



PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY
SINCE 1957
BUSINESS CENTER
144 Ferguson Road
MAIL
P.O. Box 6570
Auburn, CA 95604
PHONE
530.823.4860
530.823.4960 - fax
WWW.PCWA.NET

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

January 16, 2009

Contact: David A. Breninger, (530) 823-4860

or: Dave Carter, (530) 265-NEWS

AUBURN -- Directors of the Placer County Water Agency met on Thursday (Jan. 15) in regular session.

The Board received a comprehensive briefing on Placer County property tax assessments and distributions from County Assessor Kristen Spears and Auditor Controller Katherine Martinis. They reviewed the processes in place since the enactment of Proposition 13 (passed in 1978) which set the basis for appraising property, setting an assessment and tax apportionment used to distribute property tax revenues to all local governments.

There was also discussion concerning the State of California's long-standing practice to take local property tax revenues to resolve State budget deficits such as the current one of \$42 billion dollars. "The State has historically balanced their fiscal shortfall on the backs of cities, counties and special districts," said Agency General Manager David Breninger. "This is an example of one of the many ways the State has taken over the years to extract local revenues to mitigate for poor budget management practices at the Capitol," he said.

In other business, directors:

- heard a report that as new home sales have slowed, some developers seek a waiver from the agency board to cease paying their monthly water service charge that is billed to their unsold properties. The Board asked staff to review this request further and to report back at the Board's regular meeting of February 5.

-more-

- heard a briefing from Director of Field Services Mike Nichol on reduced flows in the Pacific Gas and Electric Co. canal system. Nichol said that because of continued dry conditions PG&E is holding water in their reservoirs and has cut back on usual winter flows through the system. No impacts are expected on PCWA water users at this time, Nichol said.

- heard a presentation from Power System Manager Steve Jones on the Nov. 21-Dec. 4 installation of a new 230,000-volt circuit breaker at the Middle Fork Powerhouse. The 15-foot-high, 6-ton unit replaced an original unit that dated to 1965.

- held a strategic planning session. Board members annually discuss and consider at the beginning of each calendar year a variety of issues and priorities anticipated to occur over the next several years. They continued their workshop on the long-term planning to a special Board meeting on January 22.

The meetings of the PCWA Board of Directors are held at 2 p.m. 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 and at www.pcwa.net.