



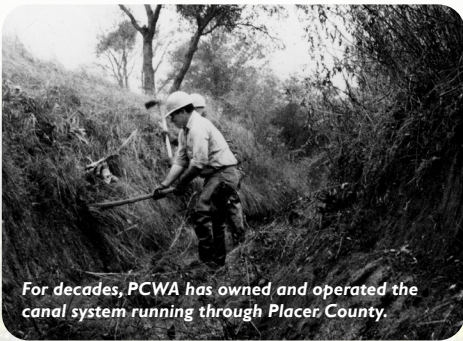
General Manager's Report

By Andrew Fecko

Our Past Feeds Our Future - A History of PCWA Canals

As one of the fastest-growing regions in California, Placer County is full of new transplants. We often get asked, why is there a ditch full of water running behind my house? Where does this water come from? What's it for?

That ditch they're referring to is not just a ditch; it's most likely a PCWA canal for conveying water from the mountains. More than 170 miles of canals run through our 1,500-square-mile service area. It's a system that was first dug by miners more than a century ago, yet now ties into modern pumps and facilities.



For decades, PCWA has owned and operated the canal system running through Placer County.

Dating back to the Gold Rush, this historic system supplies water to our state-of-the-art treatment facilities including the future Ophir Water Treatment Plant that will supply west Placer County. Our past truly feeds our future.

About 4,000 PCWA customers get raw water directly from the canals to supply homes and businesses or irrigation. Many more people have canals running across their property.

The canals carry rainwater and snow melt straight off the mountain. The flow originates in the Sierra at Lake Spaulding and the Middle

Fork Project including French Meadows and Hell Hole Reservoirs, about 11 miles south west of Lake Tahoe. Upcountry, the canals serve Colfax and Alta, then wind through Applegate, Weimar, Dutch Flat, Meadow Vista, and Auburn, supplying small water agencies as well as individual customers.

After Auburn, large canals supply agricultural customers while lots of small ones branch off to serve rural homes in Newcastle, Penryn, Loomis and other communities. The larger canals also deliver water to our treatment plants.

Maintained by PCWA crews and lined with gunite, the canals range in size from 5 feet wide and 24 inches deep, to under 2 feet wide and 6 inches deep. Water flows through them year-round, except during maintenance.

We constantly manage water flow and the efficiency of the canals to deliver water to our customers. Thanks to upgrades, we can monitor flow remotely. New Rubicon gates allow operators to see how much water is flowing in real-time and make adjustments without traveling to the site. We're using technology to adapt a network originally designed to power Gold Rush hydraulic mining, bringing irrigation water to many rural customers and small family farms.

Like the canals, water terminology dates back to the Gold Rush, too. Canal or conveyance water is sold by the "miner's inch" – 11.22 gallons per minute. Roughly, that's how much water flows through a 1-inch pipe under 6 to 8 inches of pressure, the depth of the canal. A miner's inch adds up to more than 16,000 gallons a day.

Most of the canal system runs through private property with easements to PCWA. They are not a trail system. If you walk along the canals, you're probably walking on private property. Please use caution around waterways.



Caperton Canal, Penryn

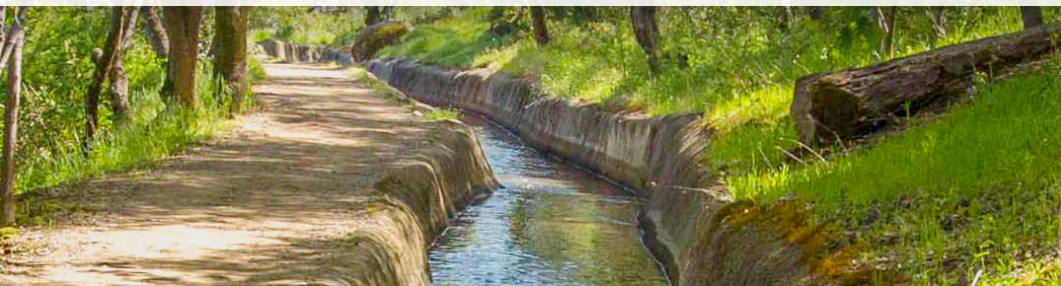
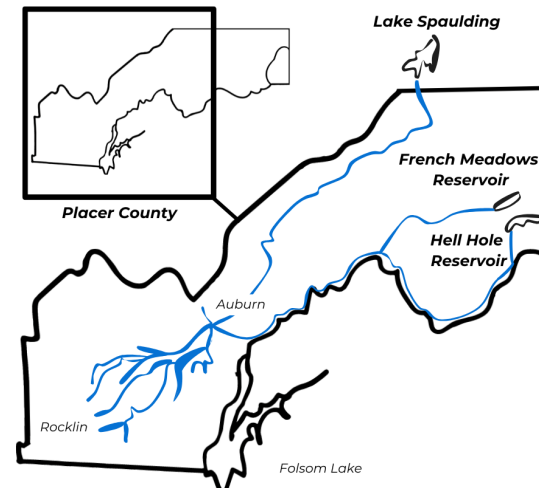
Helpful Tips for Raw Water Customers

