

# 2022 YEAR END REPORT





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“PCWA is committed to unyielding advocacy for reliable and sustainable water supply to its customers. This last year challenged PCWA in several ways. We were confronted with the need to invest \$425 million over the next 25 years through the renewal and replacement program to keep our water treatment plants and pipelines running for the next generation. We appreciate the investments in this cause, being made by our customers, which will go directly into our infrastructure.

In September we were hit with the Mosquito Fire, which has devastated both our power system facilities and the environment of our headwaters. The consequences are already being realized in lost production of clean energy, sediment flowing into our reservoirs, and failed roads. We are advocating on behalf of our citizens for federal support to the US Forest Service, so that they may take necessary actions towards restoration.”

— Robert Dugan, 2023 Board Chairman



Cover photo: French Meadows Reservoir

ABOUT THE AGENCY

PCWA is a retail and wholesale water service provider, delivering treated and untreated water to a variety of customers throughout Placer County. Customers include residents, businesses, farms, cities and towns, local governments, and private water purveyors.

In addition, PCWA owns and operates the Middle Fork Project (MFP), a multi-purpose water supply and hydroelectric project, located on the Middle Fork American River. The MFP supplies water for homes, industry, and agriculture within western Placer County and clean, renewable energy to the California electric grid.



District 2:  
Primo Santini



District 5:  
Joshua Alpine



District 1:  
Gray Allen



District 3:  
Mike Lee



District 4:  
Robert Dugan

The Agency's district boundaries coincide with the Placer County supervisorial districts. There are five districts within its boundaries.

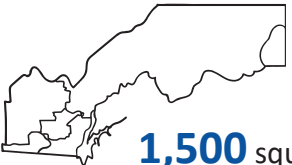
PCWA At-A-Glance



Agency created in 1957



**Five-member** Board of Directors, elected by the people of Placer County, and serving **4-year** terms.

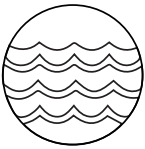


**1,500** square miles of service area

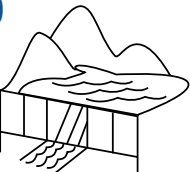


Provides water service to **41,000+** customers

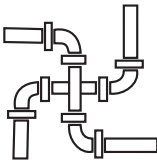
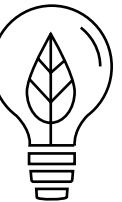
**236,900** acre-feet of water delivery capacity



**343,000** acre-feet of reservoir storage capacity

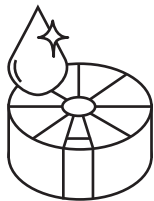


**223.75** megawatts of installed generation capacity



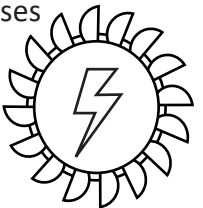
**623** miles of treated water pipeline

**8** water treatment plants delivering safe drinking water



**170** miles of canal

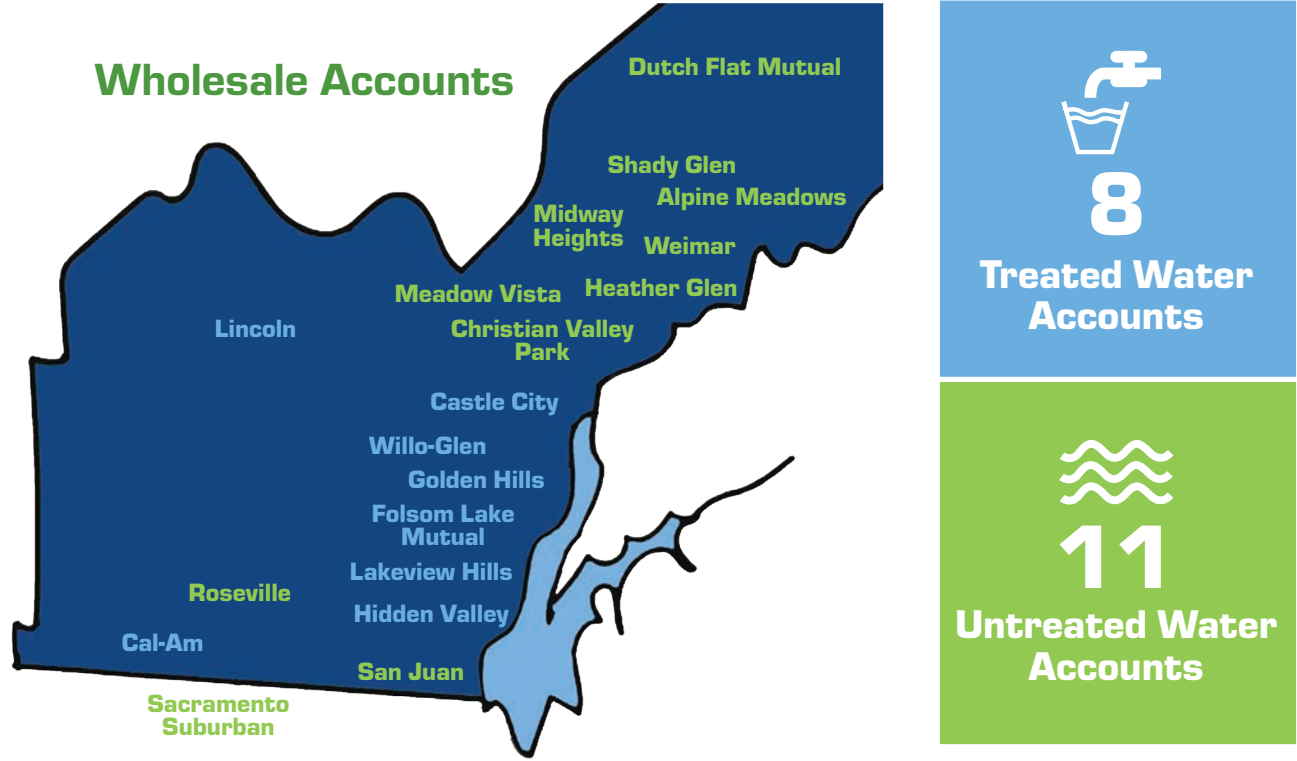
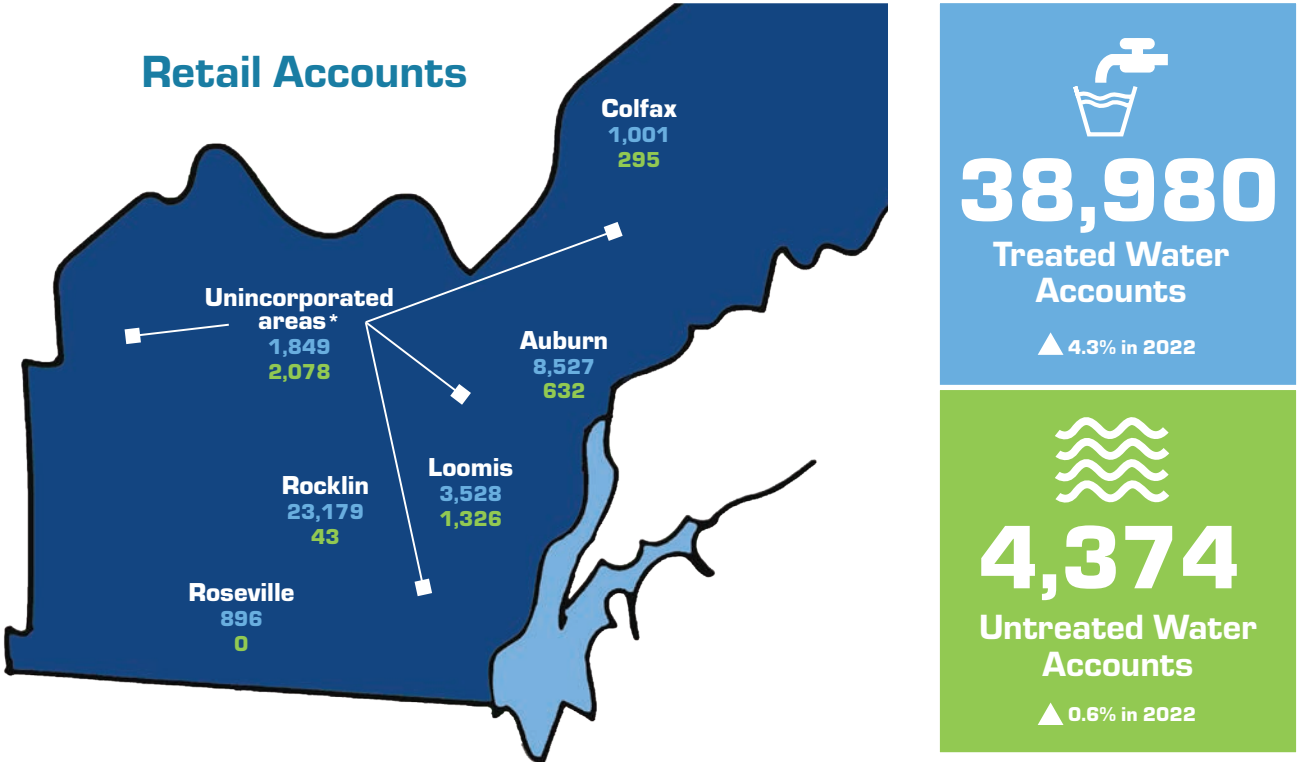
**5** powerhouses supplying clean hydro-electric energy to the CA grid





