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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

*AUBURN* - An additional 1000 acre-feet of irrigation water will be made available to canal water customers in the Placer County Water Agency's Zone 1 service area, under action taken Thursday (Sept. 1) by the PCWA Board of Directors.

The board lifted some delivery restrictions that have been in place since 2003 because of capacity limitations in the canal infrastructure system.

PCWA Director of Field Services Mike Nichol recommended the change because of ongoing water efficiency improvements on both the canal system and the treated water system, combined with the anticipated availability of more water via the agency's American River Pump Station.

Nichol reported that 205 existing customers have submitted applications of interest for additional irrigation water and that additional customers are expected to submit applications when they find out that additional water is available. Customers who receive water from canals that are listed at capacity in the summer, have also expressed interest in obtaining additional winter water.

Under the board's action, existing customers may increase their purchase by one-half miners' inch of summer or winter water as long as their total does not exceed one-half miners' inch per acre.

New customers may purchase up to one miners' inch of summer or a half miners' inch of summer and winter water as long as the total does not exceed one-half miners' inch per acre.

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Existing customers on canals rated “at capacity” may purchase one-half miners’ inch of additional winter water, so long as the total does not exceed one-half miners’ inch per acre.

Staff was instructed to monitor and assess the program’s success, as well as remaining system capacity and report back to the board on whether more canal water supplies may be made available in the future.

In other business, PCWA directors:

- approved a modification to the Water Connection Charge (WCC) for multiple dwelling units. The WCC, now 80 to 100 percent of the 5/8-inch meter charge, which includes both indoor and outdoor uses, will be split to become 40 percent of a 5/8-inch meter charge for indoor use of each unit in the multiple dwelling complex. The WCC for multiple dwelling units’ outdoor use will be determined on a per project basis. Director of Technical Services Brian Martin said the staff recommendation is based on extensive water use studies which utilized data from the past five years.

- heard staff report on the Ad Hoc Committee on Retirement Alternatives for New hires and instructed staff to prepare a scope of work and cost estimate for an actuarial study to review retirement alternatives for new hires. The agency’s committee has been reviewing alternatives for new hire retirement plans and benefits since March.

- learned that the Pacific Gas and Electric Company’s annual canal maintenance outage is tentatively scheduled for six weeks this year, beginning Oct. 17. PG&E is planning maintenance projects on the Bear River, Wise and South canals. PCWA plans further notifications to canal water customers who may be affected by the work. Updated information regarding irrigation canal outage will be posted on the agency’s website.

The next regular meeting of the PCWA Board of Directors will be held at 2 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 15, 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](http://www.pcwa.net).