



## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **Placer County Water Agency**

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

*Auburn* - The Placer County Water Agency is gearing up for the lengthy process to renew its new Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license for the agency's Middle Fork American River Project.

The Middle Fork Project is a system of reservoirs, dams and hydroelectric power plants in the high Sierra of Placer County. PCWA built, owns, and operates the project under a 50-year federal license that is scheduled for renewal in 2013.

Meeting Thursday (Feb. 16), the water agency Board of Directors reviewed proposals to continue contracts with three consulting firms to assist the agency with the highly technical and complicated federal relicensing process. The proposed contracts will next be reviewed by the board's Finance Committee and then returned to the full board for final action.

Financing for the multi-million-dollar relicensing process is being coordinated through the Middle Fork Project Finance Authority, a joint powers authority formed earlier this year by PCWA and the County of Placer.

In other business this week, PCWA directors:

- heard reports from the agency's directors of Customer Services, Field Services, Technical Services and Strategic Affairs on accomplishments of the past year and issues and interests anticipated in the coming year.

- heard a briefing from General Manager David Breninger on state Senate Bill 1253 (Sen. Carole Migden, San Francisco) which would study the Middle and North Fork American Rivers as potential state wild and scenic rivers. Breninger said the

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agency would monitor the bill and inform the author of the water and power systems the agency operates on the river.

The PCWA Board of Directors will next meet in adjourned session for a strategic planning workshop. The meeting is open to the public and will be held at noon on Thursday (Feb. 23) at the PCWA Business Center, 144 Ferguson Road, in Auburn.