BY THE NUMBERS

Customer Overview



\*Unincorporated areas include:

Alta	Weimar	Penryn
Dutch Flat	Applegate	Granite Bay
Gold Run	Newcastle	West Placer

■ Treated Water Customer(s)  
■ Untreated Water Customer(s)

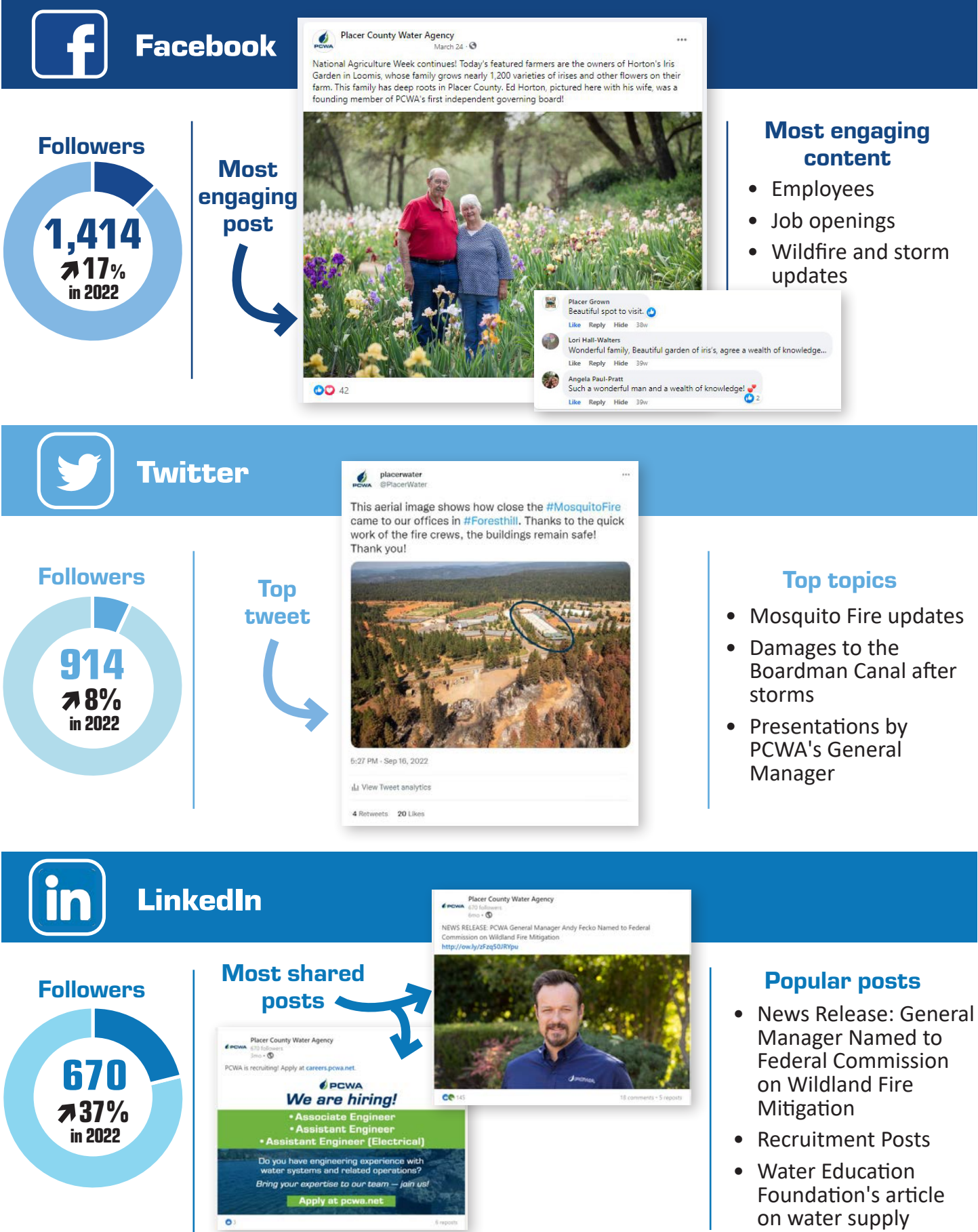
Placer County

Staffing



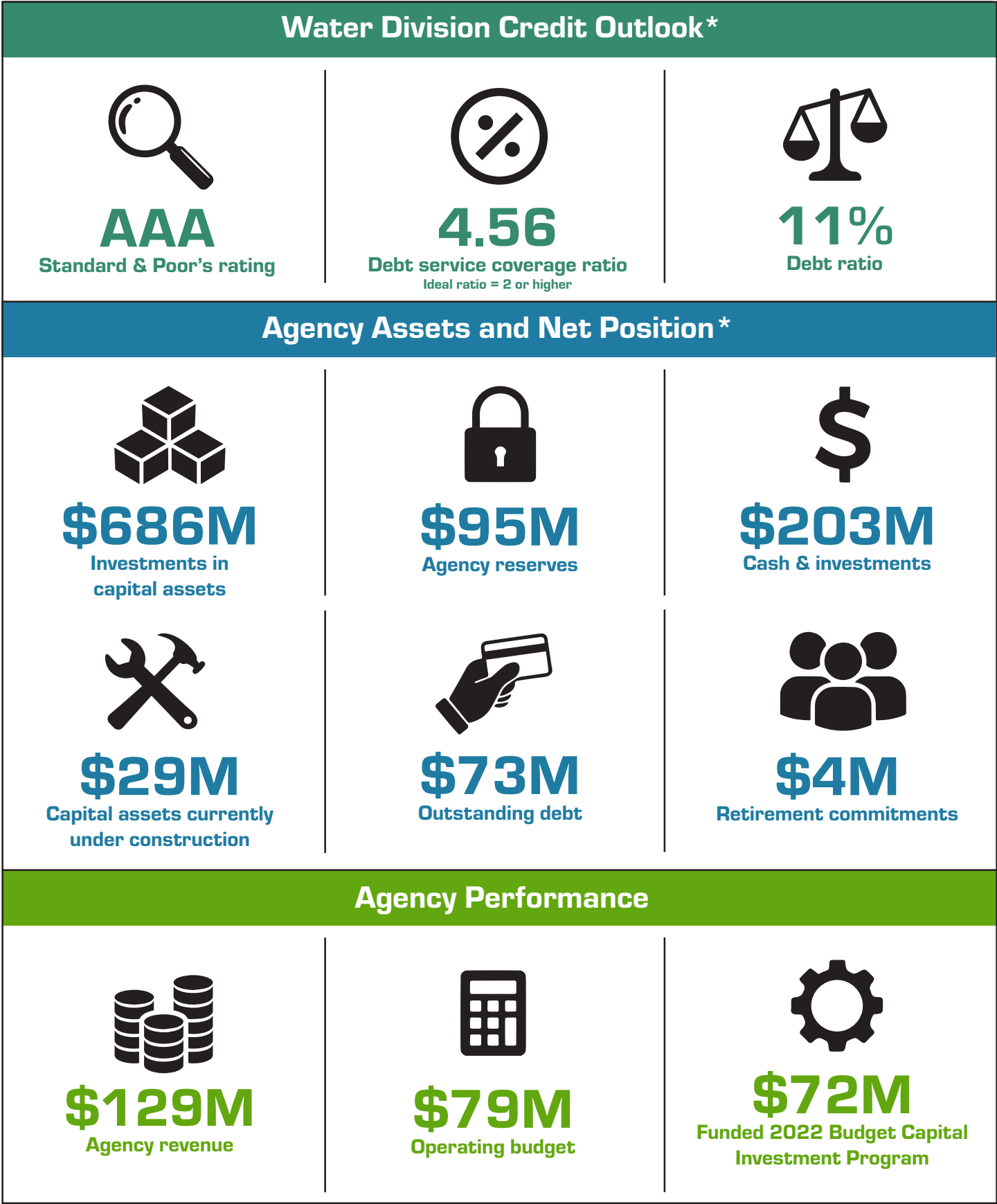


Social Media Engagement



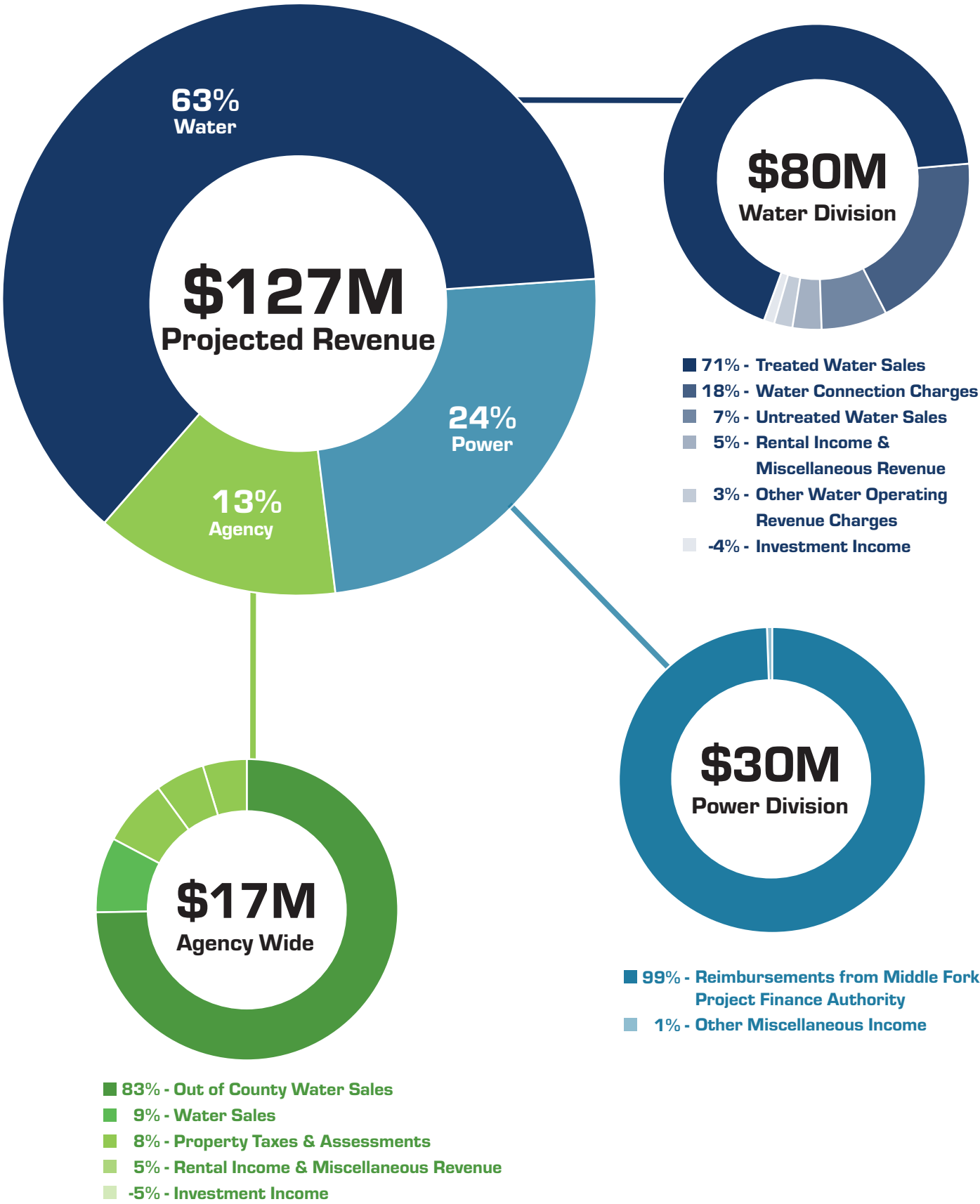


