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MEDIA STATEMENT

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Unusually Dry Conditions Call for Water Efficiency

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

"Sacramento-area water providers are carefully considering the unusually dry conditions and the impact on local water supplies. Several have triggered Water Shortage Contingency Plans, which increase the public's awareness about the prolonged dry streak and encourage customers to use less water. These agencies include:

- City of Folsom (reduce up to 20 percent)
- Sacramento County Water Agency (reduce up to 20 percent)
- San Juan Water District (reduce up to 20 percent)
- Rio Linda/Elverta Community Water District (reduce up to 20 percent)
- Fair Oaks Water District (reduce up to 10 percent)

"Other water providers, including the cities of Sacramento and Roseville, are also actively discussing water use reductions.

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"If conditions worsen, additional water providers will likely trigger shortage contingency plans and may implement more stringent measures such as mandatory reductions and expanded water waste patrols.

"The Regional Water Authority (RWA) and local water providers urge customers to do their part to reduce water use and offer the following tips for wise watering during the winter season:

- **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. Many water providers offer rebates to help offset costs. Visit BeWaterSmart.info or call 1-888-WTR-TIPS for more information.

"Water providers in the Sacramento region have been working for decades to prepare for dry periods like this by expanding the capacity to use groundwater in dry years, using recycled water, and implementing regional and individual water efficiency programs.

"While local water providers continue working to ensure the region has reliable, high-quality water supplies for the long term, residents must also do their part to save water every day, which helps stretch supplies and preserves water in the local waterways that help make the Sacramento region unique."

Learn which water providers have triggered Water Shortage Contingency Plans and tips for using water wisely 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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