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NEWS RELEASE

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PCWA Report on Water Supplies

AUBURN – The Placer County Water Agency Directors reviewed the first reports of the year at the Feb. 5 Board meeting on the status of local water supply conditions from its American River and Yuba/Bear River sources.

“The good news is that PCWA’s American River water supply reservoirs are about normal for this time of year. The snowpack above PCWA’s French Meadows and Hell Hole Reservoirs is around 70% of normal,” said David Breninger, General Manager. While the storage level in Spaulding Reservoir is also about normal for this time of year, the Nevada Irrigation District reports that the snowpack above Spaulding, through which PG&E normally supplies about 110,000 acre-feet to PCWA, is at 57% of normal.

“PCWA will be able to meet 100% of its American River customer’s demands this year, including San Juan Water District and the City of Roseville,” said Einar Maisch, Director of Strategic Affairs. “And with its recently completed American River pump station at Auburn, PCWA can supplement up to 20,000 acre-feet of its Yuba/Bear River supply from the American River if dry weather conditions continue.”

“On the statewide scene, the water supply situation appears to be much worse than it is locally,” said Maisch. It is reported that the Bureau of Reclamation drew down Folsom Lake and Shasta Reservoir to near historic lows in 2008 to meet environmental conditions set by regulatory and judicial decisions to sustain the Delta ecosystem. The current snowpack in the Shasta watershed is reported to be significantly less than normal. “The combination of low reservoirs and below-normal snowpack will likely leave water utilities that contract for state and federal water supplies to be short of water again this year,” said Maisch.