Financial Snapshot



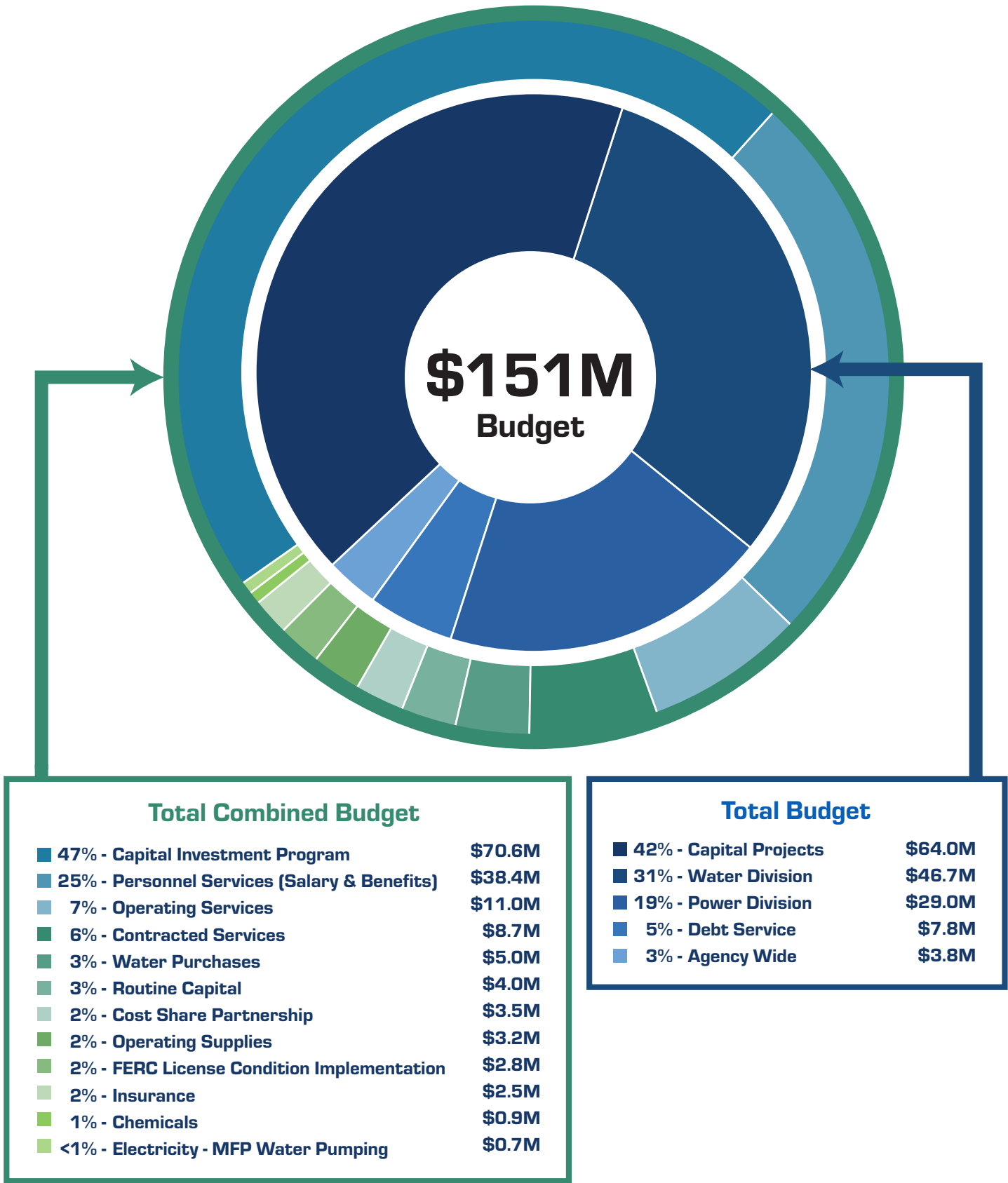
\* As of January 1, 2022

2022 Projected Agency Revenue Sources by Division

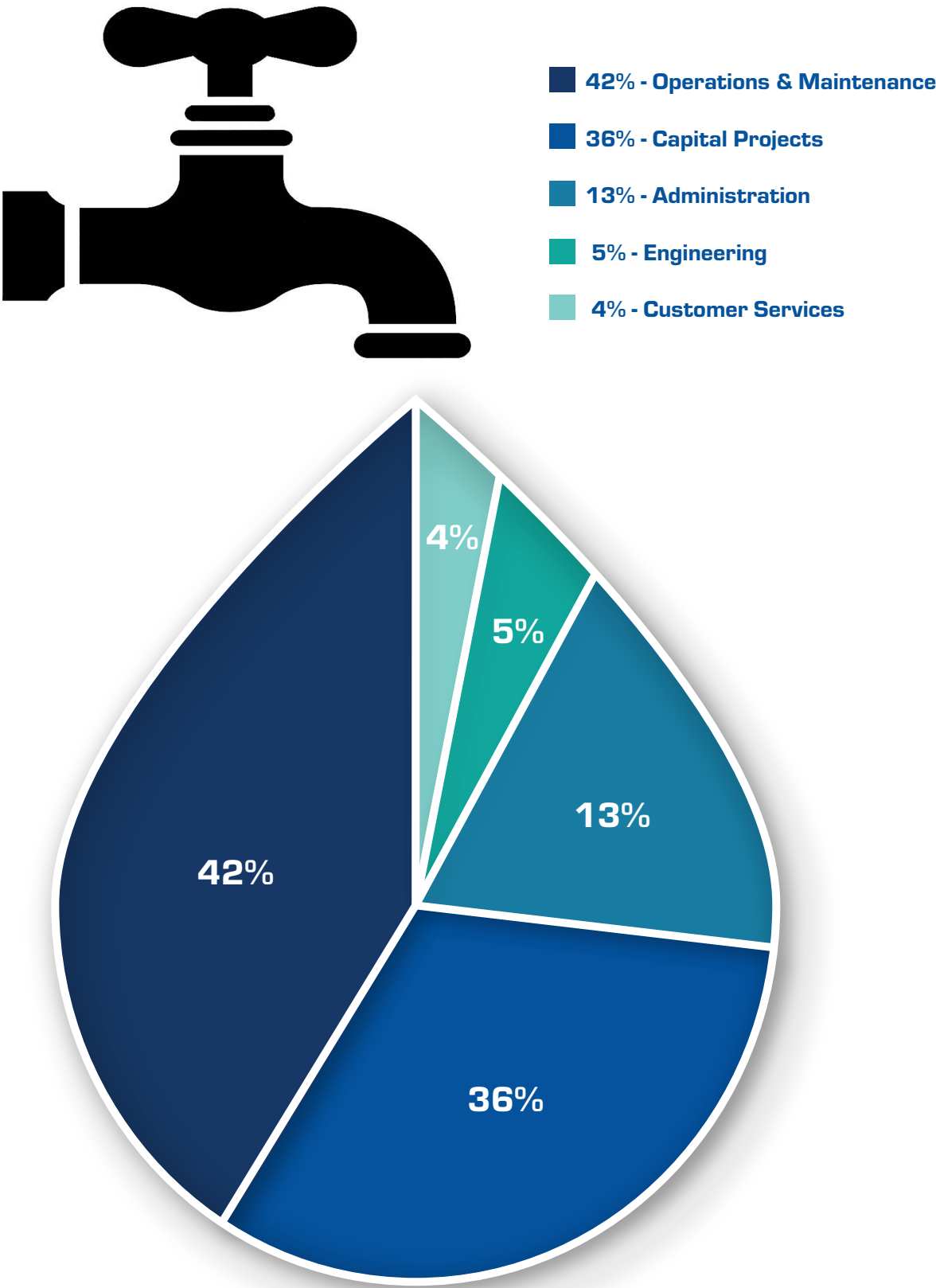




2022 Adjusted Agency Budget



Where Water Rates Go At-a-Glance

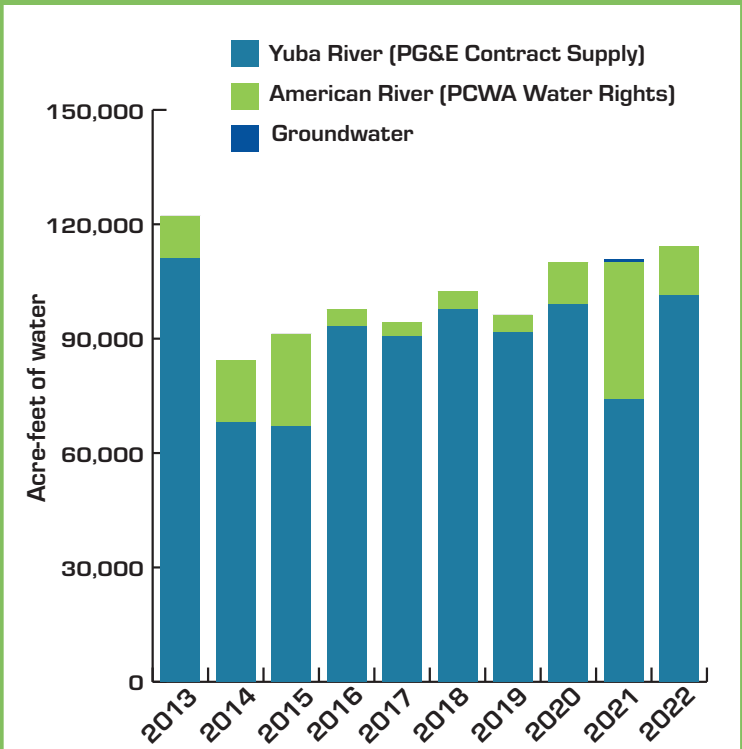




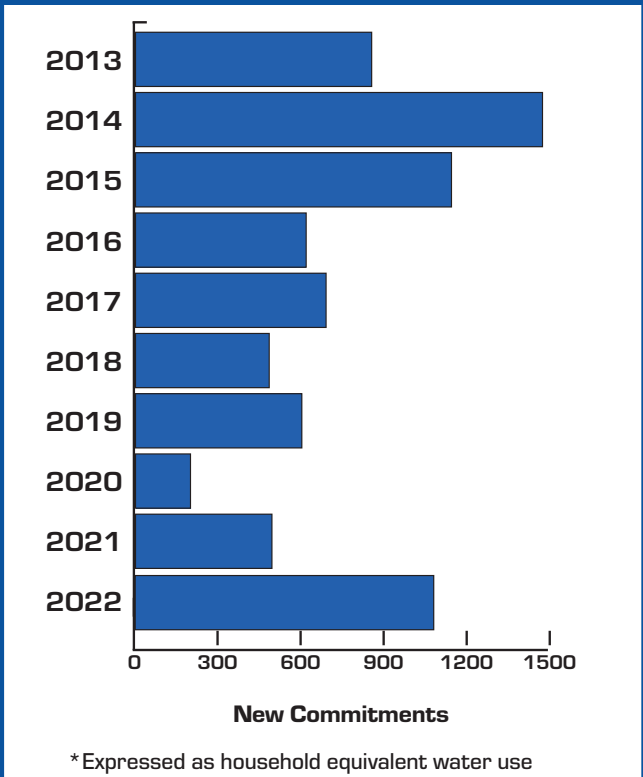
Treated Water Production

Water Supply Resiliency

