



PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY
SINCE 1957
BUSINESS CENTER
144 Ferguson Road
MAIL
P.O. Box 6570
Auburn, CA 95604
PHONE
530.823.4860
530.823.4960 - fax
WWW.PCWA.NET

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: David A. Breninger, (530) 823-4860
or: Dave Carter, (530) 265-NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

PCWA Customers Not Impacted by PG&E Canal Outage

AUBURN - Canal water customers of the Placer County Water Agency are not expected to notice any water supply impacts of the ongoing repair project on the Bear River Canal, it was announced at Thursday's (Nov. 17) meeting of the PCWA Board of Directors.

PCWA Director of Field Services Mike Nichol said the agency is using a series of backup measures to supply winter canal water customers while the Pacific Gas and Electric Company completes the repairs.

Water customers who receive piped, treated water are not affected by the canal maintenance work, he noted.

"This is a good time to do the work," Nichol said. "The weather is changing and demand for water is down. We had planned to use rotating canal outages, but that won't be necessary. We will be able to keep all of our customers in water."

The potential shortage arose last week when PG&E announced that during routine annual maintenance it had found a problem section of the Bear River Canal that needed immediate repairs. Officials said the annual fall maintenance outage would have to be extended by up to five weeks.

Alvin Thoma, PG&E's San Francisco-based director of power generation, was

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present at the PCWA board meeting to assure water agency officials that the repair work is progressing rapidly. He said the work would be done by Dec. 15, weather permitting.

Thoma said repairs are under way along a 2000-foot section of the canal between Weimar and Meadow Vista. The site is seven to eight miles downstream from the site where a major rupture occurred last April, severing a main water supply and creating an emergency situation for PCWA just as the irrigation season was opening.

Currently, Thoma said, PG&E has about 50 people on the job, working seven days a week, including nights until 8 p.m. He said they are shoring up weak sections of the canal with rebar and concrete.

“We’re taking a proactive approach,” Thoma said. “A safe and reliable water system is in everyone’s best interests.”

In other business, PCWA directors:

- heard a briefing from Lisa Brown, water conservation administrator for the City of Roseville, who represents Northern California water interests on the California Urban Water Conservation Council. PCWA and the City of Roseville have been among north state leaders in trying to gain more Northern California representation on the Southern California-tilted council, which advocates state water policy.

- heard an update from Director of Strategic Affairs Einar Maisch and Resource Administrator Andy Fecko on the agency’s ongoing program to obtain a new federal license and power marketing agreement for the Middle Fork American River Hydroelectric Project. PCWA anticipates the new license and contract by 2013.

The PCWA Board of Directors will next meet in adjourned session at 2 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 5, at the PCWA Business Center, 144 Ferguson Road, in Auburn. The next regular meeting of the board will be held at 2 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 15.

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.

SIDEBAR

No Rate Increases

PCWA Adopts 2012 Budget

Directors of the Placer County Water Agency on Thursday (Nov. 17) adopted a 2012 budget of \$81.7 million. The budget includes no water rate increases, the third straight year that PCWA has held the line on rate adjustments.

PCWA's overall budget includes a Water Division budget of \$59.1 million, a Power Division budget of \$11.8 million and an Agency Wide budget of \$10.8 million.

Director of Financial Services Joseph Parker described the Water Division budget as "status quo." He said the agency's expenses have been relatively flat and that staff and the board's Finance Committee have worked to keep spending at or below current year levels.