

**April 20, 2004**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

*Auburn* - Directors of the Placer County Water Agency met in the West Placer County area on Monday (Apr. 19) and toured a pair of unique land use projects being developed in rural western Placer County.

The board convened in adjourned session in the multipurpose meeting room of the Western Placer Waste Management Authority at Athens and Fiddymont Road for routine business and presentations.

Directors:

- reviewed and authorized staff to submit to the Pacific Gas & Electric Company a 2005 PCWA Power System budget of \$14.8 million. Power System Manager Steve Jones said two major projects, a tunnel surge shaft repair and a rewind of the Ralston Powerhouse generator, account for 50 percent of the budget.

- heard a presentation from Paul Barber of San Francisco-based KenKay Associates, on the firm's smart growth/sustainable growth concepts in design of a proposed 2700-unit development on the 515-acre Nader property in southwest Lincoln. "Water should be a design element of a project," Barber said.

Field trips to the Aitken Mitigation Preserve west of Lincoln and the Pleasant Grove Retention Basin west of Roseville followed the business meeting.

The Aitken Mitigation Preserve is located on a 317-acre ranch formerly owned by the Aitken family. The preserve is used to mitigate the environmental impacts of the Highway 65 bypass and other projects.

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The preserve is being developed and managed by Wildlands, Inc., a Rocklin-based environmental firm, and includes wetlands areas, riparian grounds and endangered species habitat.

The Pleasant Grove Retention Basin is a City of Roseville project to capture up to 2500 acre-feet of storm runoff water in two retention basins planned at former rice fields on the Reason Farms and Warnick properties.

City officials said the basins would reduce storm water runoff in downstream Sutter County and would also serve to recharge groundwater supplies beneath the basins. The city plans to build the first basin in 2010 and the second by 2017.

The next meeting of the PCWA Board of Directors will be an adjourned session at 2 p.m. on May 10 at the PCWA Business Center, 144 Ferguson Road, in Auburn. PCWA board meetings are open to the public.