Hydrologic Variability and Utilization of Multiple Water Supply Sources



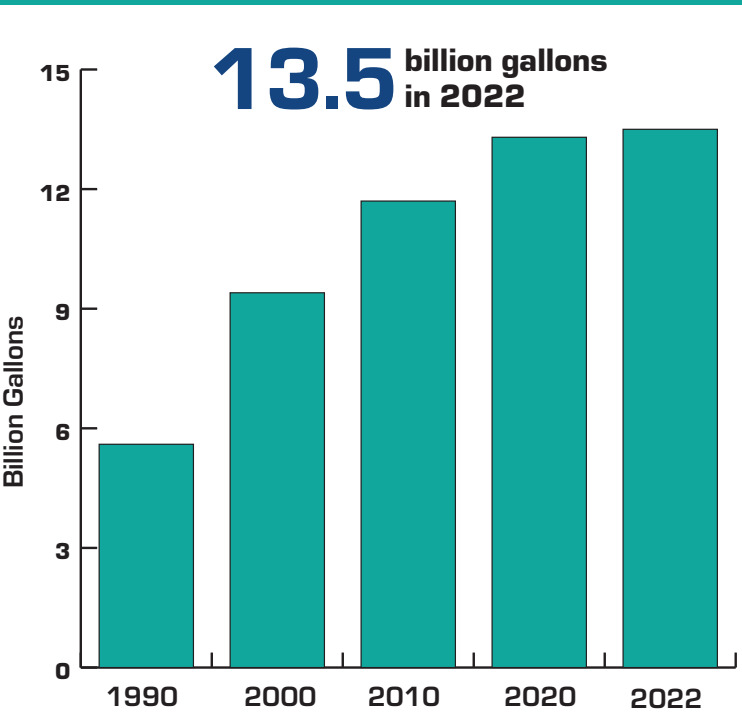
Yearly Commitments to New Treated Water Service



Decade over decade, annual drinking water production has increased to meet the demands of Placer County's growing population.

Year	Population Served by Retail Water System
1990	49,391
2000	67,321
2010	91,648
2020	108,225
2022	112,030

