



## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **Placer County Water Agency**

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

*Auburn* - The multi-million-dollar American River Pump Station project has moved into its second phase and is expected to be complete in 2008, it was reported Thursday (Oct. 5).

The permanent pump station is being built by the federal Bureau of Reclamation in the American River canyon near Auburn. It has been a PCWA priority for more than a decade and will allow the water agency to pump up to 35,500 acre-feet of water per year to Placer County.

In an update to the Placer County Water Agency Board of Directors, Brian Martin, the agency's director of technical services, said the \$19.8 million Phase 1 of the project, including the pump station, access, grading and pipelines, is nearly ready for testing.

Testing may be delayed to spring, he said, because it would require use of temporary pumps that are now being used to supply PCWA with water. Testing cannot be accomplished in winter conditions because the temporary pumps are removed because of the potential for flooding, he noted.

Meanwhile, construction has begun on Phase 2, under a \$31 million contract awarded by the Bureau to Ford Construction Company, Inc., of Lodi. Phase 2 includes a new water diversion structure, restoration of the river channel and closure of the old Auburn Dam tunnel.

In other business, PCWA directors:

- set a series of meetings in coming weeks to consider and adopt the agency's

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2007 rates, fees, charges and budget. A public hearing on a proposed increase in the water connection charge (WCC) will be held on Nov. 2 while a public hearing on a proposed water rate increase will be held Nov. 9.

- approved a \$36,000 grant to the Squaw Valley Public Service District for the district's aquifer storage and recovery project. The grant is part of the agency's financial assistance program that helps local water purveyors with water resource planning grants.

The next regular meeting of the PCWA Board of Directors will be held at 2 p.m. on Oct. 19 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.