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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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AUBURN -- As water flows to the homes and farms of Placer County, it would also produce hydroelectric energy, under a plan reviewed Thursday (Mar. 18) by the Placer County Water Agency Board of Directors.

PCWA Director of Technical Services Brian Martin said agency engineers have identified sites for three small hydroelectric power stations that could be constructed over the next few years.

Two sites are on the Boardman Canal above Colfax, a main raw water supply for much of western Placer County; and the third is on the treated water system at the point where PCWA delivers water to the City of Lincoln.

It is estimated the three stations, located on the Secret Town and Gold Run Pipelines and at the Lincoln Metering Station, could be constructed for about \$3 million and would each produce about \$180,000 in annual revenues. Revenues will first pay back funds advanced by the agency for the cost of the small hydroelectric power projects, establish reserve accounts and any additional funds will be reinvested back into PCWA's western water system.

The power produced at each of the stations would be sold under contract to the Pacific Gas and Electric Company. It is estimated the three power stations would produce enough energy to meet the needs of 600 homes.

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Martin said the addition of small hydro stations is among the recommendations set forth last year when the water agency conducted an in-depth study of its energy use and greenhouse gas emissions. The three sites are the most economically feasible of various sites reviewed, he said.

While the PCWA Power System has produced hydroelectric energy on the Middle Fork American River Project since the 1960s, the proposed small hydro stations would be the first to be installed in the lower elevation water system.

Directors expressed enthusiasm for the effort and voted to request support for electrical energy sales from the Placer County Board of Supervisors as required under the Placer County Water Agency Act of 1957.

In other business, directors:

- welcomed Shauna Lorange, general manager of the San Juan Water District, who provided a briefing on regional efforts to monitor state legislation that may impact regional water suppliers. PCWA is one of several water purveyors who have teamed up in an effort to stay abreast of changing conditions.

- voted to notify the federal Bureau of Reclamation of the agency's desire to partner with Northstar Community Service District and Truckee Donner Public Utility District to participate in the Bureau's WaterSMART Basin Study Program to obtain grant funding for a groundwater master plan and a model about how the Martis Valley basin recharges.

- voted to continue a water efficiency program that assists agricultural growers with irrigation management services. Directors approved a 2010 contract of \$27,500 with JVB Consulting of Davis.

The next regular meeting of the PCWA Board of Directors will be held at 2 p.m. on Thursday, Apr. 1, at the PCWA Business Center, 144 Ferguson Road, in Auburn. 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.

