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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

AUBURN -- Directors of the Placer County Water Agency on Thursday (June 16) adopted an update of the agency's Urban Water Management Plan.

The plan documents supply, demand, water conservation and contingency planning in PCWA service areas. Under state law, the plan is updated every five years.

The update indicates that PCWA has sufficient water supplies to meet demand until 2040. "The overall message is a good message," said Greg Young, of the Sacramento water planning firm Tully & Young, which assisted PCWA with the update. "You are well-positioned to manage water shortage conditions."

For the first time, the management plans are required to calculate baseline per capita urban water use. PCWA's baseline rate, calculated from 1999-2008, is 285 gallons per day per person.

Agencies are also required to calculate target rates for meeting 20 percent reductions by 2020 and half-way to this target by 2015, which would reduce local per capita rates to 257 and then 230 gallons per day.

PCWA directors expressed dissatisfaction with the seemingly "one size fits all" state formula, saying it disregards local temperature and climate conditions and penalizes agencies such as PCWA for earlier water efficiency accomplishments.

The agency's response and actions in the recent water shortage emergency caused by the Bear River Canal failure were included as a case study in the updated Urban Water Management Plan.

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In other business, directors:

- heard summary reports on the recent water shortage emergency from staff and representatives of the Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Placer County Resource Conservation District and Placer County Agricultural Commissioner. All expressed satisfaction that damages were kept to a minimum through good coordination and cool, wet weather patterns that continued through much of spring while the canal was repaired and returned to service.

- heard a report from Director of Technical Services Brian Martin on efforts with the Nevada Irrigation District to establish additional system connections so that the agencies can provide backup supplies to each other should the need arise in any future emergencies.

- voted to support District 1 Director Gray Allen, of Roseville, for election to the Board of Directors, Region 3, of the Association of California Water Agencies.

The next meeting of the PCWA Board of Directors will be held at 2 p.m. on Monday, July 11, at the PCWA Business Center, 144 Ferguson Road, in Auburn.

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