



PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY
SINCE 1957

BUSINESS CENTER

144 Ferguson Road

MAIL

P.O. Box 6570

Auburn, CA 95604

PHONE

530.823.4860

530.823.4960 - fax

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

PCWA Executive Will Lead Mountain Counties Water Group

AUBURN -- John Kingsbury, a longtime member of the Placer County Water Agency management team, has been selected as the new executive director of the Mountain Counties Water Resources Association (MCWRA).

Kingsbury will retire Mar. 11 from his position as PCWA Director of Customer Services and take over leadership of the 15-county water association later in the month.

“John has been an effective and enthusiastic member of our team for the past 10 years,” said PCWA General Manager David A. Breninger. “We look forward to working with him as he represents the water interests of Placer County and all the mountain counties on a regional and statewide level.”

Kingsbury has worked in the water business for 22 years. He joined PCWA in 2001 after 12 years with the El Dorado Irrigation District in Placerville, where he served as Customer Services Manager.

At PCWA, Kingsbury has directed activities of the 29-employee Customer Services Department and has instituted several new programs including a Water Use Efficiency Program that became the first in the region to achieve the goals of the Sacramento Water Forum.

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He has coordinated water efficiency grant programs with other agencies, overseen a water meter replacement and modernization program and established new irrigation management programs in support of local agricultural growers.

Kingsbury has been active with the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA), California Municipal Utilities Association, California Urban Water Conservation Council, and other groups.

In his new position, Kingsbury will represent the water interests of all or parts of 15 counties, ranging from the tip of Lassen County on the north to Madera and Fresno on the south. The MCWRA includes the watersheds of 10 major rivers, takes in about 9.9 percent of California's land, and produces much of the state's water supply.

The association is made up of water purveyors, government agencies and related interests up and down the western slope of the Sierra. PCWA is a longtime member and PCWA Board Chairman Lowell Jarvis is currently a member of the Mountain Counties executive board.

Kingsbury, who resides in Placerville, said he will represent the mountain counties at the legislative levels and work to boost outreach and public education about local water resources and area of origin water rights.

"Here in Placer County and in other mountain counties, our forefathers had the vision to develop water supplies for our communities and environment and it is our obligation to sustain and protect it for future generations," he said.

Kingsbury said he is privileged to have worked with PCWA. "I'm especially grateful to General Manager Dave Breninger because as my mentor for these past 10 years, he has helped me grow my passion for this business. I know of no one who is more passionate or knowledgeable about water than Dave. I hope to carry this forward through my work with Mountain Counties."

As MCWRA executive director, Kingsbury succeeds Jim Chatigny, who formerly held the post and has served as interim director through the recent recruitment process.

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“John’s experience with statewide and regional organizations fits well with the needs of the Mountain Counties Water Resources Association,” Chatigny said. “We welcome him to his new position and know he will provide solid leadership as we move into the future.”

