



## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **Placer County Water Agency**

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

*Auburn* - The Placer County Water Agency will begin to replace sections of the old and troublesome Gold Run Pipeline north of Colfax, under action taken Thursday (May 4) by the PCWA Board of Directors.

The board approved environmental studies and authorized staff to move forward to call for construction bids to upgrade a portion of the old pipeline that conveys water for the Agency.

Brent Smith, the water agency's Deputy Director of Technical Services, said the project is planned for this year and next, with 1400 feet of new 36-inch pipeline to be installed this year and he anticipates that another 2400 feet in 2007.

The agency has made the replacement a priority because much of the old pipeline is made of Techite, a fiberglass wrapped plastic pipe product that was installed in the 1960s and 1970s by PG&E long before PCWA took over the upper Placer water system. It was acquired by PCWA when PG&E decided in the mid-1980's to divest itself of its water delivery system and water customers. PCWA acquired the system commonly known as PCWA Zone 3.

Techite pipe has been prone to failure recently, causing many water outages and costly repairs and inconvenience to Zone 3 customers, Smith said.

Members of the board expressed enthusiastic support for the upgrade. District 5 Director Otis Wollan, who represents the area, said he is pleased this project will occur and result in reducing water emergencies for customers and the system. District 3 Director Lowell Jarvis said the work improves "critical infrastructure" for the agency.

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Smith said he expects this year's work to begin by early summer once bids are received and a contract awarded.

The board also heard a report from Director of Customer Services John Kingsbury on California Water Awareness Month, which is being observed this month as it has each May for 19 years.

Kingsbury provided an overview of the agency's participation and involvement with the Regional Water Authority (RWA). He noted that PCWA water efficiency specialist Audra Davison is featured on 14 RWA billboards that are being placed along roadways in the Sacramento area.

He also noted that PCWA will again provide information and water education materials at the Auburn Home Show, which takes place May 19-21 at the Gold Country Fairgrounds.

In other business, PCWA directors:

- authorized staff to submit a response to the Placer County Planning Department confirming that with needed infrastructure improvements the agency has enough water to supply the proposed 2213-acre Placer Ranch specific plan area west of Rocklin.

- approved an addendum to constructions specifications and environmental documentation for the Foothill Raw Water Supply Pump Station, now under construction in Ophir. The addendum will allow underground drilling around the clock as workers make up lost time due to prolonged wet weather. The approval was conditioned upon a number of noise control measures to be implemented.

- heard a progress report on the American River Pump Project. Staff reported the first phase of construction is in progress, the Bureau of Reclamation plans to receive bids on Phase 2 on May 19, and that this year's temporary pump installation would be delayed until July because of winter storm damages.

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- discussed matters pending before the American River Authority (ARA), of which PCWA is one of five public agencies in the region.

The next regular meeting of the PCWA Board of Directors will be held at 2 p.m. on May 18 in the Placer County Board of Supervisors chambers, 175 Fulweiler Avenue, in Auburn.

Information about PCWA board meetings may be obtained by calling the Clerk to the Board at (530) 823-4860.