



**NEWS RELEASE**  
**Placer County Water Agency**

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*A non-profit public agency serving the communities of Placer County*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Auburn - Most residential customers of the Placer County Water Agency would see water rate increases averaging 3.5 percent under a 2003 rate package now under review by the PCWA Board of Directors.

The proposed rate adjustments were presented Thursday (Sept. 19) by PCWA staff as part of the board's regular bimonthly meeting. Directors took no action on the staff recommendations.

A public hearing on the proposed rate adjustments will be held as part of the board's next regularly scheduled meeting on Oct. 3. The meeting begins at 3 p.m. in the Placer County Board of Supervisors chambers, 175 Fulweiler Avenue, in Auburn.

The 2003 rate proposals follow the water agency's practice of annual rate adjustments. Agency officials say adjustments are necessary to maintain present levels of service, continue the repair and replacement of aging water system infrastructure, expand the agency's water efficiency program and meet a variety of rising expenses.

PCWA Director of Customer Services John Kingsbury outlined a proposed rate schedule that would bring minimal financial impacts on treated water customers who use a modest amount of water and higher rates for those with high water use.

For example, in Zone 1 a typical low water user (100 gallons per day) who currently pays \$17.32 a month would see a monthly increase of about 59 cents to \$17.91. An average water bill (675 gallons per day) of \$35.40 would increase by \$1.26 per month to about \$36.66 a month. A high water user (2,000 gallons per day) who currently pays \$83.66 would see an increase of \$6.45 to about \$90.11 a month.

In the higher elevation Zone 3, where PCWA's per customer service costs are higher, a

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typical low water user (100 gallons per day) who currently pays \$26.89 a month would see a monthly increase of about 92 cents to \$27.81 a month. An average water bill (675 gallons per day) of \$54.26 would increase by \$1.84 per month to about \$56.10 a month. A high water user (2,000 gallons per day) who currently pays \$117.33 would see an increase of \$3.96 to about \$121.29 per month.

Rates for most commercial, industrial and municipal customers would see an average increase of 3.5 percent next year. Irrigation customers in Zones 1, 3 & 5 who receive raw water through the PCWA canal system would see increases of 3 to 3.5 percent.

Customers in Zone 4, which supplies the Lahontan community in the Martis Valley near Truckee, would pay an average 10 percent more for water. Annual increases of 10 percent have been planned to fund future infrastructure replacement needs in Zone 4.

Some of the agency's other fees and charges such as service calls, meter installations and delinquent payment charges would also be increased as part of the rate package.

In other business, directors:

- heard an update on the agency's water supply preparedness in the effort to quell the fire that broke out Sept. 18 near Interstate 80 and Sierra College Boulevard. "In a word, our water system worked very well in this emergency," said Director of Technical Services Don Reighley. The fire charred areas along the PCWA canal system and burned to the edge of PCWA's Rocklin Road storage tank, he said.

- heard a report from General Manager David Breninger on efforts to retain in Placer County a \$554,000 CALFED grant that had been approved for the Placer County Resource Conservation District. Breninger said PCWA may be able to help administer the grant.

The next regular meeting of the PCWA Board of Directors will be held at 3 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 3, at the Placer County Board of Supervisors chambers, 175 Fulweiler Avenue, in Auburn. PCWA board meetings are open to the public.