



PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY
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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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AUBURN -- Directors of the Placer County Water Agency on Thursday (Apr. 2) voiced concern over the federal government's increase in land use fees by 207 percent for PCWA's Middle Fork American River Project.

PCWA Power System Manager Steve Jones said the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has billed the agency for \$880,493 for 2009, a substantial increase from the 2008 land use fee of \$286,740.

Jones said the increase appears to be due to sharply higher appraisal values for the use of federally-owned agricultural lands. Most of PCWA's Middle Fork Project is located on U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management property.

PCWA legal advisor Ed Tiedemann said other power producers in the region are facing similar increases. Tiedemann said he is looking into the matter and will report back to the board in coming weeks.

In other business, directors:

- heard a water supply update from Director of Field Services Mike Nichol, who reported on current reservoir levels and snowpack depths and said PCWA is planning to make normal deliveries of water this year. The agency is planning to deliver about 13,000 acre-feet of irrigation water to commercial agricultural growers in PCWA Zone 5 in far western Placer County, Nichol said.

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- heard a report from Director of Administrative Services Valerie Lord and authorized further study of a concept for video recording of PCWA board meetings.

The next regular meeting of the PCWA Board of Directors will be held at 2 p.m. on Apr. 16 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.