

Water Stewardship

in the
**Sacramento
Region**

*A commitment to conservation,
sound water management and economic and
environmental sustainability for the population
center of Northern California.*

RWA
Regional Water Authority
BUILDING ALLIANCES IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

The American River Water Forum

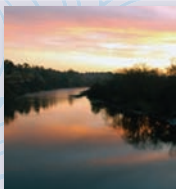
The Water Forum Agreement reached in 2000 among water providers, environmental groups, business interests, and



municipalities is an historic regional commitment to provide a safe and reliable water supply to support the region's

economy and preserve the environment of the American River. The Agreement provides a foundation for collaborative solutions and a process to resolve future conflicts between stakeholders.

The Agreement's seven elements include a commitment to implement best



management practices for water conservation. Among many benefits, water conservation programs help assure in-stream flows to protect

salmon and steelhead fisheries.

The Regional Water Authority (RWA) assists its members in implementing



the Agreement. RWA is a joint powers agency representing two dozen

water providers and affiliated agencies serving more than 2 million people in El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento, and Yolo Counties.

Metering

A Success Story

In the Sacramento region, water meters are critical tools for managing supplies. Some RWA members have been fully metered for decades, and all have installed meters



on new construction since 1992. In 2001, about one-third of water connections were metered. By 2010, that number rose to nearly two-thirds.

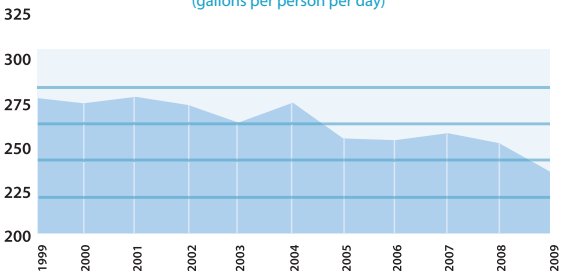
By 2013, more than 80% of connections will be metered, and the region will be fully

metered before 2025. With the deployment of Automated Meter Infrastructure (AMI), the region has improved leak detection and encouraged repair of leaking pipes and fixtures to reduce water waste.

Historic Water Use – A Decreasing Trend

Sacramento Region Water Use

(gallons per person per day)



A decade of aggressive water conservation by RWA members has helped sharply reduce per capita use of water. The region is committed to continuing this trend and contributing to meeting California's water needs and the statutory goal of a 20% reduction in water use by 2020.

Conservation

Our Record of Efficient Water Use

RWA members are committed to leading water conservation efforts with innovative and effective consumer and business programs.

💧 **Water Wise House Calls** help reduce home water use both inside and outside.

💧 **Free low-flow showerheads** and rebates on water efficient toilets and clothes washers.

💧 **Demonstration gardens** featuring low water use plants and training for landscape professionals and homeowners.



💧 **Partnerships with parks** and other large landscapes to reduce water use.

💧 **Rebates** for smart irrigation controllers and sprinkler system upgrades.

💧 **Subsidies** for replacement of home lawns with water efficient landscaping, implemented prior to similar efforts in many water-short parts of the state.

💧 **Blue Thumb** campaign kicked off in 2010 to promote more efficient landscape water use. Moving consumers to change

their watering behavior is essential because our hot, dry summers make outdoor irrigation a

higher portion of our water use than in many other areas of the state.



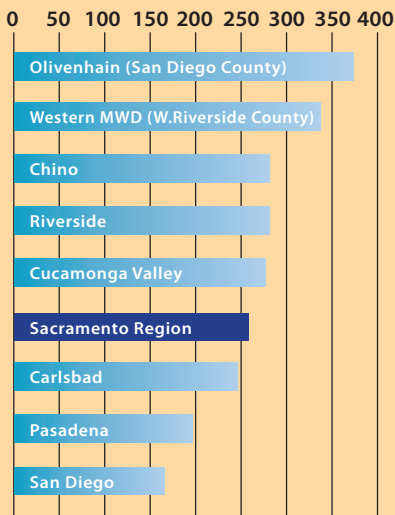
Sacramento Area Water Use

We Measure Up Well

Many factors affect water use in a region: climate, residential lot size, age of homes, and commercial/industrial activity. Water use in the Sacramento region, about 260 gallons per person per day, compares favorably to other inland communities with similar land use and climate, such as Southern California's Inland Empire and parts of San Diego County. Many coastal areas of California have vastly different population density, land use and climate and therefore different water usage.

Urban Water Use in California

(gallons per person per day)



Only Here

We Return More Than 40% of Water

The region's water comes entirely from local rivers and groundwater basins. After we use it, more than 40% is returned to the Delta watershed for reuse. In contrast, some of the most populous regions in the state depend on exported water...using it only once before discharging it to the ocean.

