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**Contact: David A. Breninger
(530) 823-4850
or: Dave Carter
(530) 265-NEWS**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Auburn - The primary water supply agencies in Placer and Nevada counties have adopted a new agreement of cooperation on future water and power matters.

The memorandum of understanding won unanimous approval from directors of the Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) on Feb. 5 in Auburn after being approved Jan. 28 by directors of the Nevada Irrigation District (NID) in Grass Valley.

“This is an important agreement between the two entities,” said PCWA Director of Planning Services Mal Toy. “We intend to work together on water supply and power issues that will benefit our respective customers.”

Toy said the umbrella agreement charts seven basic points of cooperation and is designed to be a flexible guideline for cooperation between the two water suppliers.

Key points in the agreement cover future water service in the growing Lincoln area and the federal relicensing of the PCWA and NID hydroelectric power systems.

To meet water needs in the growing Lincoln area, where there are overlapping service boundaries, the agreement says the two organizations will work together and with the City of Lincoln on temporary water sales and also on definition of long-term service areas and water supply plans.

The PCWA Middle Fork American River Power Project and the NID Yuba-Bear Power Project were both licensed by the federal government in 1963. The 50-year licenses expire in 2013. Both agencies are planning to relicense the power projects in

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the best interests of Placer and Nevada counties. Relicensing is expected to take several years, include numerous studies and cost millions of dollars.

“By working together, we anticipate a better, more comprehensive relicensing effort at less cost,” said Toy.

On a related note, the PCWA Board of Directors on Feb. 5 authorized agency staff to move forward with the County of Placer and local city governments on studies for a comprehensive Western Placer County Water Resources Plan.

Initial steps include assessments of available water resources, including surface water, reclaimed water, water efficiency programs and groundwater, and projections of future demand.

It is anticipated that the plan will be developed and prepared over the next few years.