



Conservation CONNECTION



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Articles, ideas, and suggestions are welcome, as are notices of upcoming events, meetings or activities. We reserve the right to edit material, and publication is not guaranteed. Please send all material to Shani Lee at Svlee@mp.usbr.gov.

Reclamation, CALFED, and DWR Team Up in Commitment to Urban Water Conservation Efforts!



Back Row: William Steele of Reclamation, Tom Ghoring of DWR, Front Row: John Davis of Reclamation, Mary Ann Dickinson of CUWCC, and Steve Macaulay of DWR

developing a program of technical and financial incentives for water use efficiency in the urban sector.

The objective of this agreement is to expand the benefits through broad participation by urban suppliers in the Council, including preparation of comprehensive and consistent Urban Water Management Plans and Best Management Practices (BMPs) reporting. Through increased implementation and refinement of locally cost-effective urban water conservation BMPs, we can demonstrate Reclamation's, DWR's, and CALFED's continued commitment to water use efficiency to help alleviate expected water shortages.

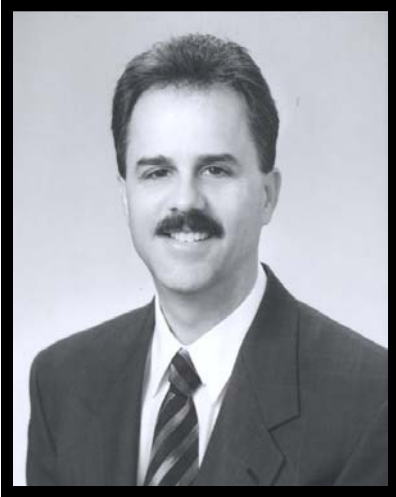
Kirk Rodgers, Reclamation's Mid-Pacific Regional Director, stated, "Reclamation looks forward to this partnership with the State and the California Urban Water Conservation Council. By combining our efforts, we can better manage the State's limited water resources."

The Council is a non-profit organization created to increase efficient water use Statewide through partnerships among urban water agencies, public interest organizations, and private entities. The goal of the Council is to integrate urban water conservation BMPs into the planning and management of California's water resources. Through the promotion of BMPs, the Council has been able to facilitate water conservation in California for the past 10 years. This grant will significantly assist the Council in reaching their water use efficiency goals.

To learn more about the Council, call (916) 552-5885 or visit their website at www.cuwcc.org.



The *Spotlight* is on...



Mike Wade

Mike Wade, the first Executive Director of the Agricultural Water Management Council (AWMC), understands the challenges of the farming industry. Having grown up in Merced on an almond farm, which was family owned and operated for over 35 years, Mr. Wade has a deeper understanding of the farm industry than most. Mr. Wade's understanding of agricultural water issues has been strengthened by his other current position as Executive Director of the California Farm Water Coalition. This experience provides Mr. Wade with the foundation necessary to lead the agricultural water users in their efforts to improve water use efficiency in California.

The AWMC, which is located in Sacramento, is a California nonprofit public benefit organization that was formed in 1996 as a result of the signing of the historic Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Regarding Efficient Water Management Practices by Agricultural Water Suppliers in California. This MOU committed the AWMC to improve the management of agricultural water supply through the implementation of efficient water management practices.

The various signatories, including agricultural water suppliers, environmental interest groups, and other interested parties, constructively work together to develop, endorse, and implement appropriate Water Management Plans. Mr. Wade hopes that the AWMC will become known as a "long-lived organization that has a reputation for assisting districts with the implementation and management necessary to use water efficiently for the future of California."

Membership in the AWMC continues to grow and presently more than 3.3 million irrigated acres from retail districts have been committed to the MOU. With a goal of 3.8 million acres, the AWMC under Mr. Wade is committed to recruiting additional signatories to the MOU. During these recruitment efforts, various workshops will be held throughout California by the AWMC in an effort to magnify the significance of efficient water use for agriculture throughout California. Through these outreach efforts, Mr. Wade anticipates the development of a model Water Management Plan and improved coordination between various water suppliers as the endorsed plans are implemented at the local level.

As time evolves, Mr. Wade found himself challenged with many obstacles. "The Council has been successfully working to carry a positive image to the public about Ag water use while also meeting the expectations of the environmental committee and trying to also overcome long term funding challenges." These obstacles will keep Mr. Wade busy as he strives to reach out to signatories and meet acreage goals.

Mr. Wade is a graduate of Merced College with a degree in Agriculture. Despite his AWMC and California Farm Water Coalition obligations, he manages to find some free time to be with his wife and three daughters, and to foster his interests in aviation and boating.

You can reach Mike Wade at 916-441-7868 or mwade@cfwc.com.



