



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

144 Ferguson Road (P.O. Box 6570) Auburn, California 95604  
(530) 823-4860 FAX (530) 823-4960  
*A non-profit public agency serving the communities of Placer County*

**October 4, 2002**

**Contact: David A. Breninger**  
**(530) 823-4850**  
**or: Dave Carter**  
**(530) 265-NEWS**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

*Auburn* - Directors of the Placer County Water Agency on Thursday (Oct. 3) authorized staff to prepare a 2003 water rate schedule that includes 3.5 percent rate increases for most PCWA water users.

The rate adjustments are scheduled for final consideration and adoption at the board's next meeting on Oct. 17. If adopted, the rates would become effective Jan. 1.

Thursday's action followed a scheduled public hearing on the rate adjustments that drew only one speaker. Randy Graham, representing the City of Lincoln, applauded PCWA staff for working with the city on rates and other water issues.

PCWA reviews its water rates and fees on an annual basis and agency officials say adjustments are necessary to maintain good levels of service, rebuild an aging water system infrastructure, enhance its water efficiency program and meet rising expenses.

PCWA Director of Customer Services John Kingsbury said adjustments to the inclining rate structure would bring minimal financial impacts for treated water customers who conserve water and higher increases for those with high water use.

The agency estimates that the average water bill (675 gallons per day) in Zone 1 would increase by \$1.26 per month to about \$36.66. In the higher elevation Zone 3, above Auburn, where PCWA's per customer service costs are higher, average monthly water bills would rise to about \$56.10, or a difference of \$1.84.

Rates for most commercial, industrial and municipal customers would also increase by 3.5 percent next year. Irrigation customers who receive raw water through the PCWA canal system would see increases of 3 percent to 3.5 percent.

In other business, directors:

- heard a presentation from Dr. Stuart Styles of the Irrigation Training and Research Center at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, who is helping PCWA with a program to install water flow measurement devices on its canal system. Styles spoke about advances in the water management field.

- approved a \$10,000 contract with Auburn landscape architect Ray Yamasaki for design of a xeriscape, low water use, demonstration garden and irrigation system at the PCWA Business Center in Auburn.

- approved a grant of \$20,000 from the agency's financial assistance program to the Squaw Valley Public Service District. The money will be used for studies on the potential use of Truckee River water in Squaw Valley.

- approved a water supply assessment that says groundwater and surface water supplies in the Martis Valley near Truckee are adequate to serve the proposed Hopkins Ranch residential/golf course development.

- heard reports from General Manager David Breninger and Planning Administrator Mal Toy on efforts to retain in Placer County a \$554,500 CALFED grant that had been approved but was rejected on Sept. 17 by the Placer County Resource Conservation District. Breninger and Toy said several agencies are working together to keep the grant, which would be used for American River watershed planning.

The next regular meeting of the PCWA Board of Directors will be held at 3 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 17, at the Placer County Board of Supervisors chambers, 175 Fulweiler Avenue, in Auburn. PCWA board meetings are open to the public.