



NEWS RELEASE

Placer County Water Agency

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Auburn - Directors of the Placer County Water Agency on Thursday (Nov. 2) approved increases in the Water Connection Charge (WCC) paid by developers and property owners connecting to PCWA treated water supplies.

The increases are effective Nov. 3 in PCWA water service Zones 1 and 3.

Under the board's action, the WCC for a standard water hookup in the large Zone 1 service area was raised from \$11,373 to \$13,408, an increase of 17.9 percent.

Zone 1, which extends down the hill from Auburn and includes much of western Placer County, is PCWA's largest service area. It is the area where the most growth is projected to occur and the most extensive water system improvements will be needed.

Brian Martin, the water agency's Director of Technical Services, said the agency is experiencing "tremendous increases in costs" as it works to expand the public water system to meet the demands of growth.

"We are seeing projects come in at 15 to 20 percent more than their estimated costs," Martin said.

The adjustments are calculated to cover construction and debt service costs of the estimated \$1.01 billion in water infrastructure projects needed to serve projected growth in Zone 1 through the year 2040.

In Zone 3 (above Auburn) the WCC was raised from \$8,303 to \$9,234, an increase of 11 percent. The Zone 3 increase is based on a projected \$3.38 million in water system improvements needed by 2025 to serve the slower-growing upper foothills area.

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Connection charges in each service zone are based on components of water service including water treatment, storage, transmission, and planning. A groundwater component is an additional part of the Zone 1 charge.

No public opposition to the higher fees was expressed during public hearings that preceded the board's two unanimous votes.

In other business, directors:

- declared their intent to update the Western Placer County Groundwater Management Plan in a cooperative effort with the County of Placer and the cities of Lincoln and Roseville. The update is expected to be complete in April.

- heard a staff report on the ongoing American River Pump Station Project, which is now under construction in the American River canyon near Auburn. Directors are anticipating a more detailed report on Dec. 21 from the federal Bureau of Reclamation.

Directors adjourned to Nov. 9 at which time they will host a public hearing on proposed 2007 water rate increases. The meeting begins at 2 p.m. in the Placer County Board of Supervisors chambers, 175 Fulweiler Avenue, in Auburn.

Information on PCWA board meetings is available through the Clerk to the Board at (530) 823-4850.