

Municipal Services Agency



Terry Schutten, County Executive
Paul Hahn, Agency Administrator

Department of Water Resources

Keith DeVore, Director

County of Sacramento

Department of Waste Management and
Recycling

Paul Philleo, Director

For Immediate Release

May 6, 2009

Media Contact: Lisa Park, ParkL@saccounty.net, (916) 874-1515

Pledge to Skip the Bottle During Drinking Water Week

Tap Water is the Greener Alternative to a Leaner Budget

Sacramento County Water Agency and Waste Management are asking residents to skip the bottle and make the switch over to tap water starting with Drinking Water Week, May 3-9. With more than half of all Americans drinking bottled water occasionally or as their major source of drinking water, this has negatively impacted local landfills. "Plastic water bottles, or any other recyclable materials, that are thrown in the garbage, take up valuable landfill space. Once in our landfill, these plastics simply do not break down," said Doug Eubanks, Recycling Coordinator with the Department of Waste Management and Recycling.

Reasons to Drink from the Tap:

- **Quality:** Every year, the Water Agency prepares and produces a water quality report, called the Consumer Confidence Report, to inform and educate customers about the quality of their water. Weekly Bacteriological monitoring of water quality allows us to detect fecal pollution from human or animal waste in ground waters, and thus to evaluate and minimize the risk of human exposure to harmful pathogens. "We also test our wells quarterly for primary and secondary constituents, per the State Department of Public Health Standards," said Sarah Grant, Supervising Engineering Technician with the Sacramento County Water Agency. "A state-certified laboratory regularly tests our water for more than 100 contaminants and the test results are then compared to state and federal standards to confirm that our water meets or exceeds all drinking water health standards."
- **Saves Money:** Water is a precious resource and inexpensive in comparison to other commodities such as soda and coffee. Water Agency customers pay less than a penny a gallon for high quality drinking water delivered straight to their tap.
- **Saves the Environment:** Thirty nine percent of all polyethylene terephthalate (PET) plastic bottles purchased in Sacramento County end up in landfills. The California Department of Conservation reported that during 2008, Sacramento County purchased roughly 323 Million PET bottles, of which only 199 Million were recycled.

The Water Agency provides water to more than 55,000 households and businesses in Sacramento County. Approximately 85-90 percent of the Agency's current water supply comes from groundwater wells. The Water Agency owns and operates 70 groundwater wells and 12 treatment plants with 750 miles of pipelines.

###

"Managing Tomorrow's Water Today"