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## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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*AUBURN* -- -- Water meters throughout Placer County Water Agency service areas are now being read via radio transmitters, it was reported at Thursday's (July 15) meeting of the PCWA Board of Directors.

Director of Customer Services John Kingsbury and Water Efficiency Manager Harley Lukenbill said the agency began its conversion in 2004 and now has more than 30,000 residential and commercial radio-read meters installed.

The new meters are read electronically by hand-held or vehicle-mounted receivers, providing quicker and more accurate readings.

Kingsbury credited the Board of Directors for supporting the meter conversion program and said it meets all standards of the American Water Works Association (AWWA).

Lukenbill also reported on a new generation of irrigation controllers that the agency has studied. The controllers use evapotranspiration, weather and soil moisture readings to automate the irrigation process.

In other business, PCWA directors:

- welcomed Joanne Neft, longtime advocate for Placer County agriculture, who introduced her new cookbook, co-written with Laura Kenny, "Placer County Real Food" with photos by Keith Sutter, Wayde Carroll, and James Cole. She presented copies of

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the book to each PCWA director and said Placer County agriculture depends on PCWA water. "I feel comfortable in knowing that my food is grown in Placer County with Placer County Water Agency water," Neft said.

- approved environmental studies for the replacement of three old flumes on the Boardman Canal above Colfax. Director of Technical Services Brian Martin said the project to replace the Spike, Cherry Tree and Secret Town flumes with about 1300 feet of 42-inch pipeline would reduce fire vulnerability and add reliability to the water delivery system. Martin said the agency still must obtain rights-of-way for the project and that construction this year is unlikely.

- agreed to a \$3000 contribution toward educational materials on watershed protection, water quality and fire prevention begin planned in partnership with the Auburn Journal and Colfax Record for distribution in early September. The agency has previously been a sponsor with Gold Country Media's "Fire & Water" publication educational materials.

- adjourned the meeting in memory of the late State Sen. Dave Cox, who died July 13 after a lengthy battle against prostate cancer. Sen. Cox, of Fair Oaks, represented the First Senate District, which includes much of Placer County. He served as a Sacramento County supervisor and state assemblyman before his election to the State Senate in 2004.

The next regular meeting of the PCWA Board of Directors will be held at 2 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 5, 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.