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NEWS RELEASE

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Regional Water Authority Urges Water Reductions Throughout the Sacramento Region

Today the Regional Water Authority (RWA) Board of Directors unanimously adopted a resolution urging all of its 21 water provider members to take actions to reduce water use by 20 percent or more.

The Sacramento region is currently facing unprecedented conditions. Calendar year 2013 was the driest year on record in more than a century of record keeping, and 2014 is starting out just as dry. Folsom Reservoir, a major water source for people and fish, began the winter at historic lows and continues to decline. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, which controls water released from the reservoir, is reducing flows to 500 cubic feet per second in order to preserve water stored in Folsom Reservoir.

"Our economy and environment depend on water from the Sacramento and American rivers. They are the lifeblood of this region and help make it strong," said RWA Water Efficiency Program Manager Amy Talbot. "It is imperative that all of us take actions to reduce our water use now in order to preserve our limited supplies for both people and the fish and wildlife that share our water resources."

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Actions residents can take immediately include:

- **Limit landscape watering to only once a week or not at all, following your water provider's guidelines.** Plants typically don't need as much water this time of year. Lower temperatures, shorter daylight hours and moisture from fog and rain all combine to reduce the water demands of a typical landscape. If you have the type of lawn that is dormant during the winter, most likely it does not need supplemental water.
- **Reduce water use inside** by washing only full loads of clothes, turning off the water while cleaning dishes, brushing teeth or shaving and repairing leaky toilets and faucets.
- **Make longer-term investments in water efficiency** by replacing older toilets, clothes washers, dishwashers and aerators with high-efficiency models, or by upgrading water-wasting sprinklers and irrigation equipment. Look for U.S. EPA WaterSense labeled high efficiency toilets, showerheads and aerators at your local home improvement stores and online. Many water providers offer rebates to help offset costs. Visit BeWaterSmart.info or call 1-888-WTR-TIPS for more information.

Many water providers are already asking or requiring their customers cut back their water use. A list of local water providers and requested cutbacks are available at BeWaterSmart.info.

About the Regional Water Authority: *RWA is a joint powers authority representing two dozen 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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