

**December 20, 2002**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Auburn - Will the Placer County Water Agency be able to meet demand for new water supplies in PCWA's Zone 1 during the next two years while the federal Bureau of Reclamation constructs the American River pump station?

This issue continued to be of major concern Thursday (Dec. 19) as the PCWA Board of Directors held a strategic planning workshop as part of their bimonthly board meeting.

With rapid growth continuing in western Placer County, the water agency is trying to stretch its supplies until the estimated \$31 million permanent pump station can be completed on the American River. It would supply up to 35,500 acre-feet of water per year.

To meet increasing demand, PCWA and the federal Bureau of Reclamation have been planning the pump station for the past eight years. It would replace an earlier Agency pump station that was removed by the Federal government in the 1970s to make way for the construction of Auburn Dam.

Until October, agency officials had hoped to have the new pumps in operation by the summer of 2004 but are now looking at summer of 2005. Construction is planned to begin next year.

The pump station and surrounding water availability and infrastructure matters topped a list of issues voiced during the workshop.

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Other issues included the state budget shortfall, the increasing number of costly regulations on water supply and water quality, fire safety on the watershed, efficient water use, and successful relicensing of the PCWA hydroelectric system.

Directors are planning a series of strategic planning workshops in early 2003 to prioritize issues facing the agency.

In other business Thursday, directors:

- accepted a 2001 audit of the agency performed by the certified public accounting firm of Bartig, Basler & Ray. Auditor Brad Constantine said the audit included no qualifications. “It’s a clean opinion,” he said, “the kind you’d like to have.”

- endorsed a plan by the Northern California Power Assoc. to create a new membership category of Generating Associate Member. Officials said PCWA could benefit and expand its legislative influence and activity through NCPA.

- Held over for further study the allocation of 1,200 acre-feet of water for the proposed 800-acre Antonio Mountain Ranch development near Fiddymont and Athens roads.

- approved a not-to-exceed engineering services contract of \$361,350 with engineering consultant Steve Yaeger of Colfax for services on five planned water system projects.

- approved a not-to-exceed engineering and inspection services contract of \$553,320 with New Dimensions of Auburn.

- extended for 2003 a \$74,000 contract with Jeff Fedorchak of Impact Strategies for government relations and communications services in Washington, DC.

The next regular meeting of the PCWA Board of Directors will be held at 3 p.m. on Jan. 2, 2003 in the Placer County Board of Supervisors chambers, 175 Fulweiler Avenue, in Auburn. PCWA board meetings are open to the public.