Department of Water Resources
Keith DeVore, Director

SACRAMENTO COUNTY
WATER AGENCY

Including service to the cities of
Elk Grove and Rancho Cordova

For Immediate Release
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See the Makings of a Water Treatment Plant from the Ground Up

Media invited to tour Water Agency's first ever surface water treatment plant

(Sacramento, CA) – One year into construction: 210-thousand tons of dirt have been removed, and 55-thousand tons of concrete have been poured on the Water Agency's largest construction project, the Vineyard Surface Water Treatment Plant. Approximately 85-90 percent of the Agency's water supply comes from groundwater (wells). "Groundwater is a limited resource and the addition of river water is an essential component for meeting our customer's municipal water supply needs for decades to come," said Mike Crooks, Senior Civil Engineer with the Sacramento County Water Agency.

Quick Facts about the Vineyard Plant

- 30 percent Complete
- Entire project site is 78 acres = 390 typical house lots = 60 football fields
- The largest structure on the site is the clearwell (last step of the treatment process) with a foot print of 478 ft by 424 ft = about 4.5 acres. The storage volume is 20 million gallons, approximately equal to 1300 swimming pools.
- Upon completion, the plant will treat Sacramento River water pumped from the Freeport intake facility. The first phase of the plant will allow for the treatment of 50 million gallons of river water per day. After the second phase, the plant will allow for the treatment of up to 100 million gallons, with the ability to supply drinking water to over 100-thousand homes and businesses from Elk Grove to Rancho Cordova.
- The estimated completion date is scheduled for November 2011.

Visuals: A walk or ride along tour of the entire construction site. The project manager will discuss the progress of the project as well as explain and portray how we will be treating river water on the site. **The tours will be scheduled upon request; to schedule your tour, contact Lisa Park at (916) 874-1515.**

For more information on the Vineyard project, visit www.SCWA.net.

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(See Next Page for Additional Information)

Three Basic Steps to Treating Surface Water:
There are two objectives for surface water treatment: 1) to remove sediment and 2) to remove and deactivate (kill) illness-causing organisms such as bacteria or viruses. Surface water treatment uses a multiple step approach to achieve these objectives. First there is Flocculation and Sedimentation (Floc/Sed) where chemicals are added and mixed with the water to help particles stick together to form larger particles and settle to the bottom of a sedimentation basin. The next step is Filtration. The "settled" water flows by gravity through filters containing granular media (typically sand and anthracite) that remove the finer suspended particles that were not removed by the first step. The third step is Disinfection. To kill any remaining bacteria or other organisms that may cause illness, a disinfectant, typically chlorine, is added to the water and allowed a sufficient amount of time in contact with the water before water is pumped to our customers. Disinfection usually occurs at multiple locations along the treatment process.

Photos Taken at the Construction Site on April 30, 2009