



Roger Cornwell Joins Sutter Mutual and RD 1500 as new General Manager

The Board of Trustees for the Basin Irrigation District and Drainage Authority are pleased to announce that Roger Cornwell has joined Sutter Mutual Water Company and Reclamation District 1500 as their General Manager. In this capacity, Roger will also serve as the General Manager for the Basin Irrigation and Drainage Authority—the Joint Powers Authority of Reclamation District 1500 and Sutter Mutual Water Company. Roger brings an amazing combination of leadership and technical experience and skills to the Sutter Basin for the benefit of its landowners, water users and community; our many partners throughout California; and for a functional ecosystem in the region. Please join us in welcoming Roger Cornwell!

For the past twenty years, Roger has been managing River Garden Farms, a large diversified farming operation in Yolo County, where he has been advancing [A New Way Forward](#) on sustainable farming that works in harmony with the fish and wildlife in the region. In this role he has managed surface water and groundwater resources for the benefit of farming, communities, fish and wildlife. Working closely with the owners and staff, he partnered with local water agencies, government organizations, conservation organizations and many others to advance farming and provide functional ecosystems. For the River Garden farms story with Roger and a podcast, see [Winter Farming at River Garden Farms](#).



Roger has been a very active leader in the Sacramento Valley, serving as the Chair of the Board of Directors for: the [Sacramento River Settlement Contractors](#); Yolo County Groundwater Sustainability Agency; Reclamation District 108; Reclamation District 787; and the Sacramento Valley Ecological Restoration Foundation. He is also the Vice-Chair of the [Northern California Water Association](#) Board of Directors and chairs its Bay-Delta Task Force.

Roger is an avid sports fan, regularly attending Giants and 49ers games and following the Tennessee Titans. Roger's son Hayden is following in his father's footsteps as Assistant General Manager at South Sutter Water District and his two daughters live in the region—Courtney works with Sutter Health and Morganne is project manager for Graybar Electric.

Reclamation District No. 1500 was formed in April 1913 and provides drainage and flood control to 70,000 acres within 55 miles of levees between the Sacramento River and Sutter Bypass.

Sutter Mutual Water Company (SMWC) was formed in February 1919 to operate and deliver good quality water from the Sacramento River to 46,746 acres of irrigated land through 200 miles of canals and 500 turnouts. It has appropriate water rights and a settlement contract with the Bureau of Reclamation.

Basin Irrigation and Drainage Authority (BIDA) is a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) of Reclamation District 1500 and the Sutter Mutual Water Company and was initiated on October 1, 2019 to comprehensively manage the activities of RD1500 and SMWC by providing water and drainage service staff to support the operations of RD1500 and SMWC. BIDA is committed to promoting the common welfare of landowners and water users in the Sutter Basin and providing services in an efficient way at a reasonable cost.

Please update your contact information as follows:

Roger Cornwell
General Manager
Basin Irrigation District and
Drainage Authority
Telephone: (530) 565-5017
Mobile: (530) 681-5227
Email: Rcornwell@sutterbasinwater.com

For more information, contact Bill Henle, Chair of the BIDA, at wfenle@henleassociates.com.