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## NEWS RELEASE

October 7, 2011

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

*AUBURN* - Local efforts to protect Placer County water resources are being greatly stepped up as downstream interests that divert water through the California Delta look to take more water for Southern California and South Bay Area customers.

This was the message at Thursday's (Oct. 6) meeting of the Placer County Water Agency Board of Directors by PCWA General Manager David Breninger, and Director of Strategic Affairs Einar Maisch. They were joined by Mountain Counties Water Resources Association (MCWRA) Executive Director John Kingsbury.

Breninger has been among north state water leaders consistently expressing grave concerns for many years about the state's attempt to usurp local water supplies for use in other areas of California. The current concern focuses upon a state agency formed in 2009 called the Delta Stewardship Council. Breninger says the Council "is far exceeding its authority and is on the wrong track with its water grab mentality."

Breninger, along with Maisch, and others of PCWA are attending numerous meetings to advocate for protecting Placer's water resource interests. Maisch is giving presentations to local governmental and community groups on how the currently drafted Delta Plan will negatively impact water supplies in Placer County.

Kingsbury, whose organization represents 14 mountain counties and water suppliers, including PCWA, said MCWRA has likewise greatly increased its lobbying efforts. "We're part of several coalitions networking and conveying the important interests and needs of cities and counties depending upon Sierra Nevada water resources," Kingsbury said.

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The association's increased activity is budgeted at \$65,000 for this year and Kingsbury has been approaching member agencies for financial support. The PCWA board unanimously committed \$10,000 to the effort.

"Northern California doesn't have the political clout in this latest water grab as we're statistically outnumbered by Southern California votes and money," said PCWA Board Chairman Lowell Jarvis, who also serves on the MCWRA board.

In other business, PCWA directors:

- heard an update on current and planned water system improvements. Engineer Tony Firenzi outlined a program that includes an investment of \$65 million in 35 water and power projects of the Agency.

- heard an update on an Agency initiated County-wide water master plan that was presented by Brent Smith, Deputy Director of Technical Services.

- confirmed support of the Truckee Donner Public Utility District, which is opposing a move initiated by the Nevada County Local Agency Formation Commission to reduce the size of the district's sphere of influence. The TCPUD serves customers in both Nevada and Placer counties.

- agreed to provide a \$500 sponsorship to Leadership Auburn 2012, an education and training program that promotes community leadership. Bruce Cosgrove, CEO of the sponsoring Auburn Chamber of Commerce Foundation, said that over the past 13 years the program has graduated more than 260 potential community leaders.

The next regular meeting of the PCWA Board of Directors will be held at 2 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 20, 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).