



## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **Placer County Water Agency**

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

*OLYMPIC VALLEY*-- Directors of the Placer County Water Agency gathered Thursday (Sept. 21) in eastern Placer County to discuss local water issues with eastern county water managers.

Based in Auburn, PCWA has countywide water resource responsibilities. The board usually meets twice annually in eastern Placer County.

The eastern county visit began at the Gatekeepers Museum in Tahoe City where Bob Lourey, general manager of the Tahoe City Public Utility District provided an update on the district's activities, including public trail development projects in Tahoe City and on the lake's north shore.

A business meeting followed at the Squaw Valley Public Service District in Olympic Valley where directors:

- reviewed the water agency's Financial Assistance Program, which since 1993 has provided more than \$1.2 million in planning grants, including \$96,000 this year, to eastern Placer County water suppliers.

- heard a presentation from Mike Staudenmayer, deputy general manager of the Northstar Community Services District, who reported on the district's work in providing public utility service to the growing Northstar community, where several hundred new homes, new base village and the Ritz-Carlton Highlands Hotel are in development.

- heard a presentation from Rick Lierman, general manager of the Squaw Valley Public Service District, who provided updates on the district's aquifer storage and

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recovery project and groundwater management plan. Lierman said the district is working on new rules to encourage water conservation by homeowners.

- provided information on the agency's relicensing of the Middle Fork American River Project. The project includes two major reservoirs, five hydroelectric power plants and related facilities. The original 50-year project license, granted in 1963, must be renewed by 2013.

In a related item, the Board of Directors voted to intervene in a similar relicensing effort being conducted by the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD), which is seeking a new federal license for its Upper American River Project.

During a morning session held in Auburn, directors unanimously supported the intervention, saying it is important to determine if SMUD is taking too much water from the upper Rubicon River where both agencies have rights to water supplies.

The next regular meeting of the PCWA Board of Directors will be held at 2 p.m. on Oct. 5 in the Placer County Board of Supervisors chambers, 175 Fulweiler Avenue, in Auburn. PCWA board meetings are open to the public.

Information on PCWA board meetings may be obtained through the Clerk to the Board at (530) 823-4850.