CVPIA Corner

Grand Opening of the Friant Water Education Center and Garden Set for September 2002

Under construction for the past year, the Friant Water Education Center and Drought Tolerant Garden is set to open its doors officially this coming September. Constructed by the Center for Irrigation Technology at Fresno State in partnership with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Millerton State Parks, and the California Division of Forestry, the garden has been designed as a self-guided tour for the public to view plants and landscaping options for this arid region of California. Tours have been conducted this spring by Parks and Recreation guides, which emphasize water conservation, water-wise uses, and plants having low water needs. The Center also features a small exhibit house where school children learn about water and the environment in the San Joaquin River watershed. Phase II and III of the Construction Program will encompass hands-on exhibits on irrigation systems, low-flow urban water uses, and general water conservation techniques. A firescape exhibit will also be included to assist foothill homeowners in selecting low water-use plants and effective landscaping for fire safe zones in communities.



Future site of the Friant Water Education Center

Contact Us...



USBR WATER CONSERVATION STAFF 2002

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Creek Week Celebration



Children making water cycle bracelets

Volunteers and staff from the American River Water Education Center at Folsom Dam participated in the 12th Annual Creek Week Clean Up Celebration. This event took place at Sacramento's Discovery Museum Science Center on Saturday, April 20, in celebration of this year's Earth Day. The festivities were hosted by the Sacramento Urban Creeks Council, which encouraged people from all walks of life to participate in river clean up and emphasized the importance of clean, usable water.

The children that participated in the Creek Week Clean Up Celebration made water cycle bracelets, which provided the Bureau of Reclamation an opportunity to demonstrate that the Earth's water must be shared and used wisely. The children were very enthusiastic and enjoyed a day of learning while also helping to clean the environment.

At the conclusion of the river clean up, a Junk Art contest was held. The winner was Jones and Stokes who created a masterpiece called "Don't Drink and Drive." Over 1,200 people participated in the day long event. There were approximately 16 booths from various water and wildlife related agencies, organizations, and associations who contributed information and activities for the public to experience. The master of ceremonies was Dave Bender, a local television news anchor. A band provided music. Overall, a fun and productive day was had by all and we look forward to participating again next year!



Displays at the Creek Week Celebration



Avoid using the garbage disposal as it uses a great deal of water. Place food in the trash or start a compost pile as an alternative method. Garbage disposals can add up to 50 percent to the volume of solids in the sewer system and create problems for septic tanks.

What Districts are Doing...

The Regional Water Authority and the Regional Water Use Efficiency Program

by

Charlie Pike, Regional Water Efficiency Manager of the Regional Water Authority

In June 2001, 17 utilities in the Sacramento metropolitan area inaugurated the Regional Water Authority (RWA). The RWA's mission is "to serve and represent regional water supply interests and assist RWA members with protecting and enhancing the reliability, availability, affordability and quality of water resources." To meet these objectives, the RWA performs a variety of functions and programs. Membership in the RWA is voluntary. Membership reflects consensus goals.

Incorporating the expertise and enthusiasm of the former Sacramento Area Water Works Association conservation committee, this RWA program began in January 2002. Its expanded activities are designed to help area water providers fulfill Best Management Practices (BMPs) for urban water conservation.

The RWA offers the \$400,000 Regional Water Efficiency Program through two tiers of services. The core activities serve as the fundamental building blocks necessary for implementing the BMPs and include public information, school education, program marketing and coordination, grant applications and technical assistance. Tier 2 services are subscription activities that are made available according to water supplier and customer needs.

Currently, the following water suppliers participate in the Regional Water Efficiency Program:

Carmichael Water District
California American Water Company
Citrus Heights Water District
Del Paso Manor Water District
Fair Oaks Water District
Florin Resource Conservation District/Elk Grove Water Service
Folsom, City of

Fruitridge Vista Water Company
Orange Vale Water Company
Placer County Water Agency
Rancho Murieta Community Services District
Roseville, City of
Rio Linda/Elverta Community Services District
Sacramento, City of
Sacramento, County of
Sacramento Suburban Water District (formerly Arcade and Northridge water districts)
San Juan Water District
Southern California Water Company

The technical support of the California Urban Water Conservation Council (CUWCC), and the financial assistance of both the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), have been very important to the RWA.

The first 6 months of the RWA Water Efficiency Program existence have been extremely fruitful. Some of the activities have included:

- Developing and gaining participant acceptance of the \$400,000 Water Efficiency Business Plan for 2002.
- Sponsoring radio Water Awareness Month public outreach messages and broadcasting a second landscape irrigation efficiency message in June. An autumn message will remind customers to reduce irrigation for the winter.
- Submitting four applications to DWR for Proposition 13 Urban Water Conservation grants.
- With the CUWCC, presenting the Water Conservation Coordinator Class and Certification Exam at the Carmichael Water District on June 5-6, 2002.

