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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Buried Rock Slows Work on Pacific Avenue Pipeline Project

AUBURN -- Rock removal work is continuing along Pacific Avenue, near Sacramento Street, in Auburn where a Placer County Water Agency project to replace a failing section of the Boardman Canal continues.

“A large, extremely hard, monolithic rock formation is hampering our progress,” said PCWA Deputy Director of Technical Services Brent Smith. “The rock removal has been slow but progress is being made. We have taken additional steps to minimize the amount of rock to be removed by realigning the 54-inch pipeline and making adjustments to other utilities.”

Smith said rock removal is expected to continue for another three to four weeks. “After that, the pipeline installation can proceed and we are expecting final completion of the project by early October,” he said.

The new pipeline, at depths of up to 17 feet, 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.

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.

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Road closures with posted detours are being used Mondays through Fridays, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Area roads are open during non-working hours.

The pipeline work began last year and resumed this spring as drier conditions appeared. PCWA's contractor on the project is Marques Pipeline, Inc.

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 is posting weekly project updates on its website at www.pcwa.net.