



General Manager's Report By Andrew Fecko

Investing Today for Tomorrow's Reliability

When you turn on the tap, you expect clean, reliable water—every time. At PCWA, that reliability depends on a network of treatment plants, pipelines, pumps, canals, and reservoirs that must be carefully maintained and, when needed, expanded.

As a public agency, we operate on a cost-of-service basis. Customer rates fund the repair and replacement of existing infrastructure, while developer-paid connection charges fund new facilities needed to serve growth. In 2026, PCWA plans to invest nearly \$295 million in capital improvements tied to both efforts.

Here's a look at some major projects happening in 2026:

Renewal and Replacement: Maintaining What We Have

PCWA's Renewal and Replacement (R&R) Program focuses on repairing and replacing aging infrastructure across our community water system to help prevent failures and keep service reliable 24/7. The R&R charge that supports this work is explained on page two of this newsletter.



Colfax Water Treatment Plant Replacement construction underway

💧 **Colfax Water Treatment Plant** – Replacing the 1958 facility nearing the end of its useful life. The new plant will provide up to 2 million gallons per day (MGD) of treated water, with future expansion to 3 MGD. Construction began in 2025 and is expected to take about two and a half years.

💧 **I-80 Pipeline Crossings Rehabilitation** – PCWA operates 50 pipeline crossings under Interstate 80 between Roseville and Alta. Installed in the 1950s and early 1960s, several are now at high risk of failure. The first phase begins in 2026, rehabilitating three of the most critical crossings to strengthen reliability and prevent service disruptions.

💧 **Foothill Water Treatment Plant Rehabilitation** – Rehabilitating or replacing critical infrastructure, including piping and major mechanical and electrical equipment, as well as pumps and storage tanks related to chemical feed systems.



Old State Highway Pipeline Replacement Route, Newcastle

💧 **Old State Highway Pipeline Replacement** – A coordinated project in Newcastle with the South Placer Municipal Utility District (SPMUD). PCWA is installing new water mains, service laterals, and fire hydrants while SPMUD replaces sewer mains and laterals. Agencies are coordinating schedules and paving to reduce costs and minimize disruptions.

Expansion: Planning for the Future

Expansion projects add new capacity and redundancy so we can meet future demand without compromising reliability for existing customers. This reflects the PCWA Board of Directors' long-held principle that new growth and development must pay for the infrastructure required to extend water service to these areas.



Rendering of future Ophir Water Treatment Plant

💧 **Ophir Water Treatment Plant** – Breaking ground later this year, this long-planned project will add 10 MGD of treated water capacity for west Placer County, relieve pressure on the Foothill Water Treatment Plant, and create system redundancy. The facility is expected to be fully operational by 2030.

These investments ensure reliable service today while preparing for tomorrow. Our goal is simple: deliver safe, reliable water now and for generations to come.

Scan the code to learn more about current water reliability projects.



Understanding the Charges on Your Treated Water Bill

Understanding how your water bill is structured can help explain why charges change from month to month and what each component supports.

We often get questions from customers about their bills, especially concerning the Renewal and Replacement (R&R) charge,

why saving water doesn't always lead to a big reduction in the bill, or why the bill can look different from one month to the next.

All charges on your bill are calculated based on the number of days in the billing cycle, which typically ranges from 28–32 days. Fixed and R&R charges are based

on meter size, which reflects the capacity needed to serve your property, while the Commodity Charge is based on how much water you use.

Below is a breakdown of the charges on your bill and how they support reliable service.

Fixed Charge

This charge covers the cost of operating and maintaining our community water system 24/7. It supports the facilities, equipment, water quality and monitoring, and trained staff needed to deliver safe, reliable drinking water. These costs remain the same whether you use a lot of water or only a little.

Renewal and Replacement

Water travels miles from Sierra snow and rivers through canals, treatment plants, and pipelines before reaching your home. The R&R charge funds the repair and replacement of essential infrastructure like pipes, pumps, valves, customer water meters and reading technology, and treatment facilities—work that keeps the entire system operating safely and reliably while supporting accurate billing.

Commodity Charge: The Water You Use

This component is based on how much water you use. If you save water, you'll see this part of your bill go down. However, if you notice your usage is higher than expected, it may be because of longer billing cycles, outdoor irrigation, or even undetected leaks. Our Customer Services team and Water Efficiency Specialists are here to help you review your usage and offer tips to identify and fix potential issues.

As a public agency, PCWA operates a community-owned water system for the long-term benefit of its customers, today and for future generations. Because most water system costs are fixed, understanding what's included in your bill helps explain the value behind the service and the importance of maintaining the system that delivers it.

Curious how this connects to real projects in your community? See the General Manager's column on the front page for a look at what PCWA is building and improving in 2026.



Top 5 Household Leaks

Found most often by PCWA

- Toilets
- Pool Supply Lines & Autofill Systems
- Mainline to the House
- Sprinkler System Leaks
- Mainline to Irrigation Valves

Scan the QR code to learn how to spot and fix leaks quickly.



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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
- DISTRICT 2: Primo Santini
- DISTRICT 3: Chris Wilson
- DISTRICT 4: Robert Dugan (2026 Chair)
- DISTRICT 5: Joshua Alpine (2026 Vice Chair)

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.