Annual Drinking Water Production



Middle Fork Project Energy Production

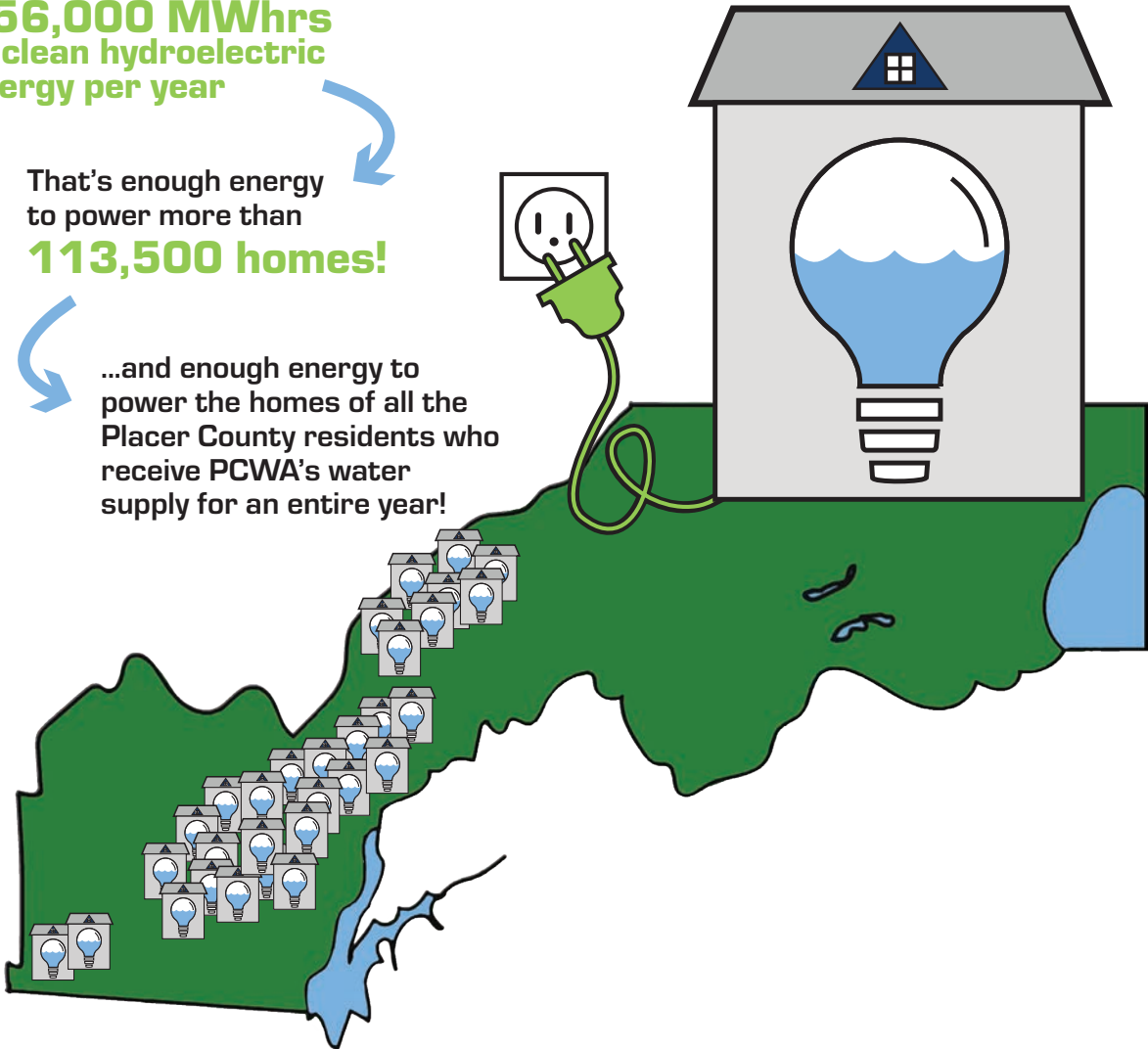
Green Energy

Since 2013 PCWA's hydropower project has produced an average of

**756,000 MWhrs** of clean hydroelectric energy per year

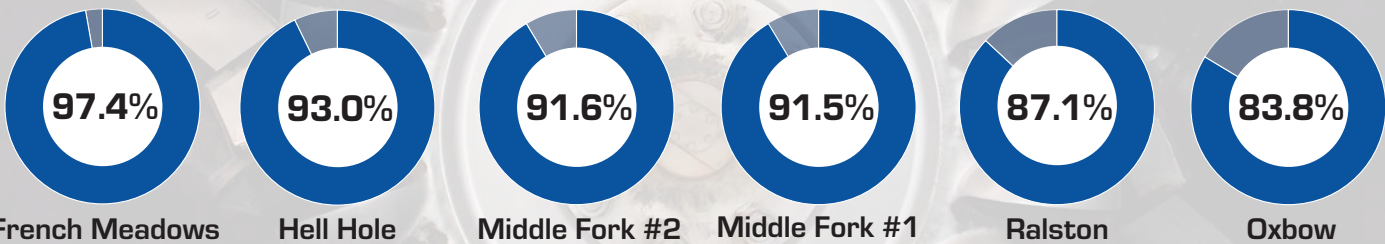
That's enough energy to power more than **113,500 homes!**

...and enough energy to power the homes of all the Placer County residents who receive PCWA's water supply for an entire year!



Reliable Energy

Percentage of hours hydroelectric generating units were available to be connected to California's energy grid:



\*Unavailable hours include preventive and corrective maintenance, capital improvement projects, and operational impacts from the Mosquito Fire.



STORYLINES

Mosquito Fire Impacts

The Mosquito Fire was the largest fire in California in 2022. Placer County communities and PCWA's Middle Fork American River Hydroelectric Project have been severely impacted as a result.

76,788

Acres burned

&

50

Days of active fire

11,000+

People evacuated from their homes and communities, including 35 PCWA employees

428

Air quality index reported in areas of Placer County, reaching "hazardous" conditions

116

Days (in 2022 alone) PCWA hydropower facilities not able to transmit clean energy to the California electric grid

\$10Ms

Tens of millions of dollars lost in power production sales

Up to 600,000

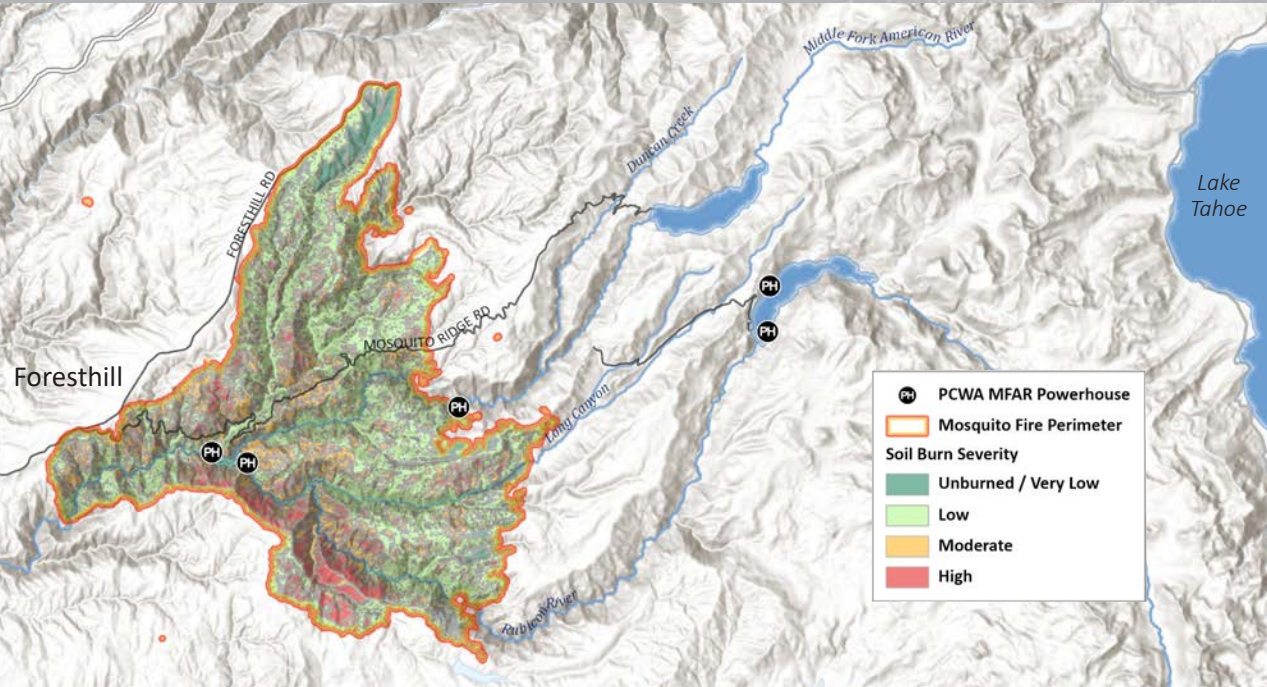
Cubic yards of new sediment estimated to accumulate into PCWA reservoirs

Soil burn severity:

9%  
high

25%  
moderate

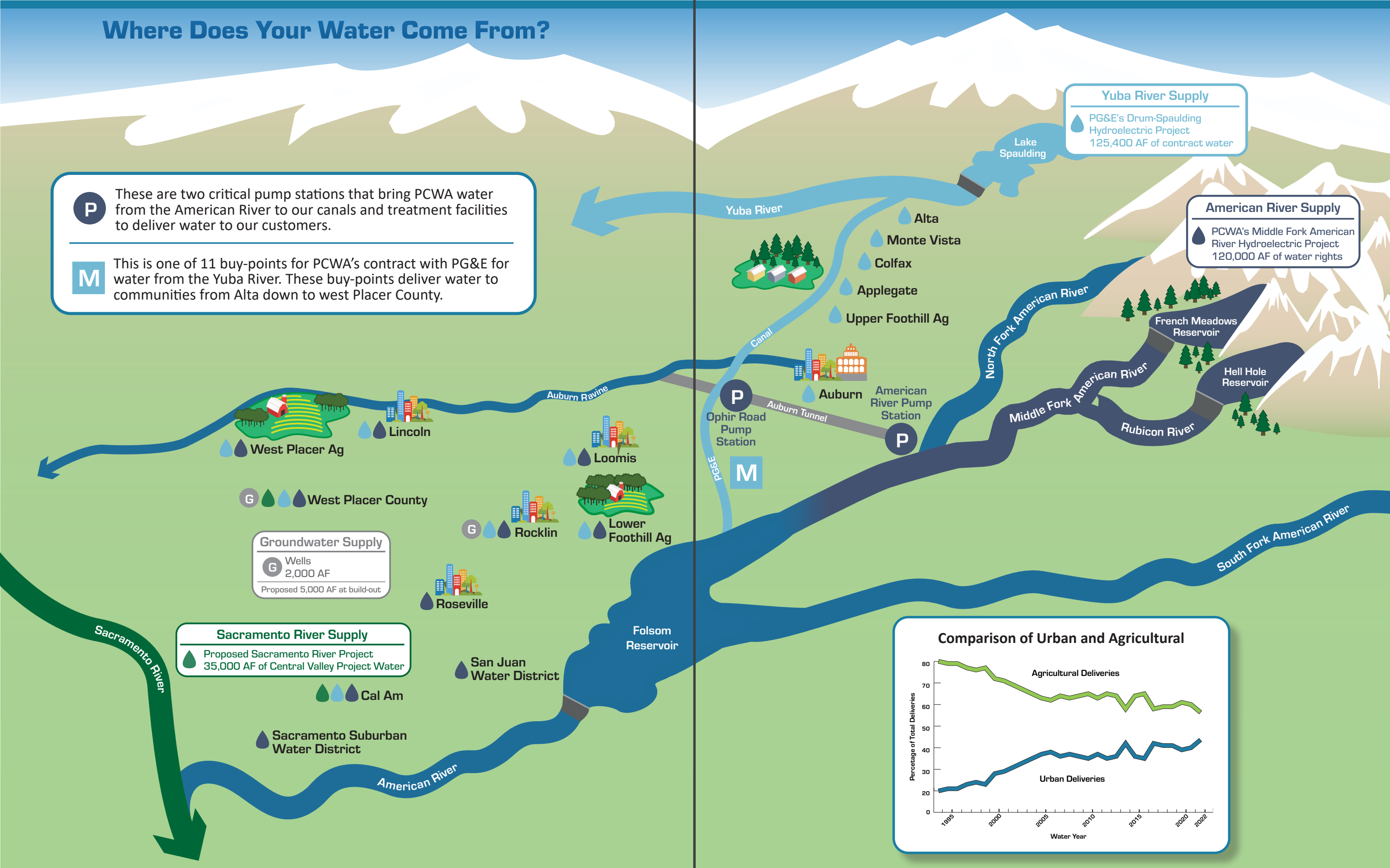
66%  
low/very low



A special acknowledgment to the following agencies for their tireless efforts:









# Investments in Your Community Water Systems

It will cost \$425 million over the next 25 years to accomplish long-term infrastructure reliability, according to a recent, independent analysis of the Agency's water system.

