



NEWS RELEASE

Placer County Water Agency

144 Ferguson Road (P.O. Box 6570) Auburn, California 95604
(530) 823-4860 FAX (530) 823-4960

September 2, 2005

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FORESTHILL, Placer County -- Directors of the Placer County Water Agency focused on water resource and hydroelectric power issues as they met in regular session Thursday (Sept. 1) in Foresthill at the Veteran's Memorial Building.

Operations of PCWA's Middle Fork American River Project are coordinated through the agency's Power System offices in Foresthill. The meeting provided an opportunity for Power System Manager Steve Jones to update the board on the project.

Jones reported on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) five-year inspection in July of recreational facilities at French Meadows and Hell Hole reservoirs. He said the agency is working with the FERC, PG&E and U.S. Forest Service to accommodate changing public uses at the mountain reservoirs.

A second report focused on a PG&E project to repair a leaking vertical shaft on a water tunnel above the Middle Fork Powerhouse. Jones said PG&E has contracted with an engineering firm to determine the extent of damage in what is expected to be a several year multi-million-dollar repair project.

-more-

In other business, directors:

- received a report from General Manager David Breninger who announced Valerie Lord was appointed, effective September 1, to the position of Director of Administrative Services. Lord also serves as Assistant General Manager.

- reviewed with staff the concept of a Middle Fork Project Finance Authority, which is being explored in meetings between the agency and the County of Placer. The two government organizations see the authority as a method to finance the current multi-year federal relicensing process costs of the project and after 2013 the expenditure of revenues from the sale of electricity. Discussions are continuing.

- approved environmental studies and authorized the purchase of a small .39-acre section of land adjacent to the PCWA Monte Vista water tank site in Dutch Flat. Director of Technical Services Brian Martin said the purchase would provide space for security fencing, parking and site maintenance.

- voted to support the Regional Water Authority in efforts to clarify the relationship between land use planning and water supply infrastructure planning.

PCWA Directors will travel to eastern Placer County on Sept. 15 for their next regular board meeting. The board will convene at 8:15 a.m. at the PCWA Business Center in Auburn and then travel to Olympic Valley for the meeting, which will be held in the Squaw Valley Public Service District Community Room, 305 Squaw Valley Road. PCWA board meetings are open to the public.