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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Auburn - Directors of the Placer County Water Agency on Thursday (Nov. 18) gave final approval to a 2005 financial package that includes a \$51.1 million overall budget and water rate increases for PCWA treated water and raw water customers. The new water rates take effect Jan. 1, 2005, in all five PCWA service zones, which extend across the Sierra from the Martis Valley near Truckee to cities and unincorporated communities in western Placer County.

PCWA officials said the rate adjustments will allow the agency to maintain good and reliable levels of water service at a time of increasing costs in the PCWA Water System budget.

Under the 2005 rate schedule, the monthly base rate for treated water users will increase by 7.5 percent and the renewal and replacement charge will increase by \$2.75. Officials said the increased renewal and replacement charge is necessary to maintain an aging water system infrastructure.

The agency provided examples of the financial impacts the overall rate adjustments would have on water users:

In Zone 1, Auburn and below, a majority of customers (64 percent) using 20-60 units of water per month will see an average increase of \$6.06. Low volume users of 20 units or less (18 percent) will pay an average \$4.42 more while high volume users of more than 60 units (18 percent) will pay an added \$11.42.

Increases will be similar in the tiny Zone 2, which supplies 46 homes in Bianchi Estates near Roseville.

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In Zone 3, which includes the I-80 corridor from Alta to Meadow Vista, the respective average amounts would be \$6.64 for medium volume users, \$5.14 for low volume users and \$11.26 for high volume users.

In Zone 4, which supplies well water to the Lahontan community near Truckee, the basic monthly service charge was increased by \$1.95, from \$26.03 to \$27.98 and a third water usage tier was added to promote water conservation.

PCWA irrigation water customers will see increases of 4 percent for summer irrigation water service and 7 percent for winter water. The increases apply to Zones 1 and 3. In Zone 5, an agricultural area west of Lincoln, rates are determined and set annually, depending on water availability.

Directors approved an overall 2005 PCWA budget of \$51.1 million. The financial plan includes a Water System budget of \$26.5 million, a Power System budget of \$22.4 million and an Agency Wide budget of \$2.2 million.

Customers with questions about PCWA's 2005 rates and budgets may contact the PCWA Customer Service Center at (530) 823-4850 or (800) 464-0030.