PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY VOL. 40

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General Manager's Report By Andrew Fecko

A Major Milestone in the Rocklin Main Replacement Project

Another phase of the Rocklin Main Replacement Project is now complete, marking an important milestone in our

ongoing effort to modernize the water infrastructure that serves customers in Rocklin.



Pipes don't last forever. The mainlines beneath some of Rocklin's busiest streets were originally installed in 1963. These aging steel pipes, lined with cement mortar, have reached the end of their service life.

As part of PCWA's Renewal and Replacement Program, the Rocklin Main Replacement Project is a multi-year collaboration with the City of Rocklin. Once complete, this investment—estimated at \$24 million—will provide Rocklin with a modern and reliable water infrastructure system designed to last another 60 years or more.

The project is funded by PCWA ratepayers through monthly water bills, with the City of Rocklin partnering to complete paving work following each pipeline installation. It's a strong example of local collaboration to improve essential infrastructure.

Working on a busy road is no small task. To install new pipes, we cut into the existing roadway. When our work is complete, the City steps in to restore the surface. The result: upgraded infrastructure below and a newly repaved road above.

The most recent phase—Phase I—was completed at a cost of approximately \$3.1 million and continued the upgrades along Midas Avenue from 2nd Street to Argonaut Avenue. This work included trenching, installing a new

12-inch mainline, new service laterals, advanced water meters, and meter boxes. Once the mainline was pressurized and connected to homes, the trench was backfilled and temporarily paved prior to final paving and striping.

This follows the successful completion of Phase 2 in 2024, which upgraded nearly half a mile of pipeline between Argonaut Avenue and Clover Valley Road. The numbering reflects when each section was ready for construction.

Next up: Sunset Boulevard. That phase is currently in design, with construction expected to begin in 2027.

Why all this focus on replacing old pipes? Because providing clean, reliable water every single day depends on keeping our infrastructure strong. Over time, water pipelines experience natural wear and tear. Without upgrades, that aging infrastructure can lead to leaks, service interruptions, and higher maintenance costs.

By investing in planned rehabilitation and replacements, we're working to prevent those issues and protect:

- Reliability: New pipelines reduce the risk of leaks and main breaks.
- **♦ Water Quality**: Modern materials help maintain clarity and taste.
- **Continuity of Service**: Fewer emergencies mean fewer disruptions.
- **♦ Cost Savings**: Proactive improvements are more efficient than emergency fixes.

We recognize that construction can be inconvenient, and we thank customers, as well as the City of Rocklin, for your patience as we complete this work. Every improvement we make today helps secure the reliability, safety, and quality of your water service for decades to come.



Celebrating a Clean Energy Legacy on National Hydropower Day

August 24 is National Hydropower Day—a time to recognize the role of hydropower in providing clean, renewable energy across the country. Here in Placer County, it's also a chance to highlight a story many local residents don't know: PCWA doesn't just deliver water-we generate power, too.

Since the 1960s, Placer County Water Agency has operated the Middle Fork Project (MFP) on the American River, a major public power project built with local voter support. It includes two major reservoirs (French Meadows and Hell Hole), five hydroelectric power plants, and 24 miles of tunnels. Each year, it generates about 1.1 million megawatt hours of electricity—enough to power 240,000 homes.

While PCWA doesn't supply electricity to homes, the MFP plays an important behind-the-scenes role. The energy it generates is sold to California's power grid, and that revenue helps fund your local water system, supporting infrastructure investments. That means a portion of your water service is powered, quite literally, by Placer County's own landscape.

The Middle Fork Project also plays a vital role as part of California's energy market. The California Independent System Operator uses its flexible power generation to help balance the electrical grid as demand and solar energy fluctuate throughout the day.





Want to see the Middle Fork Project being built?

Vintage videos showing the construction of the MFP are available on PCWA's Instagram (@PlacerWater) and Facebook pages (@ThePCWA). These clips offer a glimpse of a time when local workers and communities came together to build something lasting—supporting water, recreation, and resilience across Placer County.



Take a look at all of the PCWA powerhouses and their generation capacities!

Scan this QR code to see our YouTube video featuring all five of PCWA's powerhouses in action.







2024 ANNUAL REPORT











PCWA

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in Placer County Water Agency

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.