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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Rock Removal Needed on Boardman Canal Relocation Project at Pacific Avenue

AUBURN -- An underground rock formation is causing delays and additional work on a Placer County Water Agency pipeline installation project along Pacific Avenue near Railhead Park in Auburn.

Brent Smith, Deputy Director of Technical Services at PCWA, said the rock was discovered as project contractor, Marques Pipeline, Inc., was digging a 17-foot-deep trench along Pacific Avenue midway between Meadowlark Court and Sacramento Street.

Smith said the rock formation is 150-200 feet long and will be drilled and jackhammered over the coming four weeks. He said the work will cause noise, possible ground vibration and traffic controls in the area.

The work is necessary to complete installation of a 54-inch diameter pipeline which is buried under the roadway to depths of eight to 17 feet.

The deep pipeline is part of a project to relocate a section of PCWA's Boardman Canal that runs through an old pipe beneath the adjacent Pacific Heights Apartment complex. The Boardman Canal is a key PCWA conveyance facility, carrying water to and through wide areas of central and western Placer County.

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The old pipe was installed many years ago by a developer who wanted to make full use of the property. It does not lie directly beneath any of the apartment buildings but runs through the complex and is failing and inaccessible for maintenance purposes, Smith said.

“Once the new pipeline has been put into operation, the old portion of the canal under the Pacific Heights Apartments will be filled with concrete to prevent collapse in the future,” he said.

Work began last year and resumed this spring as drier conditions appeared. Completion is anticipated this summer. “We apologize for this temporary inconvenience and we will work quickly to minimize the impact to our customers,” Smith said.

Meanwhile, detours are in effect in the project area Mondays through Fridays, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. and neighbors should be prepared for noisy working conditions during these hours.

Questions about the work should be directed to the PCWA Customer Services Center at (530) 823-4850, weekdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. After-hours emergency calls should be directed to the same number where an answering service is on duty.

The water agency will be posting weekly project updates every Friday on its website at www.pcwa.net.

Attached is a map showing the pipeline relocation.

