



Conservation CONNECTION



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CUWCC and AWMC Joint Steering Committee Meeting

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On November 5, 2003, the Agricultural Water Management Council (AWMC) and the California Urban Water Conservation Council (CUWCC) held a joint Steering Committee meeting at the California Farm Bureau headquarters. This was an important milestone because it was the first time that both the AWMC and the CUWCC came together in one room to hold a joint steering committee meeting. The turnout for the joint meeting was exceptionally high, with over 50 members from both Councils in attendance.



The purpose of the meeting was to highlight common ground shared in water management and common goals for the future. To begin the meeting the AWMC Executive Director, Mike Wade, introduced himself and the board members of both the AWMC and the CUWCC. Several significant topics were discussed during the course of the meeting, including a proposal by AWMC Co-Chair Richard Roos-Collins of the Natural Heritage Institute to present innovative water conservation proposals to Governor Schwarzenegger. Richard Roos-Collins believes that the two respective councils, which represents 3.7 million irrigable acres and serves more than 20 million people throughout the state, would have enough influence to persuade the Governor to listen to their ideas for the future of California water. Both Executive Directors agreed a team would be formed to create a formal presentation in order to brief the Governor. This proposal is considered a significant advancement and could generate important changes for the California water industry.

After the joint meeting, the two councils separated into their respective committees. During the AWMC meeting, there were presentations from three water districts: South Sutter Water District, Imperial Irrigation District, and Modesto Irrigation District. These presentations provided informative overviews of each districts water conservation program. After each presentation, there was a discussion followed by a vote to endorse their Water Management Plans. All three Plans were endorsed by the AWMC. The meeting concluded with brief discussions on future joint efforts between both Councils. For example, the internet reporting system which is being successfully implemented by the CUWCC may soon have a similar counterpart on the AWMC's internet site. This method of sharing information among agricultural and

**2800 Cottage Way
MP-410
Sacramento, CA
95825-1898
916-978-5212
Fax 916-978-5290**

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 the above mailing address or via e-mail at sylee@mp.usbr.gov.

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CVPIA Corner



Grant proposals for the Fiscal Year of 2004 Water Conservation Field Services Program (WCFSP) are now being accepted. This year marks 7 years of successful implementation of the WCFSP. The WCFSP was established to encourage water conservation, assist water agencies to develop and to implement effective water management and conservation plans, coordinate with State and local conservation program efforts, and foster improved water management on a regional, statewide, and watershed basis.

The WCFSP is administered at the local level through the Mid-Pacific Region's five area offices. Each Area Office has tailored its WCFSP to meet the needs of that specific area and is structured to provide direct incentives for water suppliers to maintain their involvement in effective water management planning and implementation. The involvement of the public has been essential to the success of each Area Office's WCFSP.

The key components of the WCFSP are implementation of conservation measures; demonstration of innovative technologies; water management planning; and conservation education. If you are interested in obtaining more information about this program, or have questions regarding deadlines and program requirements, please contact your local water conservation specialist or log onto the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterShare website at: www.usbr.gov/mp/watershare/programs/wcfsp.cfm.

Contact Us...



USBR WATER CONSERVATION STAFF 2004

Northern California Area Office

Dennis Perkins
530-934-1327; Fax 530-934-1302
E-mail: dperkins@mp.usbr.gov

Lahontan Basin Area Office

Jim Lively
775-423-7802; Fax 775-423-1056
E-mail: jlively@mp.usbr.gov

Klamath Basin Area Office

John Hicks
541-883-6935; Fax 541-884-9053
E-mail: jhicks@mp.usbr.gov

Central California Area Office

Pete Vonich
916-989-7265; Fax 916-989-7208
E-mail: pvonich@mp.usbr.gov

South-Central California Area Office

Dave Woolley
559-487-5049; Fax 559-487-5397
E-mail: dwoolley@mp.usbr.gov

Mid-Pacific Regional Office

Lucille Billingsley, Team Leader
916-978-5215; Fax 916-978-5290
E-mail: lbillingsley@mp.usbr.gov
<http://www.watershare.usbr.gov>

What Districts are Doing...

Fair Oaks Water District and Home Water Audits



The Fair Oaks Water District (FOWD) covers 6,053 acres and serves about 42,000 residents with 13,500 connections. Residents within this water district are fortunate to have access to a very supportive Water Conservation Program. The FOWD Free Water Assessment Program, formerly titled the Water Audit Program, is a no-cost program that provides Fair Oaks residents with a personalized water audit of their home. The program, which is run by Mike Cobb and Sandy Doyle, served more than 247 homes during July 2003 by either performing an audit or leaving information pamphlets for the customer's use. The

program coordinators walked door to door this past summer on eight different Saturdays, visiting homes and handing out pamphlets about the type of services available to residents and discussing the money and water that could be saved by participating in this program.

