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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Auburn - The Placer County Water Agency on Thursday (Oct. 2) unveiled a plan that would make more water available to meet demand brought on by new growth over the coming two years.

The current water supply crunch is expected to ease in the summer of 2005 when the federal Bureau of Reclamation completes the American River pump station project. The project, which began this week, will allow PCWA access to as much as 35,500 acre-feet of water per year.

Meanwhile, nearly all of the agency's existing water supplies are committed and efforts have been under way to make more water available through purchase from other suppliers, infrastructure improvements, increased water use efficiency and possible use of groundwater.

A staff recommended plan presented Thursday would make 6400 acre-feet of water available, the amount planners expect will be needed during the two-year period, at an estimated cost of \$2.2 million.

The PCWA Board of Directors unanimously approved a motion of intent to adopt the plan and to provide funding through increases in the agency's water connection charge and the use of grants and other funding as appropriate. Directors instructed staff to prepare a resolution for approval at the board's next meeting on Oct. 16. Elements of the plan include 3000 feet of saved water through improvements to the raw water canal system, 1100 acre feet of saved water through water efficiency

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programs for treated and raw water customers and 1100 acre-feet of new water from the Nevada Irrigation District. Also under consideration is use of PCWA's inactive Sunset well, which could yield 1200 acre-feet.

In other business, directors:

- heard a report on the Pacific Gas & Electric Co. canal maintenance outage, which is planned this year from Oct. 19 through Nov. 22. PCWA Director of Field Services Mike Nichol said the outage will impact water users throughout PCWA's service areas. Customer notifications are being planned.

- heard a presentation from Joanne Neft, director of the Placer County Agricultural Marketing Program, and authorized \$1000 in program support for next year. The program promotes Placer County agriculture and encourages Placer County shoppers to buy locally.

- took no action on a request by the American River Authority (ARA) to support the recruitment of a public relations firm that would conduct public educational programs on the benefits of an Auburn Dam.

The next regular meeting of the PCWA Board of Directors will be held at 3 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 16, in the Placer County Board of Supervisors chambers, 175 Fulweiler Avenue, in Auburn. PCWA board meetings are open to the public.