



## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **Placer County Water Agency**

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

*Auburn* - Directors of the Placer County Water Agency on Thursday (Jan. 5) voted to move forward with a multi-million-dollar surface water development project to assure that agency water supplies are available to serve to western Placer County's growing need for water.

The agency's Foothill Raw Water Supply Project will pump water from the American River via the existing Auburn Tunnel to the Foothill Water Treatment Plant in Newcastle, as well as to the Dutch Ravine Canal system.

The project is also designed to assure water supply for the agency's future Ophir Water Treatment Plant, which will be located adjacent to the pump station on Ophir Road.

Two contracts were approved at the board meeting; one for construction of the Foothill Raw Water Supply Pump Station Project; and the second for management services to oversee construction of the large water project.

With a low bid of \$34.9 million, Pacific Mechanical Corp. of Concord was the successful bidder on the pump station project. The agency prequalified six general contractors and received three bids ranging to \$37.7 million.

West & Yost Associates, with offices in Auburn and Roseville, was awarded the \$1.9 million construction management contract. The agency sought proposals from seven firms and received two.

A second phase of the project, the Foothill Raw Water Supply Pipeline, is now in design and scheduled to go to bid in the next few months and includes six miles of major transmission lines.

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In other business, directors:

- heard staff reports with video presentations on damages from last week's severe winter storm on agency facilities. The agency's Middle Fork American River Project, located east of Foresthill, sustained an estimated \$300,000 in damage from erosion and debris that clogged reservoirs, tunnel intakes and water diversions. Storm damage assessment and cost estimates are still being compiled.

Brian Martin, the agency's director of technical services in the Water Division, said high flows on Dec. 31 at the American River pump station site were estimated at upwards of 90,000 cubic feet per second (cfs). These numbers compare to the flow record of 121,000 cfs of 1997 and 97,000 cfs measured in 1986. The agency's Water System of canals and reservoirs sustained modest damage from the storm.

- voted to increase water availability to Zone 1 by 2000 acre-feet from PCWA's Canyon Creek water rights.

- agreed to a three-year contract with PCWA employees, with a 4.1 percent wage increase effective Jan. 1, 2006, cost-of-living based adjustments in the following two years and other changes in benefits during the term of the contracts. Formal contract approval is anticipated at the board's Jan. 19 meeting.

PCWA directors will next meet in a special joint meeting with the Placer County Board of Supervisors at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday (Jan. 10) in the Board of Supervisors chambers, 175 Fulweiler Avenue, in Auburn. The purpose of the meeting is to approve formation of a Middle Fork Project Finance Authority.

The next regular meeting of the PCWA board will be held at 2 p.m. on January 19 in the Board of Supervisors chambers. PCWA board meetings are open to the public.