

**May 3, 2005**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## **Water Meters Being Replaced**

More than 1,000 old water meters are being replaced in Alta, Dutch Flat and Colfax in a three-month project begun Monday (May 2) by the Placer County Water Agency.

The water efficiency program is being conducted in association with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and is being funded through the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1999. There is no meter replacement charge to PCWA water users.

Crews with the project contractor, R.L. McDonnell are currently completing the first replacements in Alta and will then work down the hill through Dutch Flat. Work in Colfax is anticipated to begin in early June.

The old meters, most of which are 10-20 years old, are being replaced with state-of-the-art meters that use radio technology. This allows meters to be read from the street, saving time and limiting the need for entry onto private property.

PCWA Director of Customer Services John Kingsbury said water customers will be advised by mail about one week before their meter is scheduled for replacement and door tag reminders will be placed one day before the work.

Most replacements will be done quickly and cause little inconvenience. After the new meter is installed, customers may wish to let water run for a few moments from each faucet to flush any possible residue from the line.

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*Water Meters Replaced*  
*Page two*

In many cases, the older meters are reading at 85-95 percent of actual water usage, so customers should not be surprised to see higher readings with the new meters, Kingsbury cautioned.

To help customers reduce water usage, PCWA offers a full range of water efficiency services, including free home water use surveys, low-flow plumbing fixtures and rebates on installation of modern, low-flow toilets.

For water use efficiency and other water service information, call the PCWA Customer Service Center in Auburn at 823-4850 or see [www.pcwa.net](http://www.pcwa.net).