



NEWS RELEASE

Placer County Water Agency

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Auburn - The Placer County Water Agency Board of Directors met on June 21 at the PCWA Business Center.

- City of Auburn Mayor Robert Snyder made a presentation to the Board regarding a new landscape demonstration and beautification project on city property at Auburn-Folsom Road and High Street. The new xeriscape garden is an educational project developed in partnership with Leadership Auburn, the city and the agency.

Leadership Auburn, the Mayor explained, is offered annually through the Auburn Chamber of Commerce and is designed to inform and educate aspiring community leaders. He reported that this year's class community service project has been the planning and actual transformation of a small vacant lot into a landscaped garden to serve as a new "gateway" to the City.

"The agency is a long-time sponsor of Leadership Auburn," said agency General Manager David Breninger. He explained that the agency, as a partner in this education project, will make the water connection directly to the garden from an agency pipeline in High Street in lieu of the City having to extend a waterline from other sources.

- A major topic of business before the Agency Board was a comprehensive review of water resource and land use proposals for West Placer County.

Agency staff gave an update on the new surface water diversion from the Sacramento River that is planned for serving the proposed Placer Vineyards and other new development projects in western Placer County.

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The Placer Vineyards development is currently under consideration by the Placer County Board of Supervisors. The 5,230-acre project includes two proposed development scenarios. One is for 14,100 homes plus commercial and other land uses and a second scenario includes 21,621 homes. The higher density scenario is an outgrowth of regional planning sponsored by the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG). Under either scenario, PCWA plans to provide treated surface water to the project.

The Board reviewed a variety of major infrastructure projects and plans necessary for addressing water availability and reliability for the many proposed development projects in West Placer.

PCWA's plans for diversion of water from the Sacramento River would be located near the Sacramento International Airport. It is a partnership project including the agency and the Cities of Roseville and Sacramento. The project would include a water treatment plant and extensive pipelines extending to North Sacramento County and West Placer County to serve proposed new growth. Currently in the conceptual stage, it will take several years to complete once all necessary permits and funding is assured.

The agency Board also reviewed a proposed West Placer Groundwater Management Plan. The four partners in the plan include the agency, the Cities of Lincoln and Roseville and Cal-American Water Company. The plan will play an important role in assuring that the primary purpose for groundwater in West Placer is for agriculture. New growth in West Placer is to develop using treated surface water, reclaimed water, conservation practices and groundwater. The groundwater component would only be used when necessary as a backup to the treated surface water system in times of drought or emergencies.

The agency Board also received a report on the proposed Ophir Water Treatment Plant Project. Staff also reviewed a proposed response to recent inquiries from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service about the project.

- The Board voted a new \$203,000 annual salary for 15-year agency General Manager David Breninger. Board Chairman Lowell Jarvis and Vice Chairman Mike Lee recommended the increase after a review of comparable manager positions in other public entities, as well as compensation relationships within the agency. Lee noted that Breninger oversees an extensive water and power system and should be compensated in a “fair and equitable manner.” Breninger’s current annual salary is \$169,000. His fringe benefits are as provided by the Board to agency employees.
- The Board nominated District 1 Director Gray Allen of Roseville to serve on the Board of Directors for Region 3 of the Association of California Water Agencies. ACWA, formed in 1910, is the largest coalition of public water agencies in the nation. It has nearly 450 public agency members that are responsible for 90 percent of the water delivered to California cities, farms and businesses. Region 3 includes water utilities of the Sierra Nevada.

The next regular meeting of the PCWA Board of Directors will be held at 2 p.m. on July 5 at the PCWA Business Center, 144 Ferguson Road, in Auburn. PCWA board meetings are open to the public.

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