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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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AUBURN -- If the federal Bureau of Reclamation were to have water rights on the North Fork American River revoked by the State Water Board, the Placer County Water Agency will request that any resulting unappropriated water be reserved as a supply for unmet local needs.

The subject was a primary focus of attention at Thursday's (May 15) meeting of the PCWA Board of Directors. General Manager David Breninger and General Counsel Janet Goldsmith provided background on a proposed State Water Resources Control Board notice to hold hearings on the potential revocation of four water rights permits issued to the Bureau in 1971 related to the Auburn Dam.

The Water Board has scheduled hearings in June and July on the proposed revocation of the four water permits.

Breninger said that the notice from the State Water Board says, "the hearings are to determine if the federal water rights should be revoked, under State Water Code Section 1410, since work has not been completed on the dam and the water has not been applied to beneficial use as contemplated in the permits."

"We do see an opportunity to possibly secure additional water rights on the North Fork American River for our County and possibly others within the watershed," said PCWA Director of Strategic Affairs Einar Maisch.

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The PCWA Board and staff discussed a policy position that if the State Water Board were to ultimately revoke some portion of the Bureau's North Fork American River water rights resulting in any unappropriated water, then PCWA would seek to have it reserved for local water purveyors within the American River Watershed to meet present and future area-of-origin water demands.

Agency Chairman Mike Lee said, "Fifty years ago PCWA was formed to protect and perfect water supplies of the American River in our County for local use. This board stands ready once again to do the same for future generations should any additional water become available on the River by any action of the State Water Board."

"People are expecting us to be leaders and stewards of the water resources important to our County," said Director Alex Ferreira. On his motion with second by Director Gray Allen, the Board unanimously approved the policy position for submittal to the State Water Board.

In other business, directors:

- voted to submit to the Pacific Gas and Electric Company a proposed 2009 Power System budget of \$8.2 million. Officials termed the budget a "modest" operation and maintenance budget. Recent and future budgets have been and are expected to be significantly higher.

- approved a \$300,212 task order for a water temperature modeling program to be conducted as part of the agency's Middle Fork American River Project federal relicensing program. Watercourse Engineering, Inc. will conduct the modeling.

- heard a presentation on the Sierra Nevada Alliance water and climate change campaign. Marion Gee, spokeswoman for the South Lake Tahoe-based group that works to protect Sierra resources, provided an overview of the group's Sierra Climate Change Toolkit. Information is available at www.sierranevadaalliance.org.

- heard a monthly update on development of the agency's energy efficiency strategy, which will include policy statements on carbon footprint and greenhouse gas

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emissions. James W. Schettler, a consultant with Brown & Caldwell, said energy savings of 15 percent or more may be possible through use of alternate and renewable energy sources.

Board Chairman Mike Lee adjourned the meeting in memory of the late Bill Santucci, former Placer County supervisor, Roseville mayor and longtime community leader, who passed away on May 7.

Directors will next meet in adjourned session at 10 a.m. on May 29 when they travel to the American River Pump Station for a dedication ceremony co-hosted by PCWA and the Bureau of Reclamation.

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