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FIRE AND WATER

A supplement to Gold Country Media in partnership with Placer County Water Agency

Gold Country Media

This annual publication is produced by Gold Country Media

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Message from Andy Fecko, PCWA General Manager

It is my pleasure to introduce the 2022 edition of Fire & Water. This annual publication produced by Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) in partnership with Gold Country Media highlights the many challenges and opportunities associated with natural resources stewardship in the region. My hope is this magazine provides valuable information for the fire season and deeper appreciation of what is required to ensure the reliability, affordability and sustainably of our water resources and our ecosystem.

As in previous years, we've invited our colleagues from other local agencies and citizen groups to contribute to the conversation and we are grateful for their participation. This includes the Placer County Fire Department/CalFire NEU, the City of Roseville, Nevada Irrigation District, Protect American River Canyons, Pacific Gas & Electric, and Placer County.

I trust the information included will be useful for your home, farm, or business. Enjoy!



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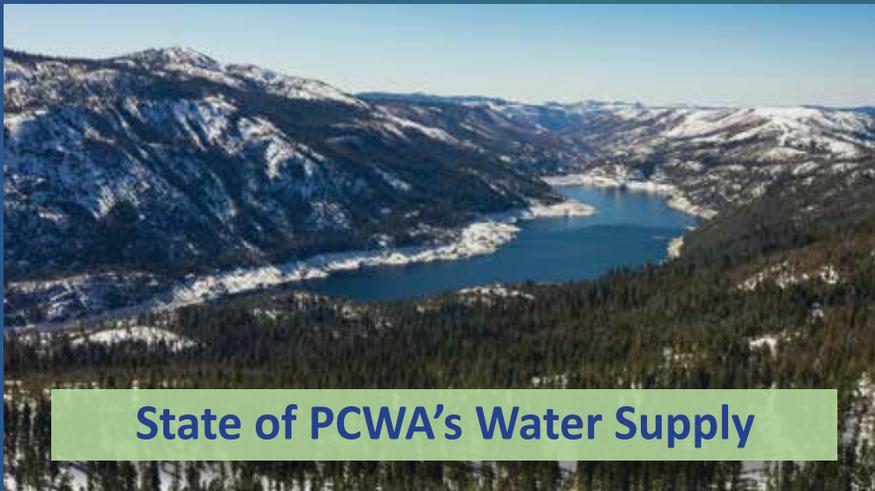
Placer County Water Agency presents...

Free webinars available on-demand!



Fire-Wise, Water-Wise Landscaping

Discover how to create a beautiful fire-wise, water-wise landscape at home! Discussion topics introduce fire-wise, water-wise concepts, basic landscape design, irrigation, plants, rebates and more!



State of PCWA's Water Supply

Explore the state of PCWA's water supplies amid an emerging third year of severe drought in California. Learn unique insights into local water supply trends and how PCWA can help customers save water.



From the Mountain Tops to Your Tap

Water quality experts from PCWA discuss the quality of your drinking water, where your water comes from, how it's treated and its path to your tap. This webinar also includes a behind-the-scenes tour of a treatment plant.



Follow PCWA on social media to stay up-to-date on its water, energy, and stewardship efforts.



@ThePCWA



@PlacerWater



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the Firefighters and
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PCWA General Manager Named to Federal Commission On Wildland Fire Mitigation

Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) General Manager Andy Fecko has been named to serve on the newly-established Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission (Commission). Created by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law signed by President Biden in 2021, the Commission "will play a key role in recommending ways that federal agencies can better prevent, mitigate, suppress and manage wildland fires. It will also recommend policies and strategies on how to restore the lands affected by wildfire," according to a press release by the United States Department of Agriculture.



Mr. Fecko will be one of 36 non-federal members, along with 11 federal members, bringing expertise to the Commission. Members were appointed by the Secretaries of Agriculture

and the Interior, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency Administrator, all of whom will serve as Co-Chairs. Out of more than 500 applicants nationwide, Mr. Fecko was selected as a representative for the public utilities industry and is one of eight Californians serving on the Commission.

"I am beyond grateful for being selected to serve on this important Commission and for the support I received from peers across the industry," said Mr. Fecko. **"This is a tremendous opportunity to usher in the next generation of federal legislation to make our forests more resilient and protect the nation's watersheds."**

Nearly six years ago, PCWA partnered with other local organizations to launch the French Meadows Forest Restoration Project. The project, located in the headwaters of the American River, is one of the nation's first private-public partnerships aimed at reducing catastrophic wildfires. Mr. Fecko led that project since its inception and, to date, the project has treated more than a combined 5,200 acres of federal forests and private land, serving as a model for advancing forest and watershed restoration in the Sierra Nevada and throughout the western United States.



