

Proud Service to Placer County Residents Since 1957

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PCWA UPDATE

Placer County Water Agency

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PCWA Builds Stronger, More Reliable Water System

By late 2007, it is expected that another 22,500 acre-feet of water will be available each year to western Placer County via the new permanent pump station that is now under construction on the American River near Auburn.

The pump station will lift water 200 vertical feet from the river canyon into the existing Auburn Tunnel which connects to Auburn Ravine near Ophir.

While the federal Bureau of Reclamation has taken the lead on the American River Pump Project, it is up to PCWA to plan and build the added facilities needed to distribute this water to customers across western Placer County.

The \$35 million Foothill Raw Water Supply Pump Station is the first of six interrelated infrastructure improvements the agency is planning for the coming three years.

Project Starts This Winter

Construction of the new Foothill pump station is beginning this winter at PCWA's Ophir Road site. Contractor on the job is Pacific Mechanical Corp. of Concord. The construction management contract was awarded to West Yost & Associates, with offices in Auburn and Roseville.



The Foothill Raw Water Supply Pump Station is shown in this artist rendering.

The pump station includes two separate pumping facilities in a 76x150-foot building, a 1.25 million-gallon water storage basin and electrical substation. Water will be drawn from any of nine 36-inch-diameter shafts connected to the tunnel 200 feet beneath the surface. Raw water flowing to the Ophir Road site will have been pumped twice to a total 400 vertical feet from the American River.

Completion in 2007

Drilling and preparation of the shafts is expected to take most of this year, followed by building construction next year. The project is planned for completion in early 2008.

The pump station will eventually provide a second raw water source to the large Foothill Water Treatment Plant in Newcastle and will also supply the Dutch Ravine Canal system to the north and west. It will also provide source water for the new Ophir Water Treatment Plant PCWA is planning at the Ophir Road site.

Related projects planned for coming years include:

- **Foothill Raw Water Supply Pipeline.** This includes about 34,000 feet of large diameter pipelines, mainly in the Ophir Road corridor, from the new pump station to the Foothill Water Treatment Plant and

(Please see Foothill, Page 2)



General Manager's Report

By David A. Breninger

Local Control of the Middle Fork Power Project

A new locally governed joint powers authority formed in early January between PCWA and the County of Placer is a cooperative and innovative effort that will benefit the agency and Placer County for generations to come.

Importantly, this new authority, called the Middle Fork Project Finance Authority, assures local control over future sales (beginning in 2013) of hydroelectric power generated by PCWA's Middle Fork American River Project.

Currently, PCWA is pursuing a renewed federal license for continued hydroelectric operation of the project. The agency's current 50-year license was issued in 1963 and must be renewed by 2013. Financial support to PCWA to underwrite this relicensing is the first mission of the new authority.

Like the federal license, the current power sales contact expires in 2013. Presently, all of the project's power output is sold to the Pacific Gas and Electric Company. In return, PG&E pays operation and maintenance costs for the project. Under a separate agreement, PG&E is also paying off the bonds that financed original construction of the PCWA project.

Role of the Finance Authority

Upon successful relicensing of the project, the Middle Fork Project Finance Authority will collect and distribute power generation revenues. It will see that operation, maintenance, debt, and any improvements to the agency's power project are taken care of before any other revenues are distributed to the water agency and county. The authority also will have the power to issue bonds through the office of the County Treasurer.

The new joint powers authority will be governed by a board consisting of two PCWA directors and county supervisors, with the PCWA general manager serving as its executive director and the county executive as its secretary.

Ownership of the Middle Fork American River Project remains with PCWA. Built in 1963-67, the project stores 342,000 acre-feet of water and includes four reservoirs, seven dams and five power plants. Average production of 1 billion kilowatt-hours of clean, renewable hydroelectric electricity per year is enough to supply the needs of about 240,000 people.

FACT

In 2005, PCWA produced and distributed more than 12 billion gallons of safe drinking water, meeting and exceeding all state public health regulations.

Foothill

More Water for Western Placer County



Cont'd From Page 1

nearby Newcastle water system. Construction is planned in 2006-08.

- **Ophir Water Treatment Plant.** This is a new 30 million-gallon-per-day state-of-the-art treatment plant that is now in design. It is expected to be built and in operation by late 2008.

- **Ophir Road/Taylor Road Treated Water Pipeline.** This is a large 42-inch to 60-inch transmission line to connect the new Ophir Water Treatment Plant to the existing system in Penryn.

- **Werner Road Treated Water Storage Tank.** This is a 5 million-gallon treated water storage tank to store water produced at the new Ophir plant.

- **Auburn Tunnel Valve Chamber Removal.** This involves removal of a concrete plug in the Auburn Tunnel that restricts the amount of water that can flow from the American River.

PCWA is planning public outreach programs, including neighborhood meetings and informational mailers, to keep local residents informed about the progress of the system improvements.

PCWA Still Mopping Up After Big New Year's Storm

Water agency crews are still cleaning debris and repairing damage caused by the big New Year's storm of 2006. Preliminary damages were estimated at \$425,000.

The warm storm brought heavy rains to high elevations, producing peak flows of about 87,000 to 90,000 cubic feet of water per second (cfs) in the North Fork American River at the pump station site in the river canyon near Auburn.

