

**October 7, 2003**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

*Auburn* - All water customers of the Placer County Water Agency are being reminded that the annual fall maintenance season has begun for the agency's source water conveyance system.

Each year, customers are asked to limit all non-essential use of water while fall maintenance work is under way. This year's work is scheduled for the five-week period beginning Oct. 19 and extending through Nov. 22.

PCWA is asking for the voluntary cooperation because water supplies flowing into the area will be limited by Pacific Gas & Electric Company work on the Bear River Canal during the first three weeks of the outage and on the Wise Canal during the final two weeks of the outage. Both canals are critical links for PCWA water supplies.

John Kingsbury, director of customer services for PCWA, said during the outage customers in Zone 1 (Auburn and downstream areas) will be supplied primarily through storage and through temporary pumps on the American River. Customers in Zone 3 (above Auburn) also are being asked to conserve, so that more water may flow to Zone 1 customers.

Non-essential uses of water that can be postponed during the outage include watering of lawns and grass, washing of vehicles, driveway and surface hosing, construction use and pool or pond filling, Kingsbury said.

The canal work has been scheduled to follow the close of the 2003 irrigation season on Oct. 14. When possible, maintenance outages are planned during the fall

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season when construction weather is good and demand for water begins to drop.

Customers who receive winter irrigation water service should expect rolling canal outages similar to those they experienced during last year's maintenance outage. Rolling outages of one or two days are being planned for this year.

Kingsbury said the water agency is notifying customers of the outage and providing a small poster that includes reminders on the ways people can save water. Weather conditions and water demand will play a role in the agency's ability to supply water, said Kingsbury.

"We are making every effort to stretch what we expect to be a very limited supply," he said. "We appreciate our customers' patience and cooperation."

For information, contact the PCWA Customer Service Center at (530) 823-4850 or (800) 464-0030.