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NEWS RELEASE

July 12, 2011

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

AUBURN -- Areas of Placer County that have limited or no access to public water supplies are under study as part of a master plan being developed by the Placer County Water Agency.

PCWA Director of Technical Services Brian Martin provided an update on the planning process at Monday's (July 11) meeting of the PCWA Board of Directors.

Martin said there are numerous unserved and underserved areas in the county, many of which are situated along the Interstate 80 corridor. Many of these are in remote areas, far from existing PCWA canals and pipelines.

Some of these areas are supplied through about 90 existing small water systems that have been surveyed, Martin noted. He said PCWA has coordinated with the Placer County Department of Environmental Health and plans to visit the systems and determine how future needs can best be met.

Martin said PCWA engineers will be analyzing data, mapping the areas and setting priorities for a "backbone" water system that would eventually bring water supplies closer to areas in need. The effort is expected to continue for many years.

Some funding for potential water system expansions will come from future (after 2013) hydroelectric power revenues from the PCWA Middle Fork American River Project, under a policy decision made last year by the PCWA Board of Directors.

Martin said a more detailed presentation on the master planning process would be offered at a future board meeting.

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In other business, PCWA directors:

- accepted a \$7.8 million low interest loan from the State Safe Drinking Water Revolving Fund. The loan will be used to fund a new 5 million-gallon water storage tank at PCWA's Electric Street reservoir site in Auburn. The 2.3 percent loan will be repaid over a 20-year period.

- authorized staff to submit supplemental information on instream flows and recreation and vegetation management to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) as part of the agency's Feb. 23 application for a new federal license for the Middle Fork American River Project. Gary Estes, spokesman for Protect American River Canyons (PARC), commended the agency for its continued collaboration with his and other interest groups.

- authorized a new, standard form, fixed price power sale contract with the Pacific Gas and Electric Company. The contract covers production from PCWA's small 750-kilowatt power station at Hell Hole Reservoir.

- welcomed Michael Willihnganz, who joined the water agency June 27 as Director of Administrative Services. Willihnganz, a Rocklin resident with a 30-year background in public sector personnel and human resource management, comes to the agency from the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) in Sacramento where he served as chief of human resources.

The next regular meeting of the PCWA Board of Directors will be held at 2 p.m. on Thursday, July 21, 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 also posted at www.pcwa.net.