We take care of the canals, but it's up to the property owners to maintain the areas around them. Here are some helpful tips for maintaining local canals:

- ◆ Please mow grass near the canals, if possible.
- ◆ Please keep plants and shrubs from overhanging and dropping debris, as it can create clogs.
- ◆ Any construction or digging near the canals such as for fences or bridges requires prior approval.
- ◆ Crews need access to the canals for maintenance.
- ◆ Big trees planted too close to the canal have caused serious damage in the past. PCWA may remove problematic trees as needed.
- ◆ Sometimes, spraying is necessary. If property owners request no spraying, we'll respect those wishes. We want to be good neighbors.

We appreciate the cooperation, and together, we can keep this unique aspect of Placer County flowing for years to come.

Where Does PCWA Canal Water Come From?





Mike Lee's Retirement from Placer County Water Agency

PCWA honored Michael R. Lee for his 40 years of public service, including 24 years on the PCWA Board of Directors. First elected in 2000, Director Lee represented District 3, covering Rocklin, Loomis, and surrounding areas. Before joining PCWA, he served as a Placer County Supervisor, where he contributed to major projects like the Loomis Basin General Plan and the Twelve Bridges development. At PCWA, Director Lee secured a 40-year federal license for the Middle Fork Project and advanced water delivery infrastructure. Lee retired from the Board in December, leaving a lasting legacy of dedicated leadership.

Preparing for Upcoming PG&E Repairs: Conservation Will Be Key

In 2024, we faced challenges together as repairs to one of two outlet pipes at Lake Spaulding limited water releases into Rollins Reservoir and PCWA's water system. Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) has announced plans to complete repairs on the second outlet pipe at Lake Spaulding during the spring and summer of 2025. These repairs will once again limit the amount of water released from Lake Spaulding into Rollins Reservoir, impacting water deliveries this upcoming irrigation season.

The water level in Rollins Reservoir will largely depend on rain and snow this water year - and the conservation efforts of our customers. In 2024, the call to conserve was met with strong support from our customers and we will need your help again this year.

By conserving early, we can help preserve the water supply in Rollins Reservoir and stretch it through the summer until repairs are complete. According to recent communications from PG&E, the repairs are anticipated to be finished by August 2025.

Ways Customers Can Prepare This Winter

We encourage customers to take proactive steps this winter, to be water-wise in preparation of the upcoming repair period:

- Turn off sprinklers when it is raining.
- Find and fix leaks. PCWA has up to a \$1,000 rebate to help.
- Install water-wise and drought-tolerant landscaping.
- Use an EPA WaterSense-labeled, weather-based irrigation controller.

Rebates and Resources

PCWA offers rebate programs to help offset the costs of water-efficient upgrades, along with water-use evaluations for your home or business.

Visit pcwa.net for more information on smart controllers, high efficiency toilets, and more. Stay tuned for updates as we get closer to the repair period. Thank you for your continued support in managing this shared resource.



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Board of Directors

PCWA is an independent public agency governed by an elected Board of Directors. Directors represent each of five districts in Placer County and are elected by voters to four-year terms.

Your PCWA Board of Directors:

- DISTRICT 1: Gray Allen (2025 Vice Chair)
- DISTRICT 2: Primo Santini
- DISTRICT 3: Chris Wilson
- DISTRICT 4: Robert Dugan (2025 Chair)
- DISTRICT 5: Joshua Alpine

Public Meetings

The Placer County Water Agency Board of Directors meets regularly the first and third Thursdays of each month at 2:00 p.m. at the Placer County Water Agency Business Center at 144 Ferguson Road in Auburn.