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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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AUBURN-- Water use in Placer County and surrounding areas cannot be managed under a proposed state-mandated “one size fits all” approach, two Northern California water industry leaders said Thursday (May 7).

John Woodling, executive director of the Regional Water Authority (RWA), and Donn Zea, executive director of the Northern California Water Association (NCWA), stated their concerns in presentations to the Placer County Water Agency Board of Directors.

Woodling, whose group includes 21 water providers in the greater Sacramento area, provided a regional perspective on Gov. Schwarzenegger’s mandate as currently proposed in AB49. It would mandate a statewide 20 percent reduction in urban water use by the year 2020. And, he noted, that for the Sacramento region this would translate into a proposed 31 percent mandatory reduction. This, Woodling said, RWA would strongly oppose.

Local weather, geographic and lifestyle conditions and water source and use patterns all are important factors, said Woodling. “We need local and regional decision-making,” he said. “Water conservation is one of the tools we have to assure local water reliability for our region.”

Zea said the 52-member NCWA is closely tracking five current water bond proposals in the state legislature and how the bonds would impact water suppliers in the north state. He said NCWA and its members are committed to the “tremendous responsibility to assure reliable and affordable water supplies for Northern California.”

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In other business, PCWA directors:

- heard a report from legal adviser Janet Goldsmith on the agency's recent appeal of an almost fourfold increase in land use fees it pays to the federal government for the Middle Fork American River Hydro-electric Project. Goldsmith expressed optimism that the appeal the Agency filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission could result in a lowering of the agency's \$880,493 bill for 2009. PCWA paid \$286,740 last year.

- approved and submitted to the Pacific Gas and Electric Company a proposed 2010 Power System budget of \$17.7 million. The budget includes \$7.2 million for the first year of a major spillway improvement project on L.L. Anderson dam at French Meadows Reservoir.

- approved environmental studies and a project to install more than 2.3 miles of water main improvements in Loomis and unincorporated Placer County. The Sierra Ridge Pipeline Extension Project includes new pipe and fire hydrants along Barton Road, Wells Avenue and Val Verde Road.

- authorized staff to seek matching grants for up to five projects through the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's Challenge grant program.

- heard a presentation on William Jessup University in Rocklin by Wayne Nader, Trustee, Sosamma Samuel-Burnett, chair of the university's Public Policy Department, and Anita Hermsmeier, Success Center director. The Christian liberal arts university has about 500 students and is Placer County's only four-year university.

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