



## NEWS RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

#### **Bear River Canal Flowing Soon PCWA Board Meets Monday to Declare End of Water Emergency Condition**

AUBURN -- At Thursday's (June 2) meeting of the Placer County Water Agency Board of Directors, a PG&E official reported the Bear River Canal is in the final stages of repair and staged re-watering should commence within the next few days. This is six weeks after a massive landslide wiped out a section of the PG&E canal near Colfax that serves as the primary water supply to PCWA.

Alvin Thoma, director of power generation for PG&E, told the board that PG&E is performing a final check on the Bear River Canal and water flow will be restored in the next several days with flows ramping up to normal levels during the week of June 6.

Meanwhile, he said, PG&E crews would be at the site for another week or so, completing cleanup and land restoration work following the emergency repair. "We've been working 24/7 and it's taken us six and a half weeks," he said. "It would take three to four months on a normal construction schedule."

PCWA officials expressed relief that the water shortage emergency was not as bad as it might have been. Cool and wet weather over the past several weeks reduced demand, coupled with customers' water conservation efforts, allowed PCWA to spread alternate water supplies to its various service areas.

PCWA directors will meet in adjourned session at 2 p.m. Monday (June 6) to hear a canal break status report and, barring any unforeseen developments, may plan to officially call an end to the water shortage emergency condition.

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PG&E has taken steps to ease the financial burdens of the water shortage on PCWA and the neighboring Nevada Irrigation District, which also has been impacted. PG&E has voluntarily set aside up to \$1.8 million to offset additional pumping costs and to reimburse the agency for lost revenue from its billing adjustments to irrigation canal customers who did not receive water during the canal outage.

Members of the board complimented PG&E for its rapid canal restoration efforts and for PG&E's outreach and coordination with PCWA.

District 4 Director Mike Lee said he has seen a bright side of the unfortunate situation. "I think it has increased public awareness and appreciation," he said. "People realize what a valuable resource we have here."

District 2 Director Alex Ferreira said the water is arriving too late for some rice growers in Zone 5 west of Lincoln who have not planted their crop, but that others who have planted and are using groundwater will welcome the more affordable supply.

General Manager David Breninger thanked the agency staff for many long hours spent dealing with the water emergency and PCWA customers who saved water and helped a reduced supply go further.

In a related matter, Breninger said the agency's emergency management during the six-week outage has been documented and will be used as a case study in the current update of its Urban Water Management Plan.

In other business, directors received and filed the 2010 audit of the water agency's financial statements performed by Maze & Associates Accountancy Corp. of Pleasant Hill.

PCWA directors will next meet in adjourned session at 2 p.m. Monday, June 6, at the PCWA Business Center, 144 Ferguson Road, in Auburn. The next regular meeting of the board is scheduled for 2 p.m. on June 16.

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

Information about the Agency is available on the web at [www.pcwa.net](http://www.pcwa.net).