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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

#### **PCWA Board Hears Presentation on Auburn Ravine Improvement**

AUBURN - A watershed improvement project in the City of Lincoln will open more than a mile of Auburn Ravine Creek to fall run Chinook salmon and steelhead trout migration, it was reported at Thursday's (Dec. 15) meeting of the Placer County Water Agency Board of Directors.

The board heard a presentation from representatives of the Grass Valley-based Nevada Irrigation District, which supplies water in the north Auburn to Lincoln areas and has a water measurement station at the Auburn Ravine project site, located just downstream from Highway 65.

In attendance were NID General Manager Ron Nelson, project engineer Keane Sommers and NID Division IV Director Jim Bachman, who represents Placer County on the NID board.

Nelson said the Auburn Ravine Fish Passage Project, completed this week, is the result of a collaborative effort with NID as the lead agency. Also providing funding to the \$900,000 watershed improvement project are CALFED, the County of Placer, Dry Creek Conservancy and Granite Bay Flycasters.

Sommers said the project removed a fish movement barrier below the water measurement station by adding a series of rock chutes and step pools that mimic a natural stream channel. The newly reconfigured streambed covers a 200-foot stretch of the creek in the Lincoln Crossing Nature Preserve.

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The “very challenging” project had to be completed on a tight schedule during low water flows, while limiting impacts to the surrounding community, the stream environment and water deliveries, Sommers said. This fall’s dry weather was very advantageous, he noted.

Nelson and Sommers both offered praise for the district’s contractor, Preston Pipelines, Inc., of Sacramento. “They did a wonderful job,” Nelson said.

In other business, PCWA directors:

- heard updates from General Manager David Breninger and legal adviser Janet Goldsmith on the master plan being developed for the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta by the Delta Stewardship Council. PCWA officials remain very concerned that local water supplies are threatened by the current plan.

- heard a presentation from legal adviser David Tyra on new state laws that affect public agencies in labor contract negotiations.

- heard reports on accomplishments of the past year and issues anticipated for the coming year from Director of Power Generation Services Jay L’Estrange and Director of Field Services Mike Nichol.

- recognized District 3 Director Lowell Jarvis for 15 years of elected service on the PCWA Board of Directors and District 1 Director Gray Allen for five years of service.

The next regular meeting of the PCWA Board of Directors will be held at 2 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 5, 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).