



**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* - Directors of the Placer County Water Agency on Thursday (Dec. 5) adopted a combined operating budget of \$43.1 million for the coming year.

The overall 2003 budget is a combination of three separate water agency functions; the Water System at \$27.5 million, Power System at \$13.6 million, and Agencywide function at \$2 million.

The Board of Directors last month approved average water rate increases of 3.5 percent in an effort to meet increased operating costs and to balance water utility revenues with projected expenses.

The Power System is operated independently and is supported by revenues generated by hydroelectric power production. The Agencywide function covers the agency's role in watershed and water supply planning and management throughout the county and in the region.

PCWA Director of Financial Services Joe Parker said the overall budget does not include a projected \$22.8 million worth of water system improvements that will be needed to serve new growth. These improvements will be funded through water connection charges, he said.

In other business, directors:

- approved a contract with the environmental consulting firm of Jones & Stokes for water quality and aquatic resource monitoring on the Ralston Afterbay Sediment Management Project. The contract includes a \$193,000 ceiling.
- approved water supply commitments for 11 raw water applicants, two treated water applicants and the City of Lincoln. Directors extended until Dec. 11 a deadline for California-American Water Co. to file for water service to 554 equivalent dwelling units (EDU).

- voiced support for participation in a settlement agreement with other Northern California water agencies that would, if eventually approved, sell various amounts of water, when available, to help state and federal agencies meet Bay-Delta water quality standards.

The Placer County Water Agency Board of Directors will next meet in adjourned session at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 17, at the PCWA Business Center, 144 Ferguson Road, in Auburn. PCWA board meetings are open to the public.