

# State Water Resources Control Board

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**September 30, 2003**

**SWRCB 02-013**

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## Elk Grove High Science Students Headed to D.C., Maryland to Represent California At National Water Summit

(SACRAMENTO) – The Elk Grove High School Envirothon team will represent California at a national watershed summit this month in Maryland, where the country's best and brightest teen science buffs will learn the importance of protecting our waterways.

The State Water Resources Control Board lauds this trip as a symbol of how young adults can lead the way toward cleaner water for future generations. The youth summit is one of the key national events being held in honor of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Clean Water Act, considered the most important water quality legislation in the U.S. Other activities this month include a national citizen water monitoring day October 18 and a Governor Gray Davis proclamation declaring October as California's Clean Water Month.

“Our impaired rivers, lakes, streams and beaches are polluted in large part from the actions of our residents, who unknowingly pollute through their daily practices,” State Water Board Chairman Arthur G. Baggett Jr. said. “The most effective way to fight this pollution problem is through public education, and it starts with our young students. The future of water quality is in their hands.”

Elk Grove High School science instructor Tony White will lead the five students on the October 6-10 science summit that will feature tours and investigations of the Chesapeake Bay watershed, water monitoring and lab work. The students will also visit key sites, including the Smithsonian museums and the National Aquarium in Baltimore. (Attendees shown in the attached photo, are from left to right: John Wheat, Danielle Boudreau, Stacey Moultry, Weseley Scovielle and Saqib Keval (bottom row).

The four 10<sup>th</sup> graders and one 12<sup>th</sup> grader were selected for their work in the state's envirothon program, which is a science version of the academic decathlon that is sponsored by local resource conservation districts. The team competes against other high school teams statewide, and has frequently ranked in the top 10 in categories ranging from aquatics and wildlife to forestry and soil.

“We are honored to be a part of this outstanding educational opportunity,” said White, who will work with his team on a study of the San Francisco-San Joaquin Delta upon their return from the East Coast. “The students will also benefit by seeing science in action. It will be an experience of a lifetime, and will encourage them to become active stewards in protecting their environment.”

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