In 2022, \$11.26 million was invested through PCWA's **Renewal and Replacement Program**. This program helps to ensure the system's reliability and sustainability for existing and future customers.

**Raw Water Transmission & Distribution**  
Projects related to the untreated water system, which includes 170 miles of canals and pipelines, pressure reducing stations, valves, meters, pump stations, buildings, electrical systems and instrumentation, and other components.

\$6.9M

**Water Treatment**  
Projects related to our eight water treatment plants and their processes that result in producing potable drinking water from source water supplies.

\$2.2M

**Treated Water Transmission & Distribution**  
Projects related to the treated water system, which includes over 615 miles of pipeline and treated water mains, pressure reducing stations, valves, meters, pump stations, buildings, electrical systems and instrumentation, and other components.

\$1.2M

**Other/Miscellaneous**  
Projects related to groundwater management, planning, Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA), security, telecommunications, and other miscellaneous projects.

\$715K

**Untreated Water Storage**  
Projects related to the storage of untreated water, including, but not limited to our eight reservoirs, dams, and related equipment.

\$171K

**Treated Water Storage**  
Projects related to the storage of treated water, including, but not limited to our 24 storage tanks, tank mixers and vents, and related equipment.

\$73K

Total Investments in 2022..... **\$11.26M**



Sample projects from 2022. See more project highlights on the following pages.



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Hayford Siphon Replacement Project

Purpose: To replace an aging intake structure and piped section of the Boardman Canal, known as the Hayford Siphon.

Cost: \$4,055,882

Project type: Raw Water Transmission & Distribution



The original siphon was approximately 2,900 feet long and dates back to 1894.



The original inlet structure had reached the end of its useful life.



This overhead view shows the inlet site. The new retaining wall stabilizes the surrounding hillside and allows for maintenance access to the inlet structure. The wall is approximately 125 feet long and 10 feet high.



The Hayford Siphon parallels and eventually crosses under the railroad tracks. A boring pit was constructed to allow for the new alignment under the tracks.



The new inlet structure and gunite lining will reduce leakage and increase the reliability of this canal.

Crews bore underground to install steel casing pipe. Once installed, a smaller carrier pipe was inserted through it.



Boardman Canal Repairs

Purpose: To repair a section of the Boardman Canal, which was damaged during a winter storm event.

Cost: \$793,380

Project type: Raw Water Transmission & Distribution

A portion of the canal was washed out during the storm, creating a large erosion channel down the adjacent hillside.



Crews immediately made temporary repairs, including installing inlet/outlet structures and two pipes to ensure water deliveries.



Permanent repairs included:

- Building a new gunite section of the canal
- Constructing a concrete block wall along the embankment
- Stabilizing and filling the erosion channel



Over **1,600** tons of large rock was installed for slope protection



Pulp Mill Flume #1 Maintenance Project

**Purpose:** To maintain canal system infrastructure by replacing a 75-foot wood and tin flume, which was damaged during a winter storm event, with a newly aligned open channel canal.  
**Cost:** \$171,892  
**Project type:** Raw Water Transmission & Distribution

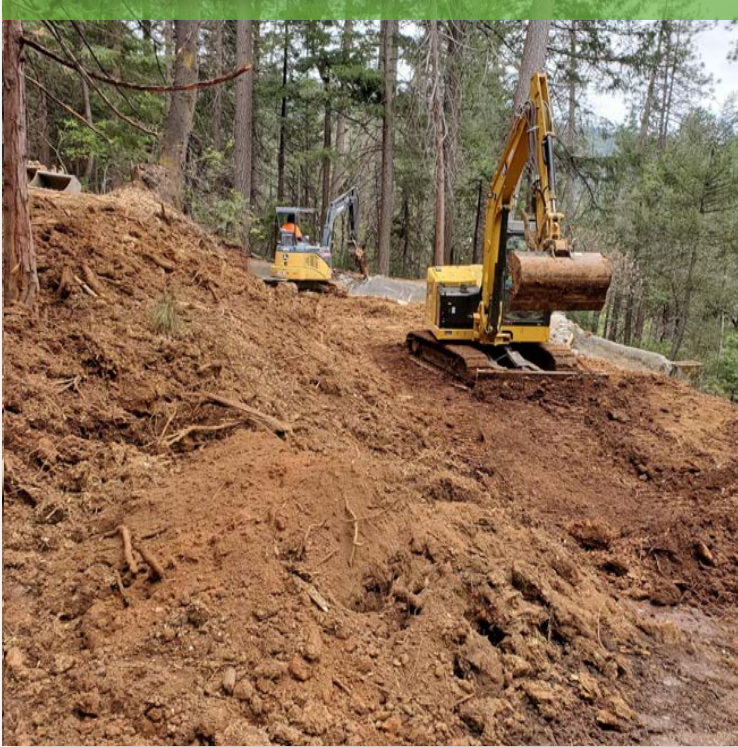
Pulp Mill Flume #1 was destroyed by several fallen trees during a severe winter storm.



Crews removed old sections of the canal and flume to build the new section of gunite canal.



Extensive excavation was required to prepare for newly aligned section of canal.



The newly aligned section of Pulp Mill Canal is complete and water restored.



Pulp Mill Flume #2 Replacement Project

**Purpose:** To replace a wood and tin flume, which was destroyed during a winter storm event, with a buried section of siphon.  
**Cost:** \$532,104  
**Project type:** Raw Water Transmission & Distribution

The flume was destroyed by a fallen tree during a winter storm.



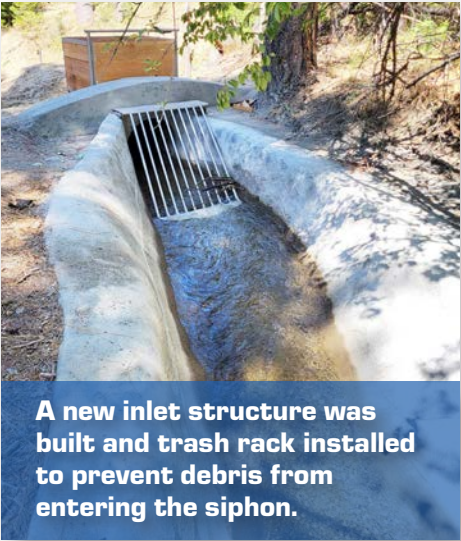
Several trees were removed to allow the building of an access road for heavy equipment and materials.



Sections of pipe were fused together in a clearing to form the siphon.



Fused sections of pipe were hoisted into place to connect the upstream and downstream sections of canal.



A new inlet structure was built and trash rack installed to prevent debris from entering the siphon.



Auburn Tunnel Inspection

**Purpose:** To inspect and evaluate the condition of the Auburn Tunnel and two sets of pumps, and to remove any debris near the vicinity of the pumps. The pumps extend from the Ophir Road pump station down to the tunnel. The tunnel is key to maintaining water supply for the Foothill Water Treatment Plant and supplies canals with untreated water.

**Cost:** \$320,000

**Project type:** Raw Water Transmission & Distribution

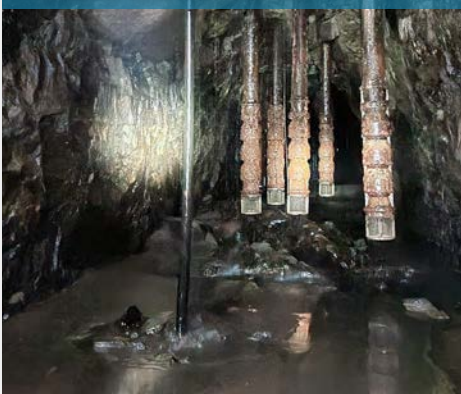
Construction of the Auburn Tunnel was completed in 1965. It is three miles long, and runs from the American River in Auburn to the Auburn Ravine in Newcastle. It is largely an earthen tunnel drilled through rock, containing smaller sections that are piped or concrete lined.



Inspection crews entered the tunnel from one of three locations: the inlet near the American River, the outlet near the Auburn Ravine, or a well shaft at the Ophir Road pump station.



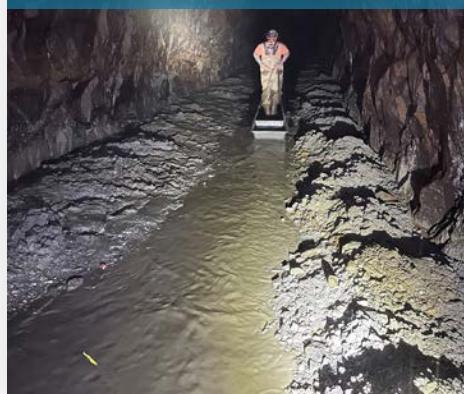
The first set of pumps were unobstructed and clear from debris and sediment.



Sediment buildup surrounded the bases of the second set of pumps.



To clear sediment from the pump bases, crews used buckets to remove debris.