PCWA Board Chairman Mike Lee stated "On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to congratulate Andy on this unique opportunity to elevate our region's issues and tell our story of wildfire remediation work. I also want to thank all those who supported his nomination; I couldn't think of a more capable person to deliver our message and find meaningful solutions."

The Commission will hold its first meeting in mid-September and will submit policy recommendations in a report to Congress within a year of that meeting.

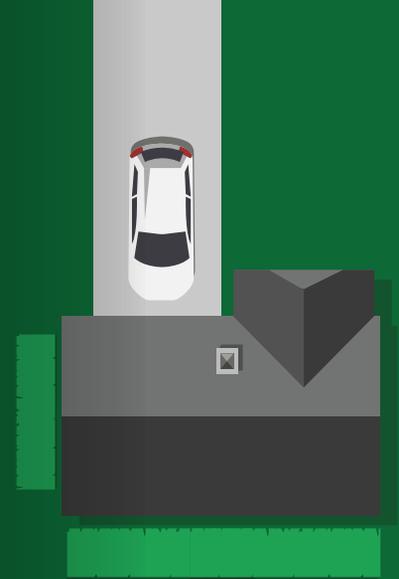


DEFENSIBLE SPACE

Creating and maintaining Defensible Space is essential to reducing the impact of wildfire on your home and property. Defensible Space is the buffer created between a building on your property and the plants, brush, trees, or other combustible items in the near vicinity. This buffer helps to keep wildfire away from your home by reducing the fire's intensity and slowing or halting the spread of wildfire. The less there is to burn near your home, the less exposure your home will have to wildfire. Creating this space also provides protection for the firefighters defending your home.

CREATING AND MAINTAINING YOUR DEFENSIBLE SPACE

Within the 100-foot perimeter of a home, there is a need for more intense reduction of wildfire fuels. Start at the home and work your way out 100 feet or to your property line, whichever is closer.



KNOW THE LAW - BE FIRE SMART

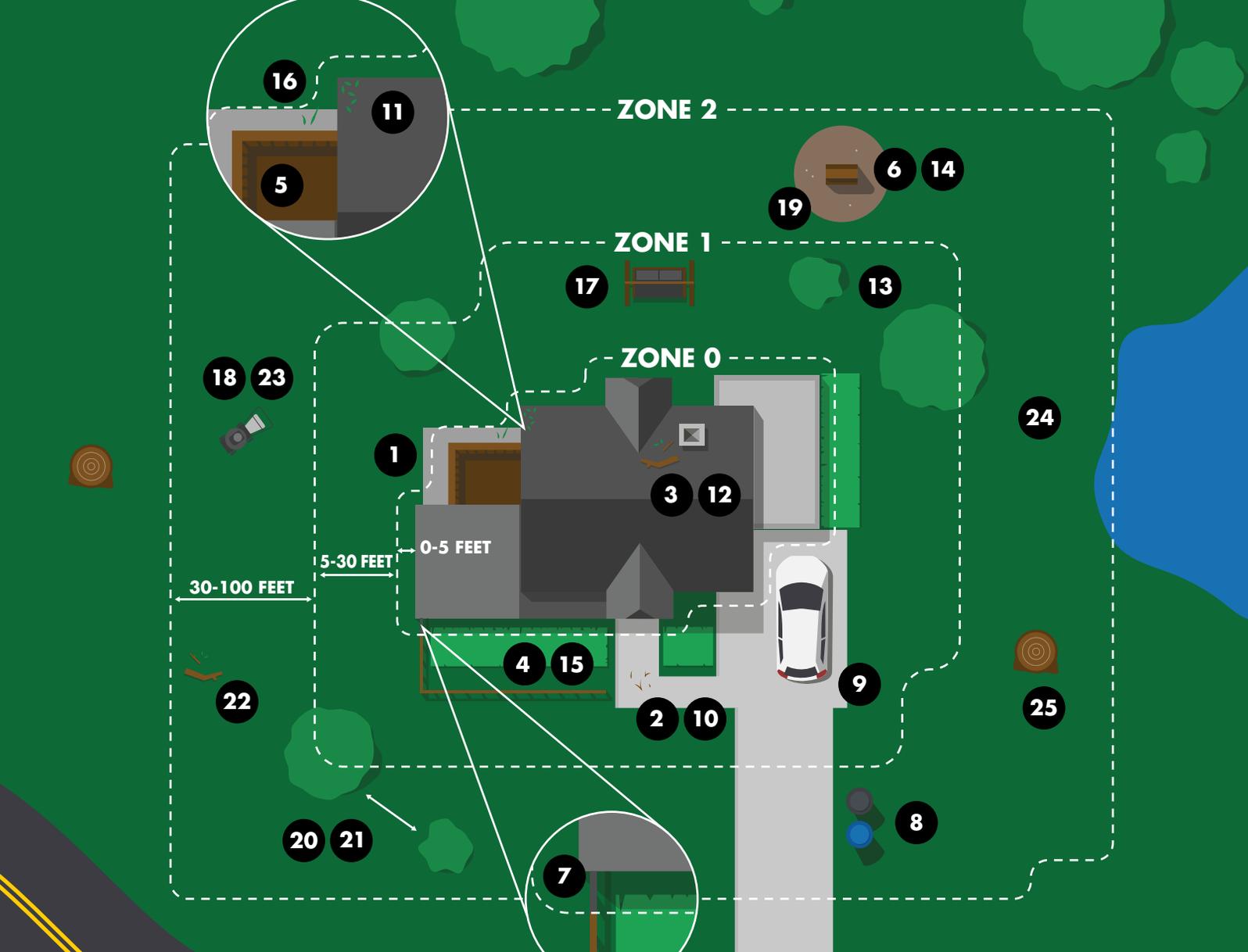
One hundred feet of Defensible Space is required under the Public Resources Code (PRC) 4291. Zones 1 and 2 currently make up the 100 feet of Defensible Space required by law. Assembly Bill 3074, passed into law in 2020, requires an ignition-resistant Zone 0 for Defensible Space.

