

October 17, 2003

**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.16) authorized staff to prepare a 2004 water rate schedule that includes rate adjustments that vary among PCWA water customers.

The proposed rate adjustments are scheduled for final consideration and adoption at the board's next meeting on Nov. 6 to become effective Jan. 1.

Directors considered the rate adjustments and hosted two public hearings as part of their regular board meeting.

PCWA reviews its water rates and fees on an annual basis. Agency officials say adjustments are needed to maintain good levels of service, rebuild aging water system infrastructure and meet rising expenses, including mandates.

Under the 2004 rate proposal, the monthly service charge for treated water for a standard 5/8-inch water meter in Zone 1 would increase 6.5 percent to \$10.84. The tiered usage charge would rise 3-4 percent for most customers, depending on customer usage. Other elements of the water bill, the renewal and replacement charge (from \$1.30 to \$2.87 a month) and the charge for state and federal mandated programs (4 percent) would also increase.

Director of Customer Services John Kingsbury said an average water user in Zone 1 using 27 units (2700 cubic feet) of water would see an overall increase of \$2.98 per month, from \$36.66 to \$39.64.

Usage rates for most commercial, industrial and municipal customers would also increase by 3 to 3.5 percent next year.

-more-

Irrigation customers who receive raw water through the PCWA canal system would see increases of 3 percent for summer irrigation water service. Under a new winter/summer rate schedule, winter water users would pay 7 percent more.

Customers who would like more information about how the new rates affect their accounts should call the Customer Service Center at (530) 823-4850.

In other business, directors:

- heard a report on the agency's current effort to promote water conservation among customers during the five-week Pacific Gas & Electric Co. canal maintenance outage which is limiting source water supplies flowing to PCWA.

- continued to their next meeting consideration of a staff recommendation that would make an additional 6400 acre-feet of water available annually to serve demand brought on by continuing growth in Placer County.

- considered a new draft business practice for the study and processing of potential environmental impacts caused by planned canal maintenance projects.

The next regular meeting of the PCWA Board of Directors will be held at 3 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 6, in the Placer County Board of Supervisors chambers, 175 Fulweiler Avenue, in Auburn. PCWA board meetings are open to the public.