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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

AUBURN - Protecting water supplies to Placer County and that they aren't reduced through proposed changes in stream flows and operations on the Yuba and Bear River water projects is a critically important issue to the Placer County Water Agency.

PCWA Director of Strategic Affairs Einar Maisch, Environmental Scientist Ben Ransom, and General Manager David Breninger reviewed this at Thursday's (Nov. 3) meeting of the PCWA Board of Directors.

Ransom noted that the water agency has contracts with PG&E to receive up to 125,400 acre-feet of water annually from PG&E from their Yuba/Bear River system. PG&E and the Nevada Irrigation District (NID) have applied for new federal licenses for the PG&E Drum-Spaulding Power Project and the NID Yuba-Bear Power Project. These systems on the Yuba and Bear Rivers are complex, interconnected and include more than 70 dams and diversion points, Ransom explained.

"Water agency officials are concerned that continued demands for increased water flows for fishery and environmental purposes by groups involved in the Yuba/Bear relicensing process could impact water supplies to Placer County served by both PCWA and NID," said Breninger.

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Maisch said the agency will continue its active participation in the PG&E/NID relicensing process relevant to water supply from the Yuba/Bear River system. “Our analysis shows that potential new water diverted for fish could impact our agency and our customers,” he said. “We don’t have any water to give up. There are many unmet water needs here in Placer County served by NID and PCWA.”

In other business, PCWA directors:

- heard an update from Director of Field Services Mike Nichol on the annual fall maintenance outage on the PG&E canal system. Nichol said PG&E is making major improvements on the Bear River Canal (site of a canal failure last April) where 160 people are working at 18 sites. Nichol said good progress is being made and completion is expected by December. PCWA canal water customers have experienced only minor inconvenience, he said.

- heard an update on the new California state fire fee from Rui Cunha of the Placer County Office of Emergency Services. The fee, which is now in effect but not yet being collected, impacts rural property owners in areas where the state is responsible for fire prevention. The law allows fees of up to \$150 per parcel but is expected to range from \$70-\$90 if it remains in effect.

The next regular meeting of the PCWA Board of Directors will be held at 2 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 17, 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.