



## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **Placer County Water Agency**

144 Ferguson Road (P.O. Box 6570) Auburn, California 95604  
(530) 823-4860 FAX (530) 823-4960

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**Contact: David A. Breninger**  
**(530) 823-4850**  
**or: Dave Carter**  
**(530) 265-NEWS**

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

*Auburn* – A weather research project based in Foresthill is providing information that may be helpful in planning for water supplies and flood protection in the American River Basin.

Directors of the Placer County Water Agency on Thursday (Mar. 15) heard a presentation on the project from J.J. Gourley, Ph.D, a research hydrometeorologist with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

For the past two winters, researchers from NOAA and other agencies have operated a mobile radar station on PCWA property at the former Foresthill mill site. The station is manned whenever a storm event is expected.

Gourley said models created through the project have better approximated actual stream flows, which are affected by variations in topography, soil, land cover and other factors. Predictions based on existing radar systems do not account for these variations, he noted.

PCWA District 5 Director Otis Wollan said the project could turn out to be especially valuable for downstream flood protection by providing earlier predictions of when high flows will occur in the river canyon.

Gourley said this year's project has been completed and that his team plans to return for at least two more winter seasons.

"We had a few decent storm events this year, but it wasn't nearly as good as last year," he said.

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In other business, PCWA directors:

- heard a report from Resource Planning Administrator Andy Fecko on the agency's preliminary grant application for Proposition 50 funding for watershed assessment work on the North Fork American River.

- heard reports on last year's achievements and this year's challenges from the directors of strategic planning, finance, customer services and field services. The agency's department heads offer these updates to the board early each year.

The PCWA Board of Directors next meets in adjourned session on Monday, Mar. 26, beginning at 4 p.m., at the PCWA Business Center, 144 Ferguson Road, in Auburn. The board's next regular meeting follows on Apr. 5.

Information about PCWA board meetings is available through the Clerk to the Board at (530) 823-4850.