2nd Street Pipeline Maintenance Project

**Purpose:** To perform system maintenance by replacing two large sections of 1930's-era steel and 1960's-era asbestos concrete main with new pipe. The old pipes were abandoned due to leak history, water quality, and reliability issues. The new pipes will help provide safe, reliable, and potable water for domestic use and increase firefighting capabilities in the area.

**Cost:** \$300,000 (Projected)

**Project type:** Treated Water Transmission & Distribution

Crews installed 780 feet of new water main pipe in this Newcastle neighborhood.



This new PVC pipe ranges from 4-inches to 8-inches in diameter for system demand and will help maintain water quality.

  
**2,240** linear feet  
new water main installed



Locating wire is attached to the new pipe and mapped in a GIS database.

Backfilling the excavation in small lifts of road-base is necessary to achieve optimal sub-grade compaction.



Viber-plate compaction equipment assists in compacting the final lift.





Robie Drive Pipe Maintenance Project

Purpose: To replace and up-size the water main in a neighborhood on the rim of the American River cCanyon. This multi-year, multiphase maintenance project will increase firefighting capabilities, improve water quality, increase reliability, and reduce the annual number of leaks.

Cost: \$194,474

Project type: Treated Water Transmission & Distribution

It is important to "bed" the bottom of the excavation trench with sand prior to installing new pipe.



Crews install a bell joint restraint and a tapping saddle with corporation stop for a new water service lateral and meter.



Crews install the new section of 8-inch PVC mainline.



Brook Road Pipe Maintenance Project

Purpose: To replace 454 feet of 1940's-era steel main with ductile iron pipe. This maintenance project will increase durability, sustainability, and reliability in the neighborhood's aging water system.

Cost: \$150,638

Project type: Treated Water Transmission & Distribution

Rocky soil creates difficulties while excavating which can slow the process and increase costs.



Side dump loader buckets assist in efficiently backfilling the pipe zone with sand.



Field staff designed the project to include additional isolation valves that are installed while completing final tie-ins of the new water main.



The new valve cluster is tied in, and riser pipes and locating wires are in place prior to backfilling.





Flume Tin & Understructure Replacement Projects

Purpose: To repair or replace deteriorating flume tin and failing wood understructures to increase the lifespan and reduce future maintenance costs. Work is done year-round, as weather permits.  
Cost: \$309,418  
Project type: Raw Water Transmission & Distribution



1,106 linear feet  
flume tin replaced



349 linear feet  
flume understructure replaced

Buffalo Ranch Flume Replacement Project

Purpose: To rehabilitate a 111-foot long flume on the Lower Greeley Canal by replacing its tin and understructure. Maintenance on these flumes is vital to the integrity of the canal system.  
Cost: \$48,663  
Project type: Raw Water Transmission & Distribution

The crew replaces one section at a time to allow for 1-day outages to keep water flowing to customers.



This new coating will increase the lifespan of the tin and reduce maintenance costs.



Completely rebuilt flume (lumber and tin).

Gunite Projects

Purpose: To line or reline sections of canal with gunite to help avoid water loss from ground absorption and leaks, and to minimize canal cleaning needs. Work is done year-round, as weather permits.  
Cost: \$1,330,000  
Project type: Raw Water Transmission & Distribution



Open canal systems are exposed to surrounding elements, including dirt, sticks, and rocks. Over time, debris accumulates in canals, reducing their capacity. Regular cleaning is necessary for flow regulation and when repairs and maintenance are needed.



Canal cleaning is necessary to prepare for gunite application.



12,951 linear feet  
gunite applied

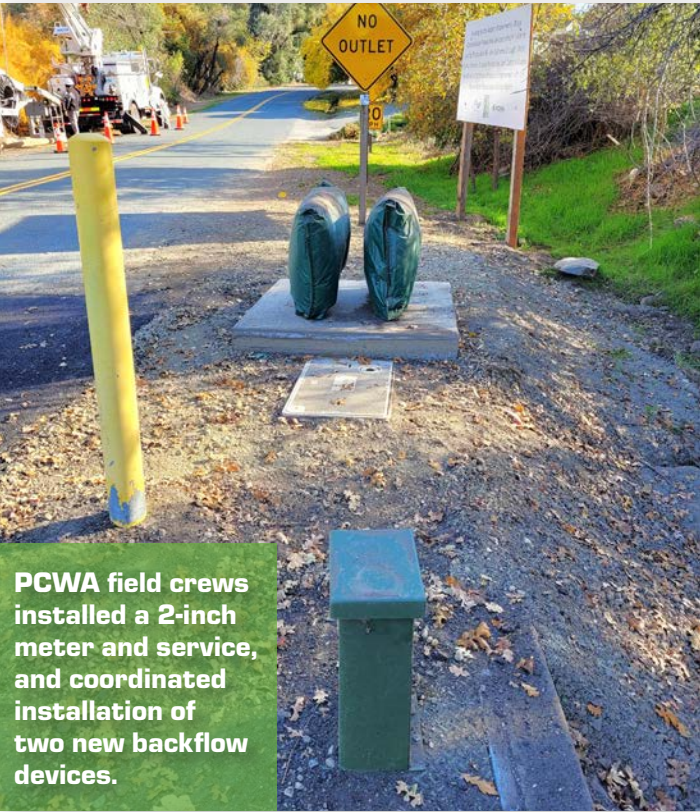


2,184 cubic yards  
gunite applied



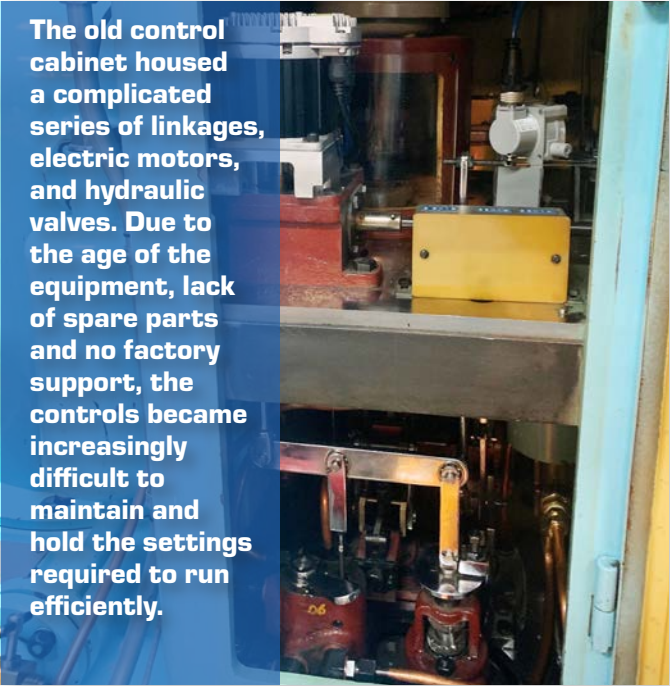
Auburn Mobile Home Village Consolidation Project

**Purpose:** To provide this failing public water system with a reliable, safe, domestic water supply. This community was consolidated into PCWA's Auburn-Bowman water system.  
**Cost:** \$424,836 (Paid in full through grant funding from the State Water Resources Control Board.)  
**Project type:** Consolidation

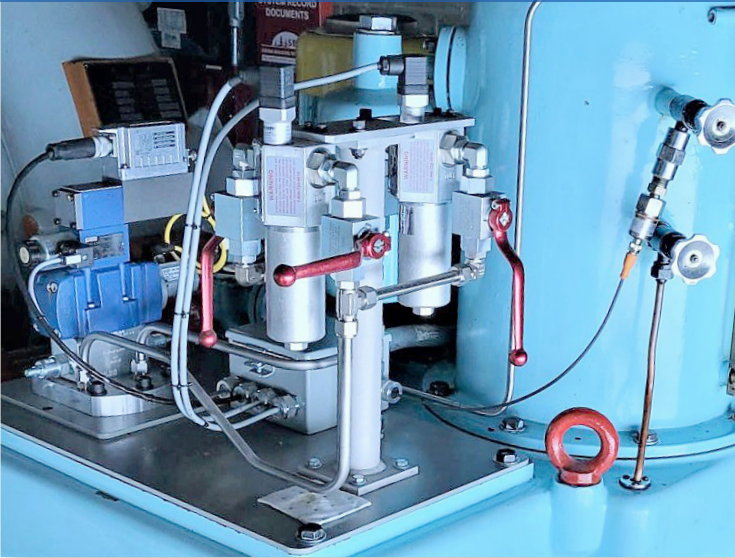


Hell Hole Governor Replacement Project

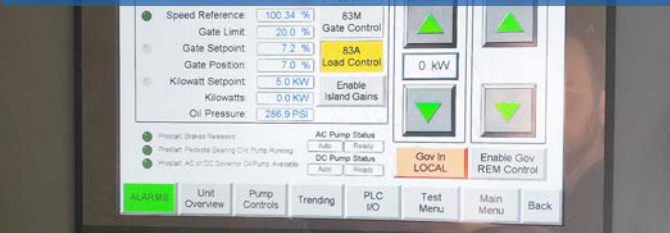
**Purpose:** To replace outdated, mechanical governor controls with a new, modern electro-hydraulic control system. This upgrade dramatically improves reliability, ease of repair, and real-time monitoring of the Hell Hole Powerhouse.  
**Cost:** \$275,000  
**Project type:** Power Generation



PCWA crews fabricated mounting plates for the new electro-hydraulic controls assembly, instead of the old cabinet. Fun Fact! This is the fifth governor upgrade the PCWA Hydro Operations & Maintenance team has successfully installed.



