

**January 21, 2005**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

*Auburn* - Directors of the Placer County Water Agency on Thursday (Jan. 20) approved a treated surface water service request by the Thunder Valley Casino property near Lincoln.

In response to the request from the United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria, owner of the 49-acre property known as the Thunder Valley Casino, the board set aside water capacity for 304 equivalent dwelling units (EDUs), or about 199 acre-feet of water per year.

Mr. David Zweig, spokesman for Thunder Valley Casino, said the tribe is interested in obtaining, as soon as possible, high quality treated surface water to replace the groundwater supply it now pumps and uses. PCWA has a water main along Athens Avenue near the property that can be accessed to supply the Casino property.

Representatives of the City of Lincoln, who have plans to supply long-term water to the City's sphere of influence which includes the Casino property, attended the meeting. Mayor Tom Cosgrove and City Manager Gerald Johnson expressed their city's interest for agency and city staff to meet to determine how best to mutually provide future retail water service in the city's planning sphere north of Athens Avenue. They also asked that discussions include other water resource alternatives that could be of mutual benefit to the entities and respective water customers. General Manager David Breninger said agency and city staff discussions will soon commence on these matters including development of a long-term integrated water resource plan.

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In other business, the board:

- learned that agency District 1 Director and Board Chair Pauline Roccucci of Roseville has been elected to chair the Regional Water Authority Board of Directors for 2005. The RWA consists of 18 water purveyors in the Sacramento, El Dorado, and Placer County region.

- heard an update on agency efforts to obtain Proposition 50 grant funding to develop the PCWA Heritage Center on Ophir Road into a water resource and education center.

- approved an agreement with Sigrist Investments, LLC to allow the payment of water connection charges in four equal installments for a 21-unit affordable housing project being developed with the City of Rocklin.

- agreed to join with members of the Regional Water Authority in support of a legal action by the El Dorado Irrigation District to defend area of origin water rights.

- approved a new simplified process for developer-funded and constructed water system improvements. A new facilities agreement process will replace several agreements used for pipeline extensions and other improvements.

The next meeting of the PCWA Board of Directors will be a strategic planning workshop that begins at 3 p.m. on Jan. 31 at the PCWA Business Center, 144 Ferguson Road, in Auburn.

The workshop will be followed at 5:15 p.m. by a reception to commemorate the 30th anniversary of PCWA's elected board of directors.

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