



## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

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### **House committee approves \$20 million for SCWA-sponsored energy efficiency program**

(Santa Rosa, CA) — The House of Representatives Appropriations Committee issued a report today recommending up to \$20 million in federal funding for energy efficiency “cross-technology” projects nationwide. Sonoma County Water Agency (Agency) requested the appropriation to support local energy efficiency initiatives.

If approved by the House and Senate the funds would be made available to local governments across the country under a Department of Energy grant program. Funded projects would implement integrated technologies such as solar power, water reuse, conservation and ground source heat pump technology to achieve significant reductions in energy and water use.

Sonoma County Water Agency is considering a project at the airport business complex in Santa Rosa that would combine use of recycled water, ground source heat pumps and renewable power sources in a system that could become a model for use across the country. The program uses ‘off the shelf’ technologies to make major advances in climate protection and energy independence.

“We are looking for the ‘here and now’ solutions that can be replicated nationwide and put us in the lead on reducing greenhouse gases and controlling energy costs,” said Paul Kelley, 4<sup>th</sup> District Sonoma County Supervisor and Director of the Sonoma County Water Agency.

Kelley, who is leading the effort to gain broader federal support, provided key information to Congress and the Department of Energy on how local governments can be part of the solution to reducing electric power demand, cutting carbon emissions, and conserving water while spurring economic development.

Officials from Santa Fe, New Mexico and from Colorado have also been working to support the proposed program.

The Agency has an aggressive climate protection program aimed at achieving carbon free water supply operations by 2015. The County of Sonoma has set one of the most ambitious climate protection goals in the nation, carbon emissions 25% below 1990 levels by 2015.

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*Sonoma County Water Agency provides water supply, flood protection and sanitation services for portions of Sonoma and Marin counties. Visit us on the Web at [www.sonomacountywater.org](http://www.sonomacountywater.org).*