According to Mike Cobb, more than 250 calls were received from customers who reported seeing water being wasted, such as water runoff in neighborhood streets or a leaking sprinkler. Customers also call with requests for simple outdoor audits, assistance in developing an effective lawn-watering schedule, or even the repair of minor leaks. During a FOWD Free Water Assessment Program visit, residents can

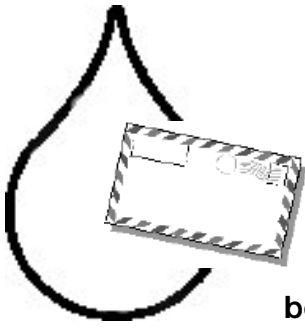


expect to receive assistance with any irrigation leaks or pipe breaks, a "goodie bag" complete with low-flow shower heads, faucet aerators, toilet dye tablets, and toilet dams. Additionally, the FOWD representatives will show residents how to read their water meters, check and adjust irrigation timers and programs, troubleshoot irrigation systems and make minor repairs, install faucet aerators in bathrooms and kitchens, measure shower head flows and offer free low-flow shower heads, and install toilet dams in older model toilets. Making use of this program has saved thousands of gallons of water every year and saved money for the district residents.

For more information about the Fair Oaks Free Water Assessment Program, call 916-967-5723 or visit www.fowd.com



Many water and utility companies throughout the State offer financial and technical assistance programs that specifically help those who are on a limited budget to implement water and energy efficiency improvement in their home. Please contact your local water and/or utility for assistance. You can usually find their phone number located on your water or utility bill.



Conservation Talk

Q: What is the connection (if any) between water and energy conservation?

A: There is a HUGE connection between water and energy conservation. For example, did you know that approximately 20 percent of the energy used in your home goes for heating water? This is the third largest energy expense in your home. Reducing your water use in general, saves you money, saves the energy used to purify the fresh water used, and the wastewater disposed. Another way you can save water and energy is to look for the *Energy Star* label the next time you are shopping for a new appliance. We suggest the following tips when shopping for your next appliance. They save both water and energy!

- Purchase dishwashers that have the option to turn off the heating element and

allow air to be circulated from outside the dishwasher for drying.

- Purchase clothes dryers that have moisture sensors which turn off the unit when the clothes are dry.
- Purchase horizontal axis (front loading) washers that use less water and energy than conventional washers. Check with your local utility for possible rebate programs.

To find the latest energy star products, visit:

www.energystar.gov

Conservation, whether it's water or energy, does not have to drastically alter your lifestyle. By making a few conscious choices, your family can save water, energy, and money!

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 page.

Continued from Page 1

urban water suppliers is a positive step forward in continuing efforts to unite common goals for the future of California water.

