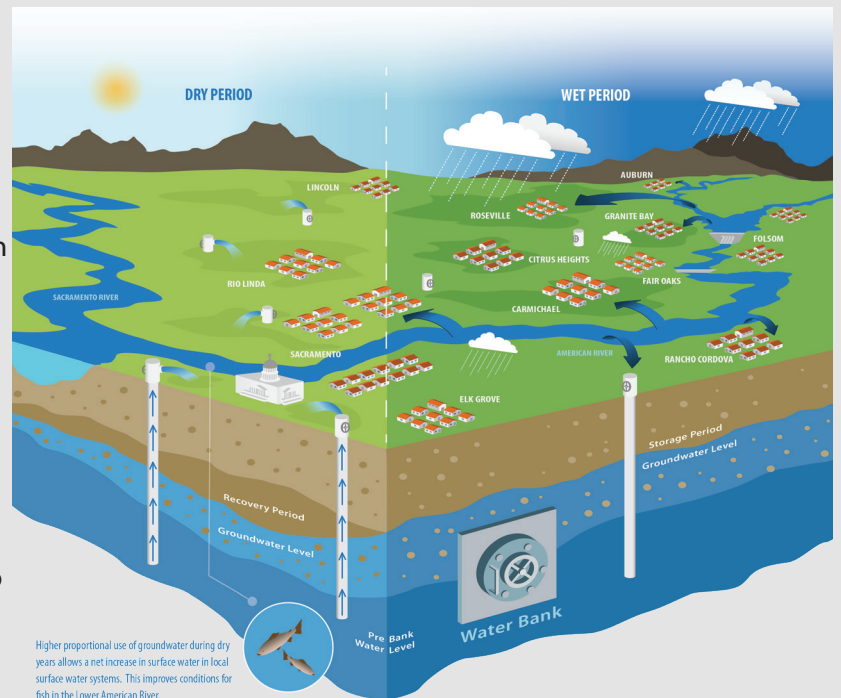
Included as a key objective in RWA's Strategic Plan 2013-2018+, the plan's onset was initially delayed by California's historic drought in 2014-16, which ultimately provided unexpected insight into the region's supply vulnerabilities and opportunities during extreme drought and as projected with climate change.

One of the plan's key recommendations is to continue studying the potential to expand the region's successful conjunctive use program by establishing a water bank. As such, RWA is launching a new planning effort on a subscription basis to explore development of the Sacramento Regional Water Bank.

The Water Bank is projected to allow the region to sustainably increase use of groundwater as a local water source during dry periods, allowing reduced surface water diversions to help meet local environmental needs. In addition, the region's location north of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta provides potential opportunities to collaborate and develop solutions to benefit the environment and communities downstream after local needs are met.

Phase 1 planning will include technical modeling to further define the Water Bank's potential yield, discussions about how the Bank would operate and protect the groundwater basin, and outreach to state and federal agencies, partners and other stakeholders. Phase 2, should participants wish to move forward, will include an environmental analysis.

Estimates are that the Water Bank could be operational as early as 2022 using existing infrastructure.



AWWA's SOURCE Magazine to Feature Region's Conjunctive Use Program

The Sacramento region's conjunctive use program will be featured in the spring issue of SOURCE Magazine, AWWA's publication for the California-Nevada section. Written by John Woodling and Rob Swartz, the article explores how the region overcame groundwater sustainability challenges in the 1990s, weathered the drought through its successful conjunctive use program, and is studying the launch of a new phase in reliability through water banking. The article is expected to be published by the end of April. A link will be posted to RWA's website at rwah2o.org.





