

January 7, 2005

Contact: David A. Breninger
(530) 823-4850
or: Dave Carter
(530) 265-NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Auburn - Directors of the Placer County Water Agency on Thursday (Jan. 6) approved annexation of the 49-acre Thunder Valley Casino property into the PCWA Zone 1 service area.

The annexation would allow the property owner, United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria, to apply for PCWA water service directly from the Agency or from Lincoln. PCWA has an 18-inch water main line along Athens Avenue adjacent to the property.

The casino was initially developed using groundwater but the tribe has expressed interest in converting to a surface water system in order to obtain better quality water and in turn improve the quality of the outflow from the casino into the stream that runs through the casino property.

After approving the annexation the board considered Lincoln's request for delivery of PCWA water from PCWA's Athens Avenue pipeline to enable Lincoln to be the purveyor of treated water to the casino. The city does not currently have facilities to serve the property.

District 2 County Supervisor Robert Weygandt said a PCWA water supply directly from PCWA to the casino would be the most efficient and practical source for the property at this time.

Agency Directors, as part of their unanimous vote, agreed and stated that if and when permanent city water facilities are in place to serve the casino and adjacent property within Lincoln's sphere of influence, the possibility of Lincoln becoming the purveyor of water to the casino should be reviewed.

In other business, directors:

- agreed to share in the costs of a Sacramento River watershed sanitary survey with five other government agencies. The agency, which is working on a long term project to utilize water from the Sacramento River, would pay a share of up to \$35,000, including follow-up.

- allowed a Loomis property owner to pay the 2004 Water Connection Charge (WCC) instead of the increased 2005 amount in connecting to the PCWA water system. Communication difficulties were cited in granting the request.

- continued to their next meeting a request that the WCC for a 21-unit affordable housing project in the City of Rocklin be paid in four installments instead of in advance.

- reviewed issues and interests identified a year ago as part of a 2004 visioning process in an effort to measure progress and chart strategic goals for 2005 and beyond.

The next regular meeting of the PCWA Board of Directors will be held at 3 p.m. on Jan. 20 in the Placer County Board of Supervisors chambers, 175 Fulweiler Avenue, in Auburn. PCWA board meetings are open to the public.