



# News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: October 26, 2005

Contact: Jennifer Tencati  
(916) 567-6309  
(800) 200-7904  
jennifer@mmcpr.com

## **SRWP Congratulates 2005 Watershed Excellence Award Winners**

The Sacramento River Watershed Program (SRWP) is pleased to announce the winners of the 2005 Watershed Excellence Awards. The annual awards honor an organization and an individual who have worked to improve the state of the Sacramento River Watershed by promoting watershed stewardship and stakeholder involvement. The 2005 winners are:

### **Watershed Excellence Award for an Organization: Center for Land-Based Learning for the Student and Landowner Education and Watershed Stewardship (SLEWS) Program**

The SLEWS Program combines watershed-based education with watershed stewardship. Students at participating SLEWS schools commit to a yearlong project that engages students in the restoration of wildlife habitat on farms, ranches and open spaces in the Putah-Cache Bioregion. Activities include planting native vegetation, removing invasive species and building and installing bird boxes. The SLEWS experience develops student leadership skills and introduces them to possible careers in agriculture, education and natural resource conservation. For more information about SLEWS, visit [www.landbasedlearning.com](http://www.landbasedlearning.com).

### **Watershed Excellence Award for an Individual: Greg Dills, East Lake and West Lake Conservation District Watershed Coordinator, Lake County**

Greg Dills has provided outstanding leadership in promoting watershed stewardship in Lake County, home to Clear Lake and Upper Cache Creek. During his seven years as Watershed

– More –

Coordinator, he has increased public awareness of the importance of local watershed health and management and has been successful in encouraging volunteer participation in watershed conservation activities. Dills also established the successful “Kids in the Creek” program, which brings middle school students and educators from various local and federal agencies together at a local creek to introduce students to wildlife and aquatic biology, fire safety, water quality and hydrology. The program has been emulated in other areas around the state.

“We are delighted to recognize these exceptional contributions that keep our watershed healthy and thriving,” said Kathy Russick, program coordinator with the Sacramento River Watershed Program. “Both the SLEWS program and Greg Dills are shining examples of how to make a positive and lasting impact on the watershed, and we thank them for their efforts.”

Awards will be presented at the SRWP Annual Stakeholders Meeting on October 27, 2005, at the Sixth State of the Sacramento River Watershed Conference. The Conference is being held at the Red Bluff Community Center in Red Bluff, Calif. For more information about the Conference, visit the Sacramento River Preservation Trust’s web site at [www.sacriverttrust.org](http://www.sacriverttrust.org).

### **About the Sacramento River Watershed Program (SRWP)**

The Sacramento River Watershed Program (SRWP) was initiated in February of 1996 in order to provide a forum for watershed stakeholders to work together to ensure that Sacramento River watershed resources are sustained, restored, and where possible, enhanced, while promoting the long-term social and economic vitality of the region. SRWP consists of citizens, watershed organizations, environmental groups, educators and government agencies at all levels. For more information about the Sacramento River Watershed Program, visit the program web site at [www.sacrivert.org](http://www.sacrivert.org), or call 1-530-879-0887.

###