

General Manager Named RWA's 'Water Statesperson of The Year'

The Sacramento Regional Water Authority (RWA) in December presented its annual Water Statesperson of the Year award to PCWA General Manager David A. Breninger.

Breninger, who has served as the agency's general manager since 1992, was honored for his role in bringing new members to RWA this year and for providing leadership on several key initiatives at PCWA in 2003.

Specifically, Breninger was recognized for helping to secure tens of millions of dollars in federal funding for water supply and efficiency projects in the region.

In addition, he and agency staff helped launch the American River Pump Station Project and the collaborative Sacramento River Water Reliability Study.

Building Alliances

Paul Selsky, a member of RWA's Executive Committee and Director of Carmichael Water District, said Breninger has been instrumental in building alliances and advancing programs to improve the region's water supply reliability.

The Water Statesperson of the Year award was presented for the first time in 2001. Awardees are selected for specific timely achievements in building successful alliances in the RWA service area.

22 Regional Agencies

RWA is a joint powers authority representing 22 water providers in the greater Sacramento area. Its primary mission is to help its members



Dave Breninger

protect and enhance the reliability, availability, affordability and quality of water resources.

ACWA Appointment

Breninger also has received appointment to a key position on the board of the Association of California Water Agencies.

ACWA President E.G. "Jerry" Gladbach appointed Breninger as chair of the ACWA Local Government Committee.

"Dave has an extensive background in local government and in water," Gladbach said. "He also has a special talent for bringing entities with divergent views to common goals. He is a great team builder and facilitator."

ACWA's Local Government Committee works to improve interaction and effectiveness between and among water agencies and other governmental agencies. The committee develops and recommends policies for the ACWA board.

Algae Control Program is Back This Year

Canal water customers may be pleased to learn that after a suspension of more than two years, PCWA's algae control program will return in 2004.

The longtime successful program was suspended in 2001 following a court decision involving an Oregon irrigation district.

The decision, in effect, said that those using herbicides in waters of the United States should be governed by a federal permitting process.

For many years, PCWA has used copper sulfate, known as "blue stone," to inhibit the growth of algae in its canal system. The chemical has been widely used in the water industry.

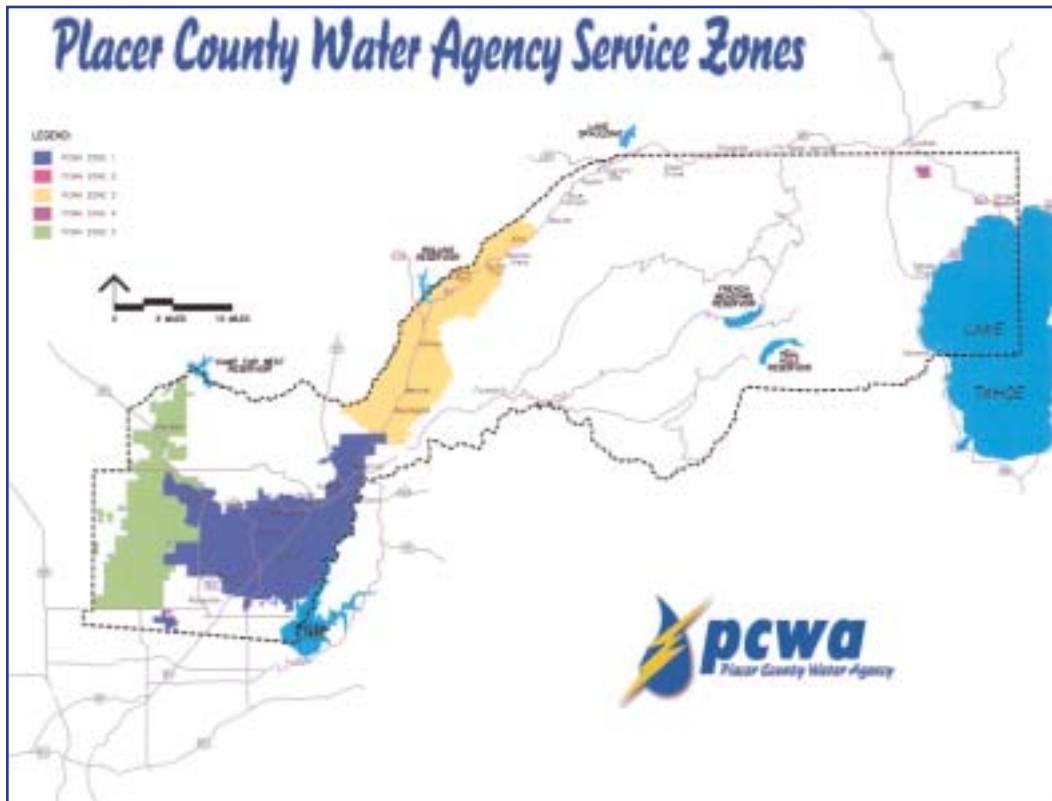
Without algae control, the last two summers have been difficult for many local canal water users. Algae growth has increased, clogging irrigation water outlets and requiring high levels of cleaning and maintenance by customers and agency personnel.

