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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SRWP Names Knecht Executive Director,
Matthews Development Director**

***Note to editors:** Photos of Knecht & Matthews available upon request.*

The Sacramento River Watershed Program (SRWP) has named Mary Lee Knecht executive director, and Shelley Mathews development director.

As executive director, Knecht will provide leadership, create vision and conduct strategic planning. She will also develop an annual work plan and budget, establish good working relationships and collaborative arrangements with community groups, funders, politicians, and other organizations to help achieve the goals and elevate the visibility of the organization.

Knecht has been with SRWP since 2005, and previously served in the position of education coordinator.

Prior to SRWP, Knecht worked at Jones & Stokes where she was the lead consultant to the CALFED Watershed Program and watershed coordinator for the Cache Creek Watershed Stakeholders Group. Knecht holds a Bachelor of Science degree in environmental science, policy and management from the University of California, Berkeley.

In Shelly Matthews' new role, she will serve as a consult to non-profits and will assist in efforts to build organizational capacity to meet the growing demands on the SRWP's services. Matthews will also serve as grant manager for the Water Quality Monitoring Program grant project and the Sacramento River Module. Matthews has been with SRWP for more than two years, previously serving as SRWP's grant writer.

Prior to SRWP, Matthews worked with regional organizations and school districts to design programs and obtain funding for environmental education and projects, leadership

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training and program expansion. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in biology from California State University, Sacramento.

“Knecht and Matthews have both contributed greatly to SRWP,” said SRWP Board of Trustees chair Butch Hodgkins. “Their energy, experience and dedication has made the organization stronger than it has ever been. SRWP is lucky to have them on the team.”

ABOUT SRWP

SRWP is a stakeholder-based program that was formed in 1996 to protect water quality and the many important uses of the Sacramento River and its tributaries. In 2002, the SRWP was certified as a California not-for-profit corporation and received 501(c) (3) status from the Internal Revenue Service in 2003. Currently, SRWP is overseen by a 21-member Board of Trustees and functions through several committees and workgroups. The mission of the SRWP, as developed by the stakeholders, is “to ensure that current and potential uses of the Sacramento River Watershed’s resources are sustained, restored, and where possible, enhanced, while promoting the long-term social and economic vitality of the region.” Additional information regarding SRWP can be found at www.sacrriver.org.

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