Legislative Update

Safe Drinking Water and a Water Tax

With the deadline to introduce new legislation for the 2019 session now behind us, RWA is currently tracking approximately 100 bills broadly related to a tax on drinking water, water quality, water efficiency, and water rights. The issue of safe drinking water and a water tax is anticipated to be a major focus this year. Gov. Gavin Newsom has highlighted safe drinking water as a priority, and it seems likely that the Legislature and Administration will move forward this year with a policy to fund safe drinking water. Currently, there are three proposals related to safe drinking water that RWA is monitoring closely:

- A budget proposal by Gov. Newsom, which is substantially similar to previous legislation and would tax water system customers.
- AB 217 (E. Garcia), which would include a tax on water suppliers, among other things. RWA's position is Oppose Unless Amended.
- SB 669 (Caballero), which would create a trust fund capitalized through the general fund. SB 669 is the only proposal that would not disproportionately affect low-income households and take resources away from a water supplier's core mission. RWA's position is Support.

A current list of bills with RWA's position, as well as position letters, are available on RWA's website in the Advocacy Program section. In addition, RWA has developed talking points on safe drinking water for members that are also available in the Advocacy Program section at rwah2o.org/programs/advocacy-program.

2018 Advocacy Program Recap Now Available

The 2018 Advocacy Program Report is available for downloading. The report reviews last year's advocacy priorities, legislative highlights, and outcomes. You can find it on RWA's website at rwah2o.org.

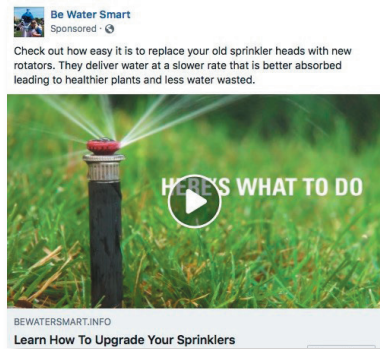
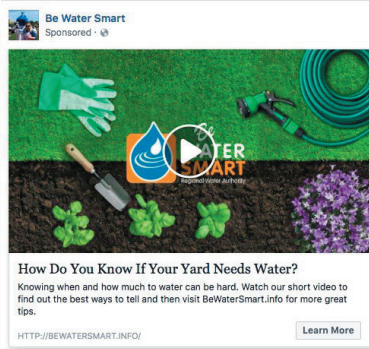


Progress on Water Meters

94 Percent of Water Accounts are Now Metered

Most Sacramento-area water providers are 100 percent metered and have been for years. Others are continuing to upgrade their systems, including installing state-of-the-art wireless water meter reading systems at homes and businesses. The City of West Sacramento is expected to finish installing water meters this year, and the City of Sacramento is projected to finish in 2020. Others are on target to meet the 100 percent metered milestone by the state's deadline of 2025 (or earlier).

Water Efficiency Program News



RWA Launches 2019 Outreach Program

RWA's Water Efficiency Program has launched the second year of a two-year outreach campaign focused on tackling the overwatering problem by encouraging residents to check soil moisture before turning on sprinklers.

Building upon focus group research and tools developed in 2018, RWA will be running paid advertising on Facebook and Google beginning in spring and on Capital Public Radio and commercial radio via

the Total Traffic and Weather Network starting in summer. In addition, RWA is offering a special cost-sharing opportunity to members that wish to partner with RWA on advertising in their local community publications this summer. Finally, RWA will be reaching broad regional audiences through a partnership with the Sacramento River Cats, Sacramento Tree Foundation, and at regional events.

New Tools Available to Water Efficiency Program Participants

RWA has updated the Be Water Smart Tool Kit available online with key messages, new template newsletter text, social media infographics, bill insert templates, photo gallery, and other helpful items to help the region deliver a consistent message on water efficiency. Contact WEP Program Manager Amy Talbot for more information or to access the Tool Kit.

Mulch Mayhem on May 4th

Six local water providers will be hosting Mulch Mayhem events this year on Saturday, May 4. These popular events not only help customers get their yards ready for the hot summer by providing free water-conserving mulch, they also provide a prime media outreach opportunity. Last year, Good Day Sacramento visited PCWA's Mulch Mayhem event, spreading the good news about water efficiency and customer service provided by local water providers. RWA supports Mulch Mayhem through facilitating the involvement of members, digital advertising, and regional media outreach. You can learn more about Mulch Mayhem at BeWaterSmart.info/mulch-mayhem.

