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## NEWS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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*AUBURN* -- With a mostly gravity-flow water system, the Placer County Water Agency currently uses less electrical energy than other water purveyors, it was reported at Thursday's (August 7) meeting of the PCWA Board of Directors.

But in future years, as the water agency relies more on water pumped from the American River, energy use is expected to increase significantly.

This was among the preliminary conclusions presented Thursday (Aug. 7) by consultant Paul Selsky who updated the board on a current study that aims to help the agency improve an energy efficiency policy and strategy.

Selsky, of Brown and Caldwell Environmental Engineers, said 93 percent of the water PCWA delivers today flows from the Yuba-Bear river watershed and has a "low energy footprint" as it is primarily gravity supply.

Most future growth in the county will be supplied through the new American River Pump Station, which will increase the embedded energy costs in water delivery by four to eight times, he noted.

Water from the American River must be pumped about 400 vertical feet to the Auburn Tunnel and Ophir for distribution in Placer County.

Selsky said the first phase of the energy efficiency study will be completed in about a month.

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In other business, directors:

- agreed to market 20,000 acre-feet of surplus water from the Middle Fork American River Project to the Westlands Water District for \$125 per acre-foot. The one-time transfer is scheduled to begin in September and be completed by Dec. 31.

- authorized staff to accept a \$23,262 matching grant from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to support the agency's ongoing water efficiency rebate programs for low water use toilets and washing machines. Customer rebate information may be found at [www.pcwa.net](http://www.pcwa.net).

- directed staff to revise the agency's procedures on the timing of the collection of water connection charges (WCC) for new water services.

- approved a cost sharing agreement of \$19,843 in support of the Sacramento Water Forum for 2008/09. Eight regional water purveyors participate financially in the Water Forum with shares ranging from \$9,200 to \$482,000.

- approved a contract in support of a \$15,000 financial assistance grant to the Foresthill Public Utility District for preparation of a drought contingency plan.

The next regular meeting of the PCWA Board of Directors will be held at 2 p.m. on Aug. 21 at the PCWA Business Center, 144 Ferguson Road, in Auburn. PCWA board meetings are open to the public.

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