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MEDIA STATEMENT

April 3, 2012

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Snowpack improves...but not enough

Regional Water Authority Urges Sacramento-Area Residents to Use Water Efficiently

The Regional Water Authority has released the following statement in response to [snow survey results](#) announced Monday by the California Department of Water Resources.

"While recent rain and snow added to the Sierra snowpack, conditions are still below normal for this time of year. One series of spring storms will not compensate for dry conditions the region experienced in December, January and February. Moreover, we are likely out of time for a rebound this year, because the snowpack typically peaks in early April.

"You don't need to measure the snowpack to know that using water efficiently is important no matter the yearly snow and rainfall. Local water providers have been working hard for more than a decade to ensure reliable supplies. But, California's variable precipitation and multiyear dry spells are a constant threat to our water

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supplies and an ongoing reminder for all of us to make water efficiency a daily habit.

"The Regional Water Authority and local water providers encourage customers to use only the water they need, especially in the landscape, which is where most water use--and water waste--occurs.

"As summer approaches, RWA offers the following easy tips for using water efficiently outdoors:

- Adjust your watering schedule at least every month according to anticipated weather.
- Stop runoff. If you see runoff, divide your total watering time in half for two shorter watering cycles.
- Check your irrigation system every month for leaks and misdirected sprinkler heads.
- Fix water-wasting problems in your irrigation system within 48 hours of finding them.
- Plant low water-use trees and plants in your yard.
- Replace or reduce lawn areas with low-water use plants.
- Contact your local water provider for assistance on using water efficiently around your home.

"Over the past several years the Sacramento region has made great progress when it comes to using water wisely. For example, residents have so far pledged to save nearly 18 million gallons of water by taking the Blue Thumb pledge at BeWaterSmart.info. In addition, RWA surveys show that more people are adopting water-wise behaviors.

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"However, it's important to remember that rain or shine, we should be good stewards of our water resources--for the health of the Sacramento region, the state's economy and to ensure it is available today and for future generations."

For more information about free water-efficiency services and rebates, as well as tips for using less water now, residents can contact their local water provider or visit bewatersmart.info, which hosts the Blue Thumb blog where visitors can ask questions of landscape experts and the Blue Thumb pledge to use water efficiently outdoors.

About the Regional Water Authority: *RWA is a joint powers authority representing 24 water providers and affiliates in the greater Sacramento area. Its primary mission is to help its members protect and enhance the reliability, availability, affordability and quality of water resources.*

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