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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

March 20, 2009

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AUBURN – Directors of the Placer County Water Agency on Thursday (Mar. 19) heard a presentation on the agency’s development of the award-winning Ophir Road Pump Station.

Completed in November after three years of construction, the \$38.7 million facility is a key link in carrying water from the American River to wide areas of western Placer County.

“This is where water from the American River and water from the Yuba/Bear Rivers comes together,” said PCWA District 3 Director Lowell Jarvis. “To me, this project represents a real maturation of the water agency.”

The presentation was offered by representatives of West Yost Associates, the Davis-based consulting firm that provided design and construction management services on the project. Project Manager Frank Helmick showed a time lapse slide presentation of the facility’s construction using weekly photos taken from the same site over a three-year period.

Located on a 37-acre PCWA property in Ophir, the facility works in tandem with the agency’s American River Pump Station which was completed in 2008 at the former Auburn Dam site.

Water is pumped from the American River canyon to the Auburn Tunnel and then flows by gravity for three miles to the Ophir site. Located directly over the tunnel, the new facility pumps water from the 200-foot-deep tunnel.

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The Ophir Road Pump Station is designed to supply water for PCWA's large Foothill Water Treatment Plant in Newcastle and a future treatment plant at the Ophir site, as well as irrigation water for agricultural purposes.

Auburn architect Ron Lichau provided design concepts for the project. The project earned an award for architectural excellence in February from the American Society of Civil Engineers, Sacramento Section.

In a related item, the Board of Directors awarded a \$755,000 contract to Syblon Reid Construction of Folsom to remove a 37-foot concrete plug from the Auburn Tunnel. The tunnel plug had been part of the original Auburn Dam project but is no longer needed.

In other business, directors:

- learned that the American Council of Engineering Companies has presented a 2009 Engineering Excellence Award to PCWA's American River Pump Station. The project has also received two awards, including project of the year, from the American Society of Civil Engineers, Sacramento Section.

- awarded a \$1.9 million contract to Delta Excavating, Inc. of Antioch for Phase 2 of the multiyear Secret Town Pipeline replacement project on the Boardman Canal between Colfax and Gold Run. Delta's bid was lowest among 17 firms that submitted bids on the project.

- approved a \$27,000 contract with JVB Consulting of Davis to continue the agency's water efficiency program that assists local agricultural growers with irrigation management services.

- declared 20,000 acre-feet of water as surplus and authorized staff to make arrangements for a one-time water sale later this year to the San Diego County Water Authority. Director of Strategic Affairs Einar Maisch said that there are considerable details to be worked out to assure the sale and delivery of water goes through later this year.

The next regular meeting of the PCWA Board of Directors will be held at 2 p.m. on Apr. 2 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.