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## NEWS RELEASE

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*Student Videos Showcase Animation, Humor*

## Water Spots Videos Need Your Vote!

**SACRAMENTO**—Animation, humor and thoughtful dialogue about conserving water during the drought—these are some of the highlights from the 35 videos submitted as part of the 2016 Water Spots Video Contest.



Sponsored by the Regional Water Authority (RWA), Sacramento Bee News in Education program and local water providers, the contest challenged teens to create videos focused on the 2016 theme "BE A DROUGHT CHAMP: Conserve Water" for a chance to win cash prizes.

A panel of distinguished judges narrowed the videos down to 10 finalists, **now it's the public's turn to vote for their favorite by Wednesday, March 30, 2016** at [nie4u.com/water-spots-video-contest](http://nie4u.com/water-spots-video-contest).

Sacramento-area residents have done an outstanding job conserving water during the drought, saving 31 percent overall since June of last year. The region's Drought Champs take actions

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large and small to use less water. Water Spots videos highlight these actions, such as taking shorter showers, washing full loads of laundry or fixing leaks, which can add up to big savings. Others used creative animation and humor to convey their messages. As one video put it, "What a Drought Champ gets out of this is no trophies but the satisfaction of saving water efficiently and helping his community."

Water Spots finalists represent high schools and middle schools in Sacramento and Placer counties and include:

- **Charlie Pierce and Will Barr**, Whitney High School in Rocklin (Benjamin Barnholdt, teacher)
- **Joshua Eddington, Sydney Cook and Ashanti Knox**, Franklin High School in Elk Grove (Brad Clark, teacher)
- **Cassidy Hildebrand**, Center High School in Antelope (Vernon Bisho, teacher)
- **Spencer Bennett and David Cameron**, Whitney High School in Rocklin (Benjamin Barnholdt, teacher)
- **Leina Chin**, Franklin High School in Elk Grove (Brad Clark, teacher)
- **Ambreen Singh and Julianna Bingham**, Whitney High School in Rocklin (Benjamin Barnholdt, teacher)
- **Jacob Sullivan**, Franklin High School in Elk Grove (Brad Clark, teacher)
- **Alyssa Young and Kat Buisson**, Whitney High School in Rocklin (Benjamin Barnholdt, teacher)
- **Teigen Johnson and Angelica Ballesteros**, Merryhill Middle School in Sacramento (Aaron Zaragoza, teacher)
- **Jaidu Sandu, Sarah Karver and Sammy Shelton**, Whitney High School in Rocklin (Benjamin Barnholdt, teacher)

The finalists, "Judges Choice" and "People's Choice" winners will be unveiled on **Sunday, April 17 at 12:25 p.m.** on Raley Field's Jumbotron before the Sacramento River Cats game. Winning students and teachers will receive cash prizes.

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Judges included Kathleen Dodge from the Tahoe Film Commission; Monica Woods from ABC 10; Rita Schmidt Sudman, senior consultant for the Water Education Foundation and author of the new book *Water: More or Less*; and Brett Salmi from the Roseville Utility Exploration Center. The selections were based on creativity, entertainment value, accuracy, originality and incorporation of the 2016 water efficiency message.

Learn more about the Water Spots Video Contest, water-wise tips and information about free water-efficiency services and rebates at [BeWaterSmart.info](http://BeWaterSmart.info).

***About the Regional Water Authority:*** *RWA is a joint powers authority representing 22 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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