The peak Dec. 31 flows compare to the record 121,000 cfs measured at the same location in the New Year's 1997 storm and the 97,000 cfs of the 1986 flood year (see photos, right).

PCWA Power System

In the PCWA Power System, \$300,000 in damages were reported due to sediment and downed trees clogging reservoirs and water diversions and blocking access roads. The Rubicon River rose to the edge of Ralston Powerhouse, but was still nine feet lower than the 1997 level. Power plant operations were interrupted but resumed within two to three days.

PCWA Water System

In the Water System, erosion, silt, debris and downed trees affected water system operation, causing an estimated \$125,000 in damages to the Auburn Tunnel outlet at Ophir, Canyon Creek in Alta, Clover Valley Reservoir in Penryn and the Caperton Canal near Highway 193.



American River, New Year's Storm 1997



American River, New Year's Storm 2006

Wet Winter Boosts Water Storage

Wet conditions, especially in December, have boosted local rainfall totals and snowpack depths to above average levels.

Precipitation totals on the mountain watershed of Nevada and Placer counties ranged from 130-200 percent of average by mid-January. Statewide, water content in the snowpack ranged from 90-145 percent of average.

Water Efficiency Corner

Focus on Indoor Water Use

Water Use

Washing Machine

**Rebates available for Energy Star rated washers*

Toilet

**Rebates available for ultra low-flow toilets*

Shower (7-9 min.)

***Retrofits of low-flow shower heads available*

Dishwasher

Brushing Teeth

Washing Hands

Non-Efficient

40-60 gallons

3-7 gallons per flush

30 gallons

16 gal., Full Cycle

5-10 gal. w/tap running

2 gal.-plus w/tap running

Efficient

***25 gallons or less**

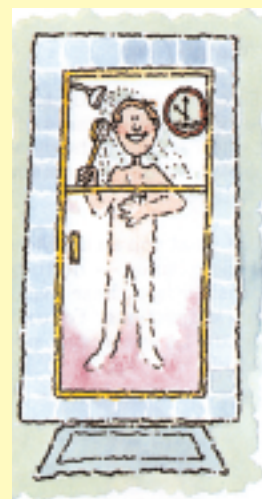
***1.6 gallons per flush**

****15 gallons**

7-11 gal., Short Cycle

Wet/Rinse, one-half gallon

Soap/Rinse, gallon or less



Low-flow showerheads are available through PCWA

For rebate and retrofit information and applications, please contact the PCWA Customer Service Center at (530) 823-4850 or (800) 464-0030.



'Detective Drizzle' Puts Fun Into Water Education

More than 40,000 elementary and middle school students in Placer and Sacramento counties have learned about water through a fun and informative program offered by the South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL).

"Detective Drizzle and the Great Water Mystery" uses audience participation, slides and demonstrations to inspire students to protect and conserve water quality and water resources.

With trench coat, fedora and a flood of watery information, Detective Drizzle has conducted assemblies in dozens of schools over the past three years and will be back for the 2006-07 school year.

In the PCWA service area, more than 1700 students in 10 schools were able to see the program this year, said Harley Lukenbill, PCWA water efficiency manager.

The program is underwritten by the Regional Water Authority, of which PCWA is an active member; and the Sacramento Stormwater Quality Partnership. It is presented by SYRCL, a nonprofit organization based in Nevada City. Local educators who may be interested in hosting a school program may contact coordinator Carlyle Miller at (530) 265-5961, ext. 204, or carlyle@syrc.org.

Customers Asked to Report Water System Tampering

PCWA is asking citizens to be vigilant and aware of unauthorized activities on PCWA water systems.

The agency operates 165 miles of canals, with many in remote areas. Canal systems can be subject to tampering, vandalism and water theft. Customers also are reminded that canal or pipeline orifices should not be adjusted or altered in any way. Water flows are based on customer need, so unauthorized use will affect downstream neighbors.

Connection Charge Increases 2.5%

The Water Connection Charge (WCC) paid by developers and new customers for new water service has increased by 2.5 percent for 2006.

In Zone 1, PCWA's largest service area, the WCC for a standard 5/8-inch residential water meter is now \$11,373. The WCC is designed to cover costs of water system expansion. The increase took effect Jan. 1, 2006.

IN BRIEF

Board Meets at 2 p.m. Regular meeting times of the PCWA Board of Directors are at 2 p.m. on the first and third Thursday of each month in the Placer County Board of Supervisors chambers, 175 Fulweiler Avenue, in Auburn. PCWA board meetings are open to the public.

More Water for Zone 1. The Board of Directors on Jan. 5 declared an additional 2000 acre-feet of water available to the fast-growing Zone 1 service area. The water comes from the agency's Canyon Creek water right near Alta.

Auburn Plant Expansion. The current \$36 million upgrade and expansion of PCWA's Auburn Water Treatment Plant is about 20 percent complete and scheduled for completion by the fall of 2007. The new plant will produce up to 8 million gallons of water per day (mgd) and is expandable to 14 mgd.

Public Meetings

The Placer County Water Agency Board of Directors meets regularly the first and third Thursdays of each month at 2 p.m. in the Placer County Board of Supervisors chambers, 175 Fulweiler Avenue, in Auburn. The public is welcome.

www.pcwa.net

This newsletter is published as a public service of the
**PLACER COUNTY
WATER AGENCY**

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