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PCWA UPDATE

Placer County Water Agency

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Partners in Water

PCWA is Active in Regional Planning

There is strength in numbers. When we work together we can accomplish more than if we go it alone.

This holds true in the water industry where water suppliers can face great hurdles in their work to preserve and improve the water supplies of their customers.

In Placer County, we are blessed with abundant water resources. How these resources are best used is reflected in a wide diversity of interests that must be met.

Water Forum, RWA

To gain consensus and foster cooperation on a regional level, PCWA is an active participant in both the Sacramento Water Forum and the Sacramento Regional Water Authority (RWA).

"In this water world we live in," says Water Forum Executive Director Leo Winternitz, "a solution in one area always affects other areas, other districts. There's a ripple effect. If you are able to come together as a com-



Winter in the Sierra

Fresh snow surrounds PCWA's Hell Hole Reservoir

(Photo by Kathi Fleming)

munity, chances are you will have a much more successful project."

The Water Forum began in 1995 when a diverse group of water suppliers, public agencies, business, agricultural and environmental leaders gathered together. They determined that without regional cooperation their respective interests would not be met and they would face water shortages, environmental degradation and adverse economic impacts.

40 Signatories

These ideals were formalized in April 2000 when 40 groups and

agencies signed the landmark Water Forum Agreement, which has two coequal objectives:

- to provide a reliable and safe water supply for the region's economic health and planned development to the year 2030; and
- to preserve the fishery, wildlife, recreational and aesthetic values of the Lower American River.

The RWA was formed a year later, in June 2001, by 17 utilities in the Sacramento region, including PCWA. Its mission is "to serve and represent regional

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General Manager's Report

By David A. Breninger

Agency Leaders Plan for the Future

There is no shortage of interests and issues in California's water future. These issues will grow in complexity and challenge as the state's population grows from 35 million to 50 million people over the next quarter century.

California has long depended on vast surface water supplies from both the Colorado River and the Sacramento and San Joaquin river systems to serve growing needs of farms, cities and industry. Very recently, the federal government has limited the amount of water that can be delivered to the state through the Colorado River. This will result in more reliance on Northern California water, plus greater use of groundwater, reclaimed water, desalinated water and conservation in the state.

In addition to a water resource imbalance, the state also faces a huge budget shortfall and energy crisis.

The Board of Directors and management of the water agency are closely following these critical state issues and are working to avoid unmitigated state impacts being shifted to the agency.

Strategic Planning Workshops

To keep abreast of these and many other issues, the board is engaged in a continuing strategic planning process. The board again this year held a series of workshops where directors and management brainstormed and identified topics and interests to be tracked in the months and years to come.

The list includes issues both internal and external to PCWA. Our purpose has been more than prioritizing issues; it has been to assemble a list of just about everything within the agency's purview and how these issues may affect the agency's future.

Three Big Issues

- **American River.** The agency remains strongly focused on completion of the American River Pump Project to ensure adequate water deliveries to western Placer County. The Bureau of Reclamation plans to award a construction contract by April and complete the project by the spring of 2005.
- **Sacramento River.** The agency has begun work on another water supply effort, the diversion, treatment and delivery of water to western Placer County from the Sacramento River. This is a regional project with the cities of Roseville and Sacramento. Public scoping of the project is planned for this summer.
- **Middle Fork Project.** The agency has begun work toward the successful relicensing of the Middle Fork American River Project and will complete a strategic plan for this lengthy process during 2003.

Leadership and Advocacy

Your elected Board of Directors and agency management have invested considerable time and energy into this evolving strategic planning process. Through teamwork, wise governance and good management, PCWA will continue its strong leadership role as advocate of Placer County water resources.

Former PCWA Director

Ross Riolo 1922-2002

Ross Riolo, who served on the PCWA Board of Directors from its inception in 1975 until his retirement in 1998, died Nov. 16 in Roseville. He was 79.

A third generation Roseville farmer and rancher, Mr. Riolo was a powerful and consistent voice for PCWA and the protection of Placer County water rights.

He represented PCWA District I, which includes Roseville and south Placer County. He was elected to office five times and served four terms as PCWA board chairman.



Ross Riolo:
27-year
member of
the PCWA
Board

Appointed in 1969 to the Board of Supervisors' Citizen Water Advisory Committee, Mr. Riolo followed in the footsteps of his father, Antone, who had campaigned in the 1950s for PCWA's Middle Fork American River Project.

When PCWA became an independent special agency in 1975, county supervisors appointed Ross Riolo as the first District I director.

"Ross always emphasized the importance of controlling the water supply," said Ed Horton, a former 21-year agency director who served several terms with Mr. Riolo. "He had seen what happened in other Northern California areas that had not developed their water."

PCWA General Manager David Breninger said he feels privileged to have worked with Mr. Riolo. "Ross was a true community leader who provided the agency with strong direction and policy guidance," said Breninger. "On behalf of the PCWA board and staff, I extend our condolences to his family."



PCWA's French Meadows Reservoir

Water in the Region

Continued From Page 1

water supply interests and assist RWA members with protecting and enhancing the reliability, availability, affordability and quality of water resources."

Through its involvement in the RWA, PCWA is implementing a series of 14 best management practices aimed at increasing water efficiency in the PCWA delivery system and helping customers save water at their homes, farms and businesses.

