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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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AUBURN -- Directors of the Placer County Water Agency on Thursday (Nov. 19) authorized staff to select three or more power marketing firms for further discussions on how the agency can best market its hydroelectric energy output beginning in 2013.

The firms will be selected from a long list of 11 firms that responded earlier this year to the water agency's request for information.

PCWA Director of Strategic Affairs Einar Maisch said the agency is carefully researching the power market and making every effort to ensure that future energy sales will benefit Placer County and PCWA taxpayers and ratepayers.

The power marketing study efforts are aligned with PCWA's ongoing relicensing project for the Middle Fork American River Project, which includes five hydroelectric power plants and produces an average 1 billion kilowatt-hours of energy per year.

The Middle Fork Project operates under a 50-year license granted by the federal government in 1963. The original license must be renewed by 2013.

Since the project began, the agency has sold its output to the Pacific Gas and Electric Company. Maisch said the agency and PG&E have had a good relationship, that PG&E is interested in continuing the relationship, and is among the firms under consideration.

Maisch and Resource Planning Administrator Andy Fecko provided updates on relicensing and power marketing as part of Thursday's regular board meeting.

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In other business this week, PCWA directors:

- heard a report on the agency's continuing effort to reduce steep increases in federal land use fees for operation of the Middle Fork Project. Maisch, who noted the agency's fees could exceed \$1 million next year, said U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein and U.S. Rep. Tom McClintock have helped carry the concerns to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

- heard updates from Director of Technical Services Brian Martin and Director of Field Services Mike Nichol on programs to reduce energy usage in the water distribution system, at water treatment plants and pump stations, in the vehicle fleet, and at the PCWA Business Center.

The PCWA Board of Directors will next meet in adjourned session at 2 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 7, at the PCWA Business Center, 144 Ferguson Road, in Auburn. The board's next regular meeting follows on Dec. 17. PCWA board meetings are open to the public.

Information on PCWA board meetings may be obtained through the Clerk to the Board at (530) 823-4850 or (800) 464-0030.