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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Annual Canal Maintenance Begins Oct. 12

Auburn - The delivery of summer irrigation water for Placer County Water Agency canal customers ends Monday, October 11, 2004.

PCWA Field Services Director Mike Nichol said, "October 11 will be the last full day of summer canal water deliveries. The next day agency crews will greatly reduce canal system flows and set services for winter water deliveries. Agency crews, along with PG&E crews, will also begin annual month-long scheduled canal maintenance work."

PCWA purchases irrigation water from PG&E's Drum-Spaulling system on the Yuba/Bear Rivers. The two utilities routinely coordinate and perform major maintenance projects together and especially so each fall. This year, the scheduled PG&E's canal system maintenance work will last four weeks beginning Sunday, October 17.

Nichol said PCWA will bypass water around the various PG&E canal construction sites when possible to endeavor to make agency irrigation water available to customers. However, this will likely be on an alternating day, rotating basis at best. The agency's temporary American River Pump system will also be utilized throughout this year's annual canal maintenance work to supplement agency supplies to meet irrigation customers' needs whenever possible.

"PCWA will be notifying irrigation water customers whose service will be directly affected by this year's annual fall canal maintenance work," said John Kingsbury,

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Director of Customer Services. “Also customers are encouraged to phone the agency if they would like more information to determine if their specific canal will be affected by this year’s canal maintenance work,” said Kingsbury.

“All customers are encouraged to limit their water use during this time as supplies of irrigation water to the agency’s overall water system can become stretched,” Kingsbury said.

For information on the planned annual canal maintenance project and water use efficiency measures, call PCWA Customer Services Center at (530) 823-4850.