Regional Support for Projects

PCWA Director of Strategic Affairs Einar Maisch said participation in the Water Forum and RWA has helped the water agency with the planned American River pump project, a proposed Sacramento River water diversion, reoperation of the Middle Fork American River Project, and in many other collaborative areas.

Water supply development is difficult and complicated, says Maisch. "The rules are such that if you don't have broad support and cooperation, you're going to have a tough time.

"I think that regional cooperation is key to increasing the water supply and for continuing economic development in Placer County."

PCWA to Replace Old Pipelines in Auburn

Some of the oldest water lines in the PCWA water system are located in the City of Auburn and are scheduled for replacement over the next two years.

Cost of the five water line replacement projects is estimated at \$963,560, which will be funded through a Prop. 13 Urban Water Conservation Grant of \$679,560 combined with a PCWA matching share of \$284,000.

Water lines to be replaced are located along Placer Street, Donnington Avenue, Placerado Avenue, Pleasant Avenue and Fulweiler Avenue.

All of the pipelines have been leaking and have contributed significantly to the unaccounted-for water in PCWA's Zone 1 service area. It is estimated that the pipe replacement project will save approximately 770 acre-feet of water per year.

The pipeline replacements are expected to begin this fall and continue into early 2005.

HOW MUCH WATER?

1. Does it take to wash a full load of clothes in a washing machine?
2. Does it take to flush a pre-1994 toilet?
3. Can be lost per day from a leaking toilet?
4. Does it take to make one average size Sunday newspaper?
5. Is in the human body?
6. Does it take to produce one large tomato?
7. Of all the earth's water is fresh water?

- a. 102 gallons
- b. 60 gallons
- c. 3-7 gallons
- d. 150 gallons
- e. 2.5 quarts
- f. 3%
- g. 70 gallons
- h. 35-50 gallons
- i. 95%
- j. 75%



ANSWERS

1h, 2c, 3b, 4d,
5j, 6g, 7f

New Pipeline Runs Through Gold Run

PCWA has replaced an old stretch of plastic pipe on the Boardman Canal in the Zone 3 service area where the canal passes through the town of Gold Run. The pipe was replaced this fall with 800 feet of new 36-inch ductile iron pipe.

Project engineer Rick Lund said the \$254,000 job was planned for later this year but done early because of continued leak problems. The new pipe was tied in on Dec. 5.

The Boardman Canal, which runs down the Interstate 80 corridor, is a main supply line to the western portions of Placer County.

AR Pump Project Update Big Snowpack, Little Pipes

The rainfall year may be off to a good start, but without the proper plumbing in place, it is tough to carry water from the mountain snowpack to customers in western Placer County.

This is the predicament PCWA finds itself in as the agency continues to press forward with the American River Pump Project, which is planned to supply up to 35,500 additional acre-feet of water per year to agency customers.

The agency and the federal Bureau of Reclamation have been planning the pump project for the past eight years and the bureau expects to start construction of the \$31 million project later this year. Completion is slated by spring of 2005.

Meanwhile, the agency and its customers continue to rely on water supplies from the Yuba and Bear river watersheds purchased and delivered from PG&E. The agency has undertaken several steps to stretch existing supplies until the pump station can be completed.

Based on the early snowpack, normal PG&E deliveries are anticipated this year. By mid-January, water content in the Northern Sierra snowpack stood at about 160 percent of average and already had reached 80 percent of the Apr. 1 average.



American River Pump Project

PCWA Supports Forest Restoration

With protection and preservation of Placer County watershed among its goals, PCWA has gone on record in support of U.S. Forest Service plans to restore lands burned in the 2001 Star Fire.

Marie Davis, a geologist and retired manager of the Georgetown Divide Public Utility District, is serving as PCWA's liaison with the Forest Service.



Star Fire, Sept. 2, 2001

"When you have a major fire such as this, there are concerns over erosion, sediment, and water quality," Davis said. "In the long term, we need a healthy, productive watershed. A good restoration project will reduce the amount of bare soil and limit sediment and erosion."

In August and September, 2001, the Star Fire burned 16,700 acres in the Tahoe and Eldorado national forests, much of it along the Middle Fork American River watershed. Restoration projects are being planned in both forests.

IN BRIEF

Budget Wins Approval. The PCWA Board of Directors on Dec. 5 adopted a combined 2003 operating budget of \$43.1 million. The combined budget includes the Water System at \$27.5 million, Power System at \$13.6 million and Agencywide function at \$2 million.

Water Transfer Possible. The PCWA Board on Jan. 2 agreed to a one-time sale this year of up to 20,000 acre-feet of surplus water to the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. If MWD determines it will need the added water, PCWA stands to earn \$2 million from the transfer.

New Water Efficiency Specialist. In an expansion of the agency's Water Efficiency Program, a specialist is now available to perform water audits for residential customers seeking to reduce their usage, and to provide general assistance with water conservation. For information, call PCWA Customer Service at (530) 823-4850.

Award for Placer Legacy. Placer County's voluntary open space preservation program, Placer Legacy, has won an Environmental and Economic Leadership Award from Gov. Gray Davis. The award was presented Dec. 4 by State Resources Secretary Mary Nichols along with California EPA Secretary Winston Hickox.

Public Meetings

The Placer County Water Agency Board of Directors meets regularly the first and third Thursdays of each month at 3 p.m. in the Placer County Board of Supervisors chambers, 175 Fulweiler Avenue in Auburn. The public is welcome.

www.pcwa.net

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