



General Manager's Report

By Andrew Fecko

From Forest to Faucet: Why Healthy Forests Matter

Why does a water agency spend so much time thinking about trees? Because your water depends on a healthy watershed.

Snow and rain that fall on Sierra Nevada forests supply water for more than 2 million people in the Sacramento region, including Placer County. This watershed also sustains hydropower and supports agriculture, recreation, and wildlife. When forests are unhealthy, the entire system suffers.



Strategic forest restoration reduces catastrophic wildfire risk and supports watershed health

For decades, fire suppression has left many of our forests overgrown. Prolonged drought and invasive pests made trees more vulnerable to catastrophic wildfires. Intense heat does more than destroy trees; it damages soil and reduces water quality. Runoff in burned areas causes sediment to clog reservoirs and canals, costing millions of dollars to clean up.

The 2014 King Fire, which burned 97,000 acres, was a wake-up call for PCWA to take action and help our forests heal. Since then, we've been working with partners to reduce wildfire risks and protect our watershed.

The French Meadows Forest Restoration Project, now in its seventh season, has treated about 8,700 acres of public and private land. Using restorative methods like thinning and prescribed fire, the project makes forests more resilient to

wildfire and drought by reducing the buildup of small trees and brush that fuel fast-moving fires. This work is a collaboration between PCWA, the U.S. Forest Service, private landowners, and others.

As the recent September lightning storms showed, nature has its own hand in fire—thousands of strikes across California ignited dozens of wildfires within hours. Closer to home, a lightning strike on August 24 sparked a fire near French Meadows Reservoir in the Tahoe National Forest.

Forest Service firefighters contained the blaze to just two acres. Events like this underscore why long-term forest restoration work is so important: reducing fuels helps prevent ignitions from growing into catastrophic wildfires.

Additionally, we are advancing similar work along Long Canyon Creek in the Eldorado National Forest. This project will treat about 7,900 acres in an area that hasn't burned in more than 80 years, improving forest health along the Rubicon River—an essential tributary of our American River watershed.



Utilizing thinning and prescribed fire treatments improves tree spacing and reduces fuels

Closer to home, PCWA crews are reducing fire risk along our historic canal system with targeted tree trimming and downing, protecting the infrastructure that delivers water every day.

It's all part of our commitment to science-based forest work and strong partnerships to keep our watershed—and your water—safe and reliable every day.

LEARN MORE...

Scan the QR codes to explore PCWA's forest health and water stewardship resources:

Publication

*Fire & Water: Stories of
Collaboration and Resilience*



Video

*Protecting Placer: Water,
Fire, and Community Safety*



Brochure

*Water Supplies Depend
on a Healthy Forest*



Providing Water That Feeds Our Community

Foothill Roots Farm is a living example of how water sustains local agriculture, community connection, and a way of life. Operated by Patrick and Diane Bollinger and their daughter Sage, their farm is located in Meadow Vista and produces seasonal crops like lettuce, spinach, carrots, kohlrabi, tomatoes, peppers, squash, cucumbers, and more. "With gravity-fed water, we feel like we won the lottery," said Patrick, long time PCWA customer.

In Loomis, they grow winter crops with pond-stored water—a strategy shaped by terrain and seasonal demands. Their produce gets the "full tour" across Placer County, reaching local restaurants, grocery stores like the Auburn Bodega, and neighbors through direct sales from a farm stand and distribution via Tahoe Food Hub.

The Bollingers are deeply intentional about how they use water. "We're always spreading compost to improve the sponge we're growing in," Patrick shared. "It helps us go longer between waterings." With drip irrigation, timers, and seasonal adjustments, they stretch every drop—making gravity-fed water go further.

But their connection to water goes beyond farming. The Bollingers recreate in the watershed and advocate for water resilience in their community. "We feel so lucky to have the water that we do," Patrick said.

Their story reflects the heart of Water for Our Future—investing in the reliable water infrastructure that keeps farms productive, communities fed, and prosperity flowing.

WATER FOR OUR FUTURE

Prosperity Flows with Reliable Water



The Bollinger Family,
Foothill Roots Farm in Meadow Vista



Let Your Sprinklers Hibernate This Winter



PARDON OUR DUST!

PCWA's Business Center front parking lot, lobby, and Customer Service counter will be closed for construction November 2025-January 2026. Signs will be posted throughout the campus to guide customers, visitors, and deliveries.

Customer Services' temporary front counter and parking will be located across the street at the Drinking Water Operations (DWO) Building, 185 Ferguson Road, during construction.

Hours & Contact:

Call: (530) 823-4850 (Mon. - Fri., 8 am - 5 pm)

Email: CustomerServices@pcwa.net

In-person: 185 Ferguson Road (Mon. - Thurs., 8 am - 5 pm)

Payment drop box: Temporarily relocated to the DWO building

Public meetings will continue to be held in the American River Room at the Business Center. Public parking is available in the back parking lot behind the Business Center. Follow signs to the front entrance.

For more info visit: pcwa.net/lobby-closed.



Scam Alert: Water Agency Imposters

There have been recent reports throughout the region of individuals impersonating water agency employees going door-to-door, claiming that household water may be unsafe, and attempting to enter homes or sell expensive water treatment systems. Your water is safe. PCWA tests it thousands of times a year and it meets or exceeds all state and federal standards. We don't do in-home water testing, so anyone offering to test your water at home is not from PCWA.

Our employees are easy to identify. Look for:

- The blue and green PCWA logo on vehicles
- Uniforms in safety green, safety orange, navy, or grey
- Official PCWA ID badges

We only visit your property by appointment. You'll hear from us first if work is scheduled. We never ask for payment at your door.

If someone claims to be from PCWA, ask for ID and call us at (530) 823-4850 to verify. Trust your instincts—if something feels off, don't engage.

How to Identify a PCWA Service Employee



Rate Reminder!

A water rate adjustment will go into effect on January 1, 2026. The adjustment is part of a multi-year rate adjustment, approved by the PCWA Board of Directors in May 2022, and includes an adjustment of 7% in January 2026. The change in monthly charges for water service for each customer will vary depending upon meter size, volume of water used, and customer classification. Please visit our Multiyear Rate Adjustment page at pcwa.net for information.



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ThePCWA

PlacerWater

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.