



## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **Placer County Water Agency**

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#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

*Auburn* - Following a public hearing on Thursday (Oct. 20), directors of the Placer County Water Agency are reviewing staff recommendations for increases to Agency water rates, fees and charges.

There were no public comments offered at the hearing. At their next meeting on Nov. 3, the board is expected to take final action on the proposed increases.

Director of Financial Services Joseph Parker said, "The rate adjustments are needed to adequately fund water operations, maintain good levels of staff and service, rebuild aging water system infrastructure and to pay rising costs for construction materials necessary to sustain the overall water utility."

"There are various components to the agency's water rates," explained Director of Customer Services John Kingsbury. "These include the monthly service charge, the water usage charge, the renewal and replacement charge and the state and federal mandate charge.

"Depending on a customer's specific water consumption and location, water bills vary for each of the agency's 36,000 water customers," he said.

The proposed new rates, when adopted by the board, would become effective Jan. 1, 2006 in the agency's five service zones. The zones extend from western Placer County to the Martis Valley in eastern Placer County. Following are examples of how monthly water bills would be affected in the different service zones:

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### **Western Placer**

In Zone 1, which includes Auburn, Loomis, Rocklin and a large unincorporated area, the basic monthly service charge for a standard residential 5/8-inch water meter is proposed to increase by 8.75 percent from \$11.65 to \$12.67. The six-tier usage charge would rise from 3 to 6 percent, or 2, 4 or 6 cents per unit (hundred cubic feet) for most residential customers. The renewal and replacement charge is proposed to increase by \$3.60, from \$4.90 to \$8.50, and the charge for state and federal mandated programs would go up by 32 cents, from \$3.99 to \$4.31.

Kingsbury offered further examples of how the overall rate adjustments would affect typical customers using low, medium and high amounts of water. "A low water user in Zone 1 would see an overall monthly increase of \$5.50, a medium level user would pay an additional \$6.26 and a high user would pay an additional \$10.80," he said.

### **Upper Foothill Areas**

In Zone 3, which includes Colfax and several unincorporated communities along the Interstate 80 corridor from Alta to Meadow Vista, customers would see no change in the basic monthly service charge.

The state and federal mandate charge is proposed to increase by 32 cents and the renewal and replacement charge would go up by \$3.60.

Typical water use examples were also offered for Zone 3. "A low user would see an overall monthly increase of \$3.66, a medium level user would also pay an additional \$3.66 and a high user would pay another \$7.07," Kingsbury said.

### **Martis Valley**

In Zone 4 in eastern Placer County, PCWA supplies water to the Lahontan community south of Truckee. There, the basic monthly service charge would rise by 8.75 percent, from \$27.98 to \$30.43. Including usage, typical customers in the low, medium and high use categories would pay an additional \$6.97, \$7.45 and \$14.02 respectively, said Kingsbury.

### **Irrigation Water**

Irrigation customers who receive raw water through the PCWA canal system will see increases that vary up to 8.75 percent, depending on the amount of water usage.

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The increases apply to service zones 1, 3 and 5. Zone 5 serves large commercial agricultural lands west of Lincoln. In Zone 1, the canal capital facilities charge is also proposed to increase by 22 cents per month, from \$5.49 to \$5.71.

Customers with questions about these and other proposed changes to PCWA's water rates, fees and charges are invited to contact the PCWA Customer Service Center at (530) 823-4850 or (800) 464-0030.