

March 5, 2004

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Auburn - Directors of the Placer County Water Agency on Thursday (Mar. 4) signaled their support for residents of two older neighborhoods who are working to obtain treated water service.

The board voted unanimously to set aside enough water to supply the Millertown Road and Crockett Road improvement districts if property owners eventually agree to form the improvement districts. Directors agreed to retain the excess water capacity for up to two years.

PCWA is working with residents of the two improvement districts to plan water system improvements and officials hope to obtain grant funding that would help pay for the extension of main lines to the areas.

Residents of the two neighborhoods are now being supplied either through individual wells or with untreated canal water. Residents said that some wells have bad water and others have failed.

The proposed Millertown Road Improvement District on the northwest side of Auburn includes 49 parcels. Needed system improvements are estimated at \$965,000, or \$19,700 per household.

The proposed Crockett Road Improvement District, on the southern city limits of Auburn, includes approximately 60 parcels. Needed system improvements are estimated at \$1.2 million, or \$20,700 per household.

PCWA Board Chairman Otis Wollan said the agency has placed a high priority on helping residents and customers who rely on untreated canal water and want to obtain high quality treated drinking water.

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In other business, directors:

- discussed a proposed study by the American River Authority and agreed it should not be limited to the potential for an Auburn Dam, but should instead encompass water resource needs on a regional basis.

- authorized \$500 in funding to the Placer Nature Center for the planned Auburn Ravine beautification project, subject to the nature center's receipt of a project grant. The board action followed a presentation by Linda Desai, education coordinator for the nature center.

- authorized an expenditure of \$17,580 toward a contract with the Water Education Foundation under which the foundation will provide water-related educational services for Placer County teachers, students and the general public. Executive Director Rita Schmidt Sudman represented the foundation at the meeting.

- reviewed progress on a proposed memorandum of understanding between PCWA and the County of Placer covering shared responsibilities in the multiyear project to relicense the PCWA Middle Fork American River Hydroelectric Project. The agency's existing 50-year federal license expires in 2013.

The next regular meeting of the PCWA Board of Directors will be held at 3 p.m. on Mar. 18 in the Placer County Board of Supervisors chambers, 175 Fulweiler Avenue, in Auburn. PCWA board meetings are open to the public.