Problems have been most apparent at lower elevations with warmer water and slower flows.

Interim Permit Issued

The algae control program is being resumed this year under an interim permit and guidelines from the state. The agency is now applying for a general permit.

The interim permit calls for more monitoring of chemical use and for eventual use of other chemical control methods.



PCWA's five water service zones are shown on the above map

Water Service Zones

Zone 1. PCWA's most populated service zone. Auburn to Newcastle, Lincoln, Loomis, Rocklin and Roseville, plus wide unincorporated areas. Treated water and raw water.

Zone 2. A small residential area of 46 customers (Bianchi Estates), southwest of Roseville. Treated Water.

Zone 3. Along the I-80 corridor from Meadow Vista to Colfax and Alta. Treated water and raw water.

Zone 4. Water from two wells is used to serve the Lahontan development in the Martis Valley south of Truckee.

Zone 5. Irrigation water for commercial agriculture in far western Placer County.

Source Water

PCWA purchases from PG&E and supplies up to 125,400 acre-feet of water per year from the Yuba-Bear river watersheds. The agency has rights to another 120,000 acre-feet per year from the American River and will be using this source on a permanent basis when the American River Pump Project is completed in 2005.

Many Uses of Water

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water accounts for about 66 percent of total amount of water supplied by PCWA.

In addition to its water supply role, PCWA serves as the voice for the use and protection of Placer County water resources.

PCWA is also a major hydroelectric power producer. It owns and operates the Middle Fork American River Project, which includes five power plants, two major reservoirs and related facilities generating 244 megawatts of clean and renewable hydroelectric energy.

Organization

PCWA is an independent water agency, created in 1957 through a special act of the State Legislature. The agency encompasses the entire 1,500-square-mile boundary of Placer County.

PCWA is governed by a five-member Board of Directors, elected to four-year terms by voters residing within five geographical districts. The Board of Directors meets twice monthly in regular session and holds other meetings as needed.



Inside Peek

PCWA's Mike Neuer inspects the interior of the newly-painted million-gallon water storage tank at the Foothill Water Treatment Plant in Newcastle.

www.pcwa.net

Information about your water agency, including water resource advocacy, customer services, water use efficiency, water and community links, and automatic payment applications may be found at www.pcwa.net.

The Web site also includes recent news releases, employment opportunities and more.

IN BRIEF

Zone 1 Connection Charge Increase

The PCWA Board of Directors on Dec. 12 unanimously approved a 1.9 percent increase in the Zone 1 Water Connection Charge (WCC) for new treated water service. The new rates for a standard 5/8-inch meter, effective Jan. 1, 2004, are \$8122 in most of Zone 1 and \$9141 in areas served by the Auburn and Bowman water treatment plants.

Change in Irrigation Rate Structure

Irrigation water users are reminded of the recent change in Annual and Seasonal purchase schedules to Winter and Summer schedules. The change in terminology provides a clearer distinction between Winter and Summer rates and streamlines the ordering, billing and delivery process. Actual water deliveries will not change.

Federal Funds Will Help Improve Systems

PCWA has won authorization for \$5.1 million in federal funding made available through the Water Resources Development Act of 1999. The funds will be used for water efficiency improvements including retrofits of outdated water meters and canal improvement projects. The agency also anticipates future multi-year funding from an overall authorization of \$85 million for water efficiency projects in both Placer and El Dorado counties.

Insulate Water Pipes to Prevent Freezing

PCWA advises water users, especially those in colder areas, to insulate all exposed water pipes and faucets against winter's freezing temperatures.

Inexpensive pipe wrap is available from local hardware, plumbing and building supply stores. Insulating your pipes can prevent freezing, water loss, damage and expensive repairs.

How to Contact Your Elected PCWA Directors

PCWA is an independent public agency governed by an elected Board of Directors.

Your directors are:

DISTRICT 1, Pauline Roccucci

Roseville, (916) 782-2708

DISTRICT 2, Alex Ferreira

Lincoln, (916) 645-2072

DISTRICT 3, Lowell Jarvis

Auburn, (530) 889-8836

DISTRICT 4, Mike Lee

Loomis, (916) 408-5600

DISTRICT 5, Otis Wollan

Colfax, (530) 346-7967

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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