



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

November 22, 2002

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Auburn - Treated drinking water has come to the Merry Knoll Road area near Auburn, where property owners formed an improvement district and assessed themselves to pay for the water system improvements.

The Merry Knoll Improvement District, five years in planning, is a cooperative effort among 41 property owners, the Placer County Water Agency and the County of Placer.

By working together and bringing water to their neighborhood, residents will no longer have to rely on wells, springs or untreated canal water for residential use.

“It’s wonderful,” said resident Cheryl Gray, whose home received the neighborhood’s first new water meter on Nov. 19. “This is something we’ve been wanting for a long time.”

After several years of planning and organization, the PCWA Board of Directors in June approved formation of the Merry Knoll Improvement District and contracted with West Valley Construction Co. to install more than 4,000 feet of main lines and three fire hydrants to serve the area.

The successful formation depended on participation by the County of Placer which obtained a \$243,000 Community Development Block Grant to help pay the assessments of 12 residents whose incomes qualified them for assistance.

Formation also hinged on a positive vote of participating property owners. Thirty-eight supported formation (two did not return their ballots). A 41st property was added later.

PCWA Director of Technical Services Don Reighley, who has worked on the

-more-

project since 1997, credited Placer County and County Deputy CEO Rich Colwell who pursued the grant funding. Reighley said the project would not have been feasible without the county's participation.

Property owners are paying \$17,000 per parcel for the water improvements, plus water connection charges. The assessments may be paid in advance but most participants have chosen to pay annually for 20 years as part of their county property tax payments.

Merry Knoll Road is located north of Nevada Street and just west of Wise Reservoir, outside of Auburn city limits.