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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Auburn - Leaders of the Placer County Water Agency on Thursday (Oct. 7) said that future development in western Placer County should rely on surface water rather than groundwater.

The subject arose at the PCWA Board of Directors meeting as part of a discussion of the planned De LaSalle University project, which would include a campus, commercial and residential land uses in an undeveloped area west of Roseville.

Director of Strategic Planning Einar Maisch said environmental studies on the De LaSalle project are beginning and they are considering the integrated use of surface water, reclaimed water, and groundwater.

Currently the Agency's treated water does not extend to the area and costs for transmission pipelines to the project would be significant. PCWA and other agencies are currently working on a project to divert water from the Sacramento River which could be used in the area.

Board members agreed that PCWA should work with county planners and project developers to explore methods through which treated water lines could be extended to the area.

"We have a number of ways to equalize the costs so that everybody pays their fair share," said Maisch.

In a joint meeting on Sept. 7, PCWA directors and the Placer County Board of Supervisors agreed that surface water should be the area's primary supply and that

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groundwater should be preserved to stabilize the underground water table and for emergency and peak use purposes.

In other business, PCWA directors:

- endorsed Proposition 1A on the Nov. 2 ballot. General Manager David Breninger recommended the agency join with other water industry supporters of the measure, which would limit the state's ability to take funds from local government. The negotiated proposition would be phased in over a two-year period in which PCWA would lose about \$1.1 million. This, Breninger said, is in addition to the more than \$2 million that has been transferred to the state over the past 12 years.

- discussed current financial planning efforts as the agency prepares its 2005 calendar year budgets. Breninger and Finance Director Joseph Parker informed the board of the agency's increasing non-discretionary costs. In addition to the revenue shifts to the State, health care, retirement costs, insurance and electricity costs were cited.

- were introduced to two employees who will participate in the multiyear federal relicensing effort for the PCWA Middle Fork American River Project. Director of Resource Development Mal Toy introduced Administrative Aide Beverly Bell, who transfers from Engineering; and Typist Clerk II Brenda Lindley, who transfers from Customer Services.

The next regular meeting of the PCWA Board of Directors will be held on Oct. 21. The board will convene at 8:15 a.m. at the PCWA Business Center in Auburn and then travel to the Northstar Community Service District office, 908 Northstar Drive in Northstar, to consider eastern Placer County water matters.