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Agricultural Exposition

On January 17 and 18, 2002, the Newlands Water Protective Association held its second annual Agricultural Exposition (Ag Expo) in Fallon, Nevada. The Ag Expo was advertised as an event for farmers by farmers and was attended by as many as 110 people. The 2-day event covered a wide range of topics featuring speakers from many fields and industries ranging from Century 21 to the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation).

The Ag Expo speakers read like a "Who's Who" in agriculture and included representatives from Reclamation, Natural Resources Conservation Service, growers from Minnesota and Nevada, California Family Farm Alliance, Century 21, Western Regional Biomass Energy Program, Carbon Technology Transfer Center, Uni-Data America, California State Polytechnic University San Luis Obispo, Agriculture Research Service, New Mexico State University, and Lahontan Valley Environmental Alliance.

The Ag Expo covered many topics of interest to agriculture, including alternative cropping and related industries, the "Bridging the Headgate" Program (a partnership program between Reclamation and other state and federal agencies) carbon sequestration and methane conversion, water flow measurement, forage quality, weed control, irrigation water management, conservation easements, and where to get help on various issues. The expo also provided information on water measurement and efficiencies in the Newlands Project.

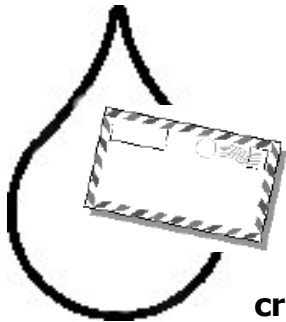
Funding for the event was garnered from many sources, including Reclamation's Water Conservation Field Services Program. For additional information on the Ag Expo, please contact Roger LeSueur at 775-423-7802 or Jamie Mills at 775-423-7774.

The Regional Water Authority *continued from page 5*

- Facilitating development of a Regional approach for a new major toilet replacement program for water suppliers and the Sacramento County Regional Sanitation District.
- With 2001 CALFED funds, presenting a series of Integrated Landscape Workshops for homeowners in cooperation with the Sacramento County Cooperative Extension.
- Sponsoring through the Sacramento Bee the 3-week water education program to 250 classrooms in the Sacramento region.
- Planning a point-of-purchase campaign focusing on water efficient landscape

irrigation to be implemented with USBR assistance.

Future programs will build on this year's foundation. The programs will expand adoption of BMPs by offering more customers a greater variety of water efficiency measures. Combined with good water supply management, the water efficiency programs will assist the Sacramento region in meeting its future water needs.



Conservation Talk

Q: When will the 2002 criteria be available for review and when will the criteria be available to be used in the 5-year update process?

A: The final criteria will be available by the end of the year. Plans submitted after the 2002 criteria become final will be reviewed in accordance with the new criteria.

Q: What is the status of the annual update program over the internet?

A: **Urban**

On May 1, 2002, the California Urban Water Conservation Council (Urban Council) released

the status of the "test" sites. What this means is a few selected Urban Contractors are "testing" out their guest accounts. If successful, a letter will be sent to all of the Urban Contractors regarding information pertaining to the distribution of their guest accounts. At the 2002 Criteria workshops (yet to be scheduled), a representative of the Urban Council will do a mini presentation of their Internet reporting site.

Agriculture

Beginning in the year 2003, a direct link from www.WaterShare.mp.usbr.gov will be available for Agriculture Contractors to begin reporting their Annual Update information.

This section was created for those that have questions pertaining to water conservation practices or water use efficiency matters. If there is anything that you would like to ask our water conservation specialists, please send an e-mail to svlee@mp.usbr.gov or send your questions in writing to the address on the front cover.



Create an awareness of the need for water conservation at home by instilling the importance of water use efficiency in your family. Avoid the purchase of recreational water toys that require a constant stream of water. Use a broom when cleaning the porch or garage. It is as useful and efficient as a hose, and not as costly.



Calendar Of Events

UNITED STATES COMMITTEE ON IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE

"Energy Climate, Environment and Water - Issues and Opportunities for Irrigation and Drainage"

July 10-13, 2002

San Luis Obispo, California

For more info, call Larry Stephens at 303-628 5430

RECLAMATION'S CENTENIAL EXHIBIT TRAILER

August 16, 2002 – September 2, 2002

California State Fair: Sacramento, California

For more info call, Louis Moore at 916-978-5106

2002 GROWER IRRIGATION SEMINAR SERIES INTRODUCTION TO PUMPING PLANT DESIGN

August 15, 2002

Southern California Edison AgTAC, Tulare, California

For more info, call 559-278-5752

Or log onto: www.cati.csufresno.edu/cit

Pre-registration is required: 800-772-4822

GROWER IRRIGATION SEMINAR SERIES FROST PROTECTION SYSTEMS

September 10, 2002

Southern California Edison AgTAC, Tulare, California

For more info, call 559-278-5752

Or log onto: www.cati.csufresno.edu/cit

Pre-registration is required: 800-772-4822



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