



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

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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

or: Dave Carter, (530) 265-NEWS

AUBURN-- Kiernan McKnight, a seventh grader from Rocklin, was pleased to share his knowledge of water conservation during an appearance at Thursday's (June 4) meeting of the Placer County Water Agency Board of Directors.

The young man, a student in Patty Onorato's class at Spring View Middle School, is one of two individual student winners in Placer County in the 2009 "Be Water Smart Challenge" sponsored by the Regional Water Authority (RWA) and The Sacramento Bee.

Students from 150 schools from throughout the greater Sacramento region took part in the annual water education program.

PCWA Board Chairman Gray Allen congratulated Kiernan and presented him with gifts including a framed certificate, engraved PCWA paperweight, California water video, and PCWA and California water history books.

The other Placer County student winner is Josh Thibeault, a fifth grader in Mrs. Corcoran's class at Twin Oaks Elementary School in Rocklin. In the grade K-4 competition, Mrs. Feyder's second grade class at Placer Elementary School in Loomis was one of five classes in the region and the only one in Placer County to receive first place class award.

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In other business, PCWA directors:

- approved environmental studies, mitigation measures and a project to improve the outlet of the Auburn Tunnel adjacent to Auburn Ravine. The tunnel, built in 1965, carries water from the American River to Auburn Ravine. The project includes a new outlet structure, control gates, flow meters, valves and pipelines.

- heard a report from Director of Field Services Mike Nichol on a PG&E proposal to use peak load pricing incentives in its rates. Nichol said PCWA canal water flows through the system mostly by gravity 24 hours per day and that water could be wasted if customers turn pumps off and on to save to take advantage of off-peak pricing. “The effort to save electricity could result in less efficient water use,” said Nichol.

- applied for four matching grants through the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation’s “Water for America” program that has been funded as part of the 2009 U.S. economic stimulus package. The grants would fund canal lining and piping (\$1.6 million), improvement to L.L. Anderson Spillway at French Meadows Reservoir (\$5 million), water flow measurement equipment and installation (\$1 million), and improvement of an existing large well (\$1.5 million).

The next regular meeting of the PCWA Board of Directors will be held at 2 p.m. on June 18 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.