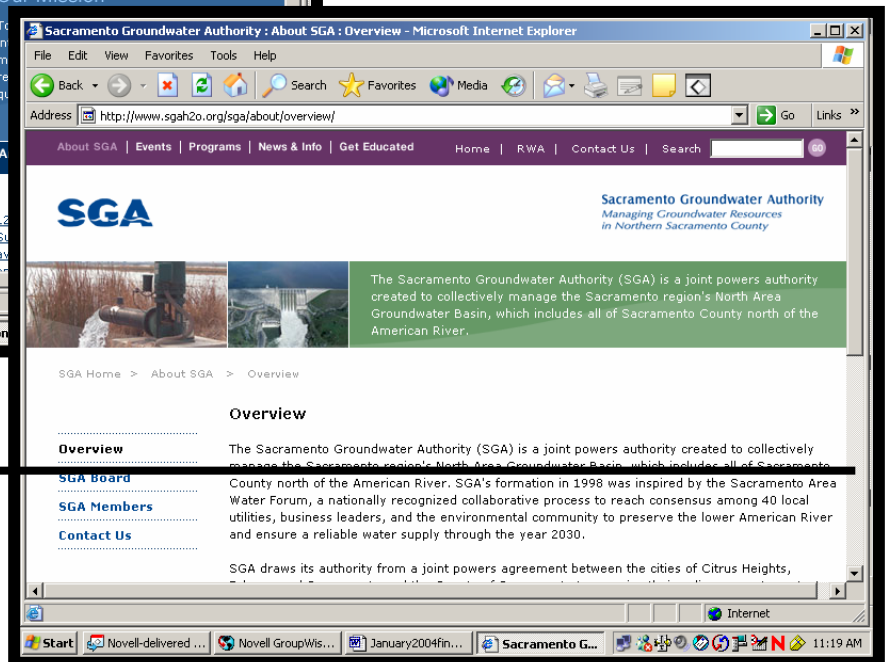
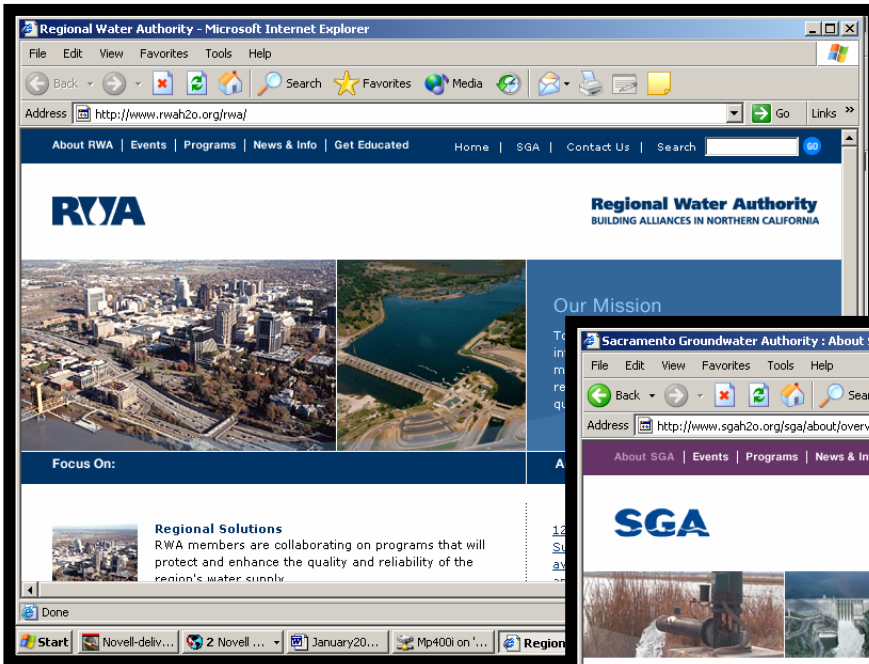
During the CUWCC meeting, significant topics were also discussed including the innovative practices being implemented by the Contra Costa Water District (CCWD). Chris Dundon of the CCWD gave a brief presentation of these new practices. At the conclusion of the meeting, Mary Ann Dickinson, the Executive Director of the CUWCC, gave an annual update on CUWCC activities.

Overall the meeting was a tremendous success. Mike Wade commented that he was "pleased with the meeting and felt a good interaction between AWMC and CUWCC members. There are AWMC committee members that are anxious to meet again with the CUWCC members and an open line of communication will help both groups. AWMC learned a lot by watching CUWCC presentations, it was very productive, and we hope the CUWCC members also came away with a renewed commitment to cooperation." Plans for future meetings have been discussed with all the specifics to be ironed out at a later date. As for this meeting, it was beneficial to not only the committee members but also to the future of California water.

Regional Water Authority and Sacramento Groundwater Authority Internet Sites

The Regional Water Authority (RWA) and the Sacramento Groundwater Association (SGA) are proud to unveil their new internet sites. The RWA was formed in 2001 as a joint powers authority that serves and represents the interests of 21 water providers in the greater Sacramento, Placer, and El Dorado County regions. The RWA's primary mission is to help its members protect and enhance the reliability, availability, affordability, and quality of water resources. The SGA, also a joint powers authority, was created to collectively manage the Sacramento region's North Area Groundwater Basin, which includes all of Sacramento County north of the American River. The SGA's formation in 1998 was inspired by the Sacramento Area Water Forum, a nationally recognized collaborative process to reach consensus among 40 local utilities, business leaders, and the environmental stakeholders to preserve flows in the lower American River and ensure a reliable water supply through the year 2030. The SGA draws its authority to protect the underlying groundwater basin from a joint powers agreement among the cities of Citrus Heights, Folsom, and the County of Sacramento.

You can log onto the RWA website at: www.rwah2o.org and you can access the SGA website at: www.sgah2o.org



Calendar of Events

<p align="center"> AWWA/WEF Water Sources Conference and Exposition January 11-15, 2004 Austin, Texas For more info, log onto: www.awwa.org/conferences/sources </p>	<p align="center"> 2004 Mid-Pacific Region Water Users Conference January 21-23, 2004 El Dorado Hotel Reno, Nevada For more info, call 916-441-2272 </p>
<p align="center"> DWR 2004 Water Use Efficiency Draft Proposal Solicitation Package Workshop January 14, 2004 Sacramento, California For more info, log onto: www.owue.water.ca.gov/finance/index/cfm or call 916-651-7026 </p>	<p align="center"> CALIFORNIA IRRIGATION INSTITUTE'S 42ND ANNUAL MEETING The Implications of Moving Water January 26-27, 2004 Radisson Hotel Sacramento, California For more info, log onto: www.caii.org/a.html </p>



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Water Conservation Center
Bureau of Reclamation, MP-410
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825-1898

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