Operation controls evolved from several knobs to eight digital "pages" of touch screen buttons, trending functions, auxiliary equipment monitoring, and remote capability.



New technology replaces the entire mechanical controls assembly with a small stack of electro-hydraulic valves.





Ralston Tunnel Trash Rake Replacement Project

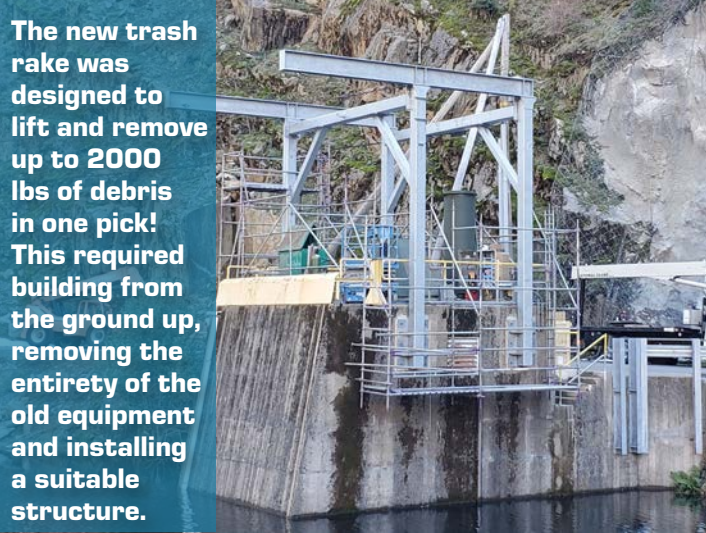
**Purpose:** To replace the trash rake equipment which did not meet current safety standards and presented a physical challenge to operate. The trash rake is used to remove sticks and debris from the intake of Ralston Tunnel, which helps keep water velocities down, prohibits sediment mounds from forming, and protects the tunnel and the powerhouse downstream from potentially harmful debris.

**Cost:** \$777,000

**Project type:** Power Generation



The original trash rake was installed in the 1970s as part of the original construction of the Middle Fork Project.



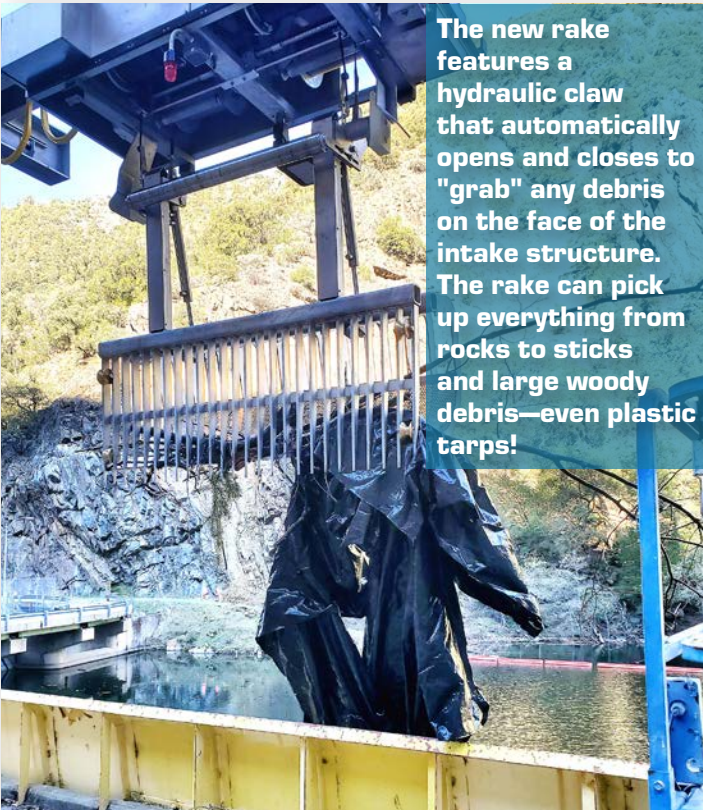
The new trash rake was designed to lift and remove up to 2000 lbs of debris in one pick! This required building from the ground up, removing the entirety of the old equipment and installing a suitable structure.



The new, automated trash rake will clean the entire intake in about 30 minutes, with the push of a button. It can run on a timer or be controlled remotely by operators.



Using the original trash rake was a very physical job! Even with additional safety measures installed, it became too difficult to use safely and was put out of service.



The new rake features a hydraulic claw that automatically opens and closes to "grab" any debris on the face of the intake structure. The rake can pick up everything from rocks to sticks and large woody debris—even plastic tarps!

Oxbow Powerhouse Transformer and Generator Protection Upgrade

**Purpose:** To replace relay equipment used to monitor and protect powerhouse equipment. Relays monitor functions such as electrical voltage, current, frequency, and temperature. If a relay detects a problem, it can alert operators or even completely disconnect the powerhouse from the grid, thus protecting the equipment from unexpected damage.

**Cost:** \$339,000

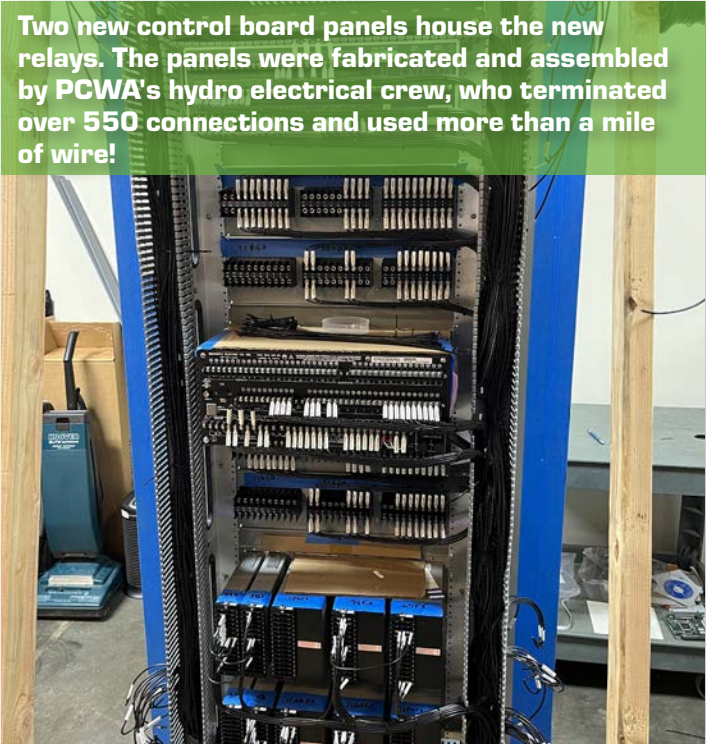
**Project type:** Power Generation



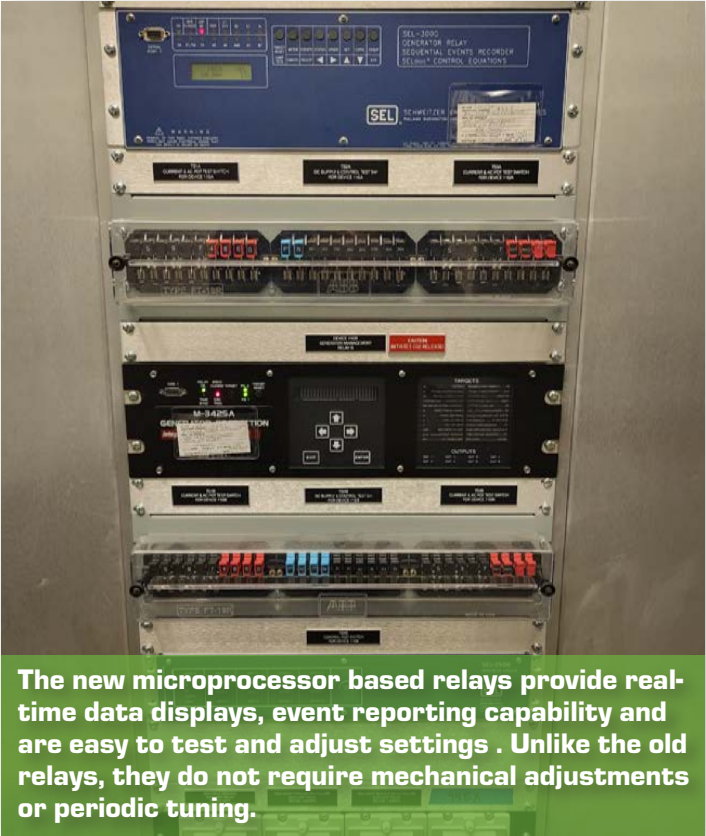
The original electro-mechanical relays were the best available in 1960! While the 55 year-old equipment was working, it is now obsolete. The new relays will last for many years to come.



The new panels installed after heavy modification and fabrication to the existing control board. The new relays are redundant (each relay has its own back up relay). Even with this added redundancy, our teams used 25% less space than the original installation. That's a big deal in a crowded control room!



Two new control board panels house the new relays. The panels were fabricated and assembled by PCWA's hydro electrical crew, who terminated over 550 connections and used more than a mile of wire!



The new microprocessor based relays provide real-time data displays, event reporting capability and are easy to test and adjust settings. Unlike the old relays, they do not require mechanical adjustments or periodic tuning.





## Credits

### **PCWA Board of Directors:**

Gray Allen, District 1  
Primo Santini, District 2  
Mike Lee, District 3  
Robert Dugan, District 4  
Joshua Alpine, District 5

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