Many local government agencies have ordinances for Defensible Space. These local ordinances will often be more stringent than the state of California's minimum requirement in PRC 4291. Check with your local fire department or fire protection district for any additional Defensible Space requirements. [fire.ca.gov/dspace](https://www.fire.ca.gov/dspace)



Zone 0 extends from zero to five feet from buildings, structures, decks, etc.

1. Use hardscape like gravel, pavers, concrete, and other noncombustible mulch materials. No combustible bark or mulch.
2. Remove all dead and dying weeds, grass, branches, and vegetative debris. Check your roofs, gutters, decks, porches, stairways, etc.
3. Remove all branches within 10 feet of any chimney or stovepipe outlet.
4. Limit plants in this area to low growing, nonwoody, properly watered, and maintained plants.
5. Limit combustible items (outdoor furniture, planters, etc.) on top of decks.
6. Relocate firewood and lumber to Zone 2.
7. Replace within Zone 0 combustible fencing, gates, and arbors attached to the home with noncombustible alternatives.



- 8. Relocate garbage and recycling containers outside this zone.
- 9. Relocate boats, RVs, vehicles, and other combustible items outside this zone.

Zone 1 extends five to 30 feet from buildings, decks, and other structures.

- 10. Remove all dead plants, grass, and weeds (vegetation).
- 11. Remove dead or dry leaves and pine needles from your yard, roof, and rain gutters.
- 12. Remove branches that hang over your roof and keep dead branches 10 feet away from your chimney or stovepipe outlet.
- 13. Trim trees regularly to keep branches a minimum of 10 feet from other trees.
- 14. Relocate exposed wood piles outside of Zone 1.

- 15. Remove or prune flammable plants and shrubs near windows.
- 16. Remove vegetation and items that could catch fire from around and under decks.
- 17. Create a separation between trees, shrubs, and items that could catch fire, such as patio furniture, wood piles, swing sets, etc.

Zone 2 extends from 30 feet to 100 feet from buildings, structures, decks, etc.

- 18. Cut or mow annual grasses to a maximum height of four inches.
- 19. All exposed wood piles must have a minimum of 10 feet clearance around them, down to bare mineral soil, in all directions.
- 20. Create horizontal space between shrubs and trees.

- 21. Create vertical space between grass, shrubs, and trees.
- 22. Remove fallen leaves, needles, twigs, bark, cones, and small branches. However, they may be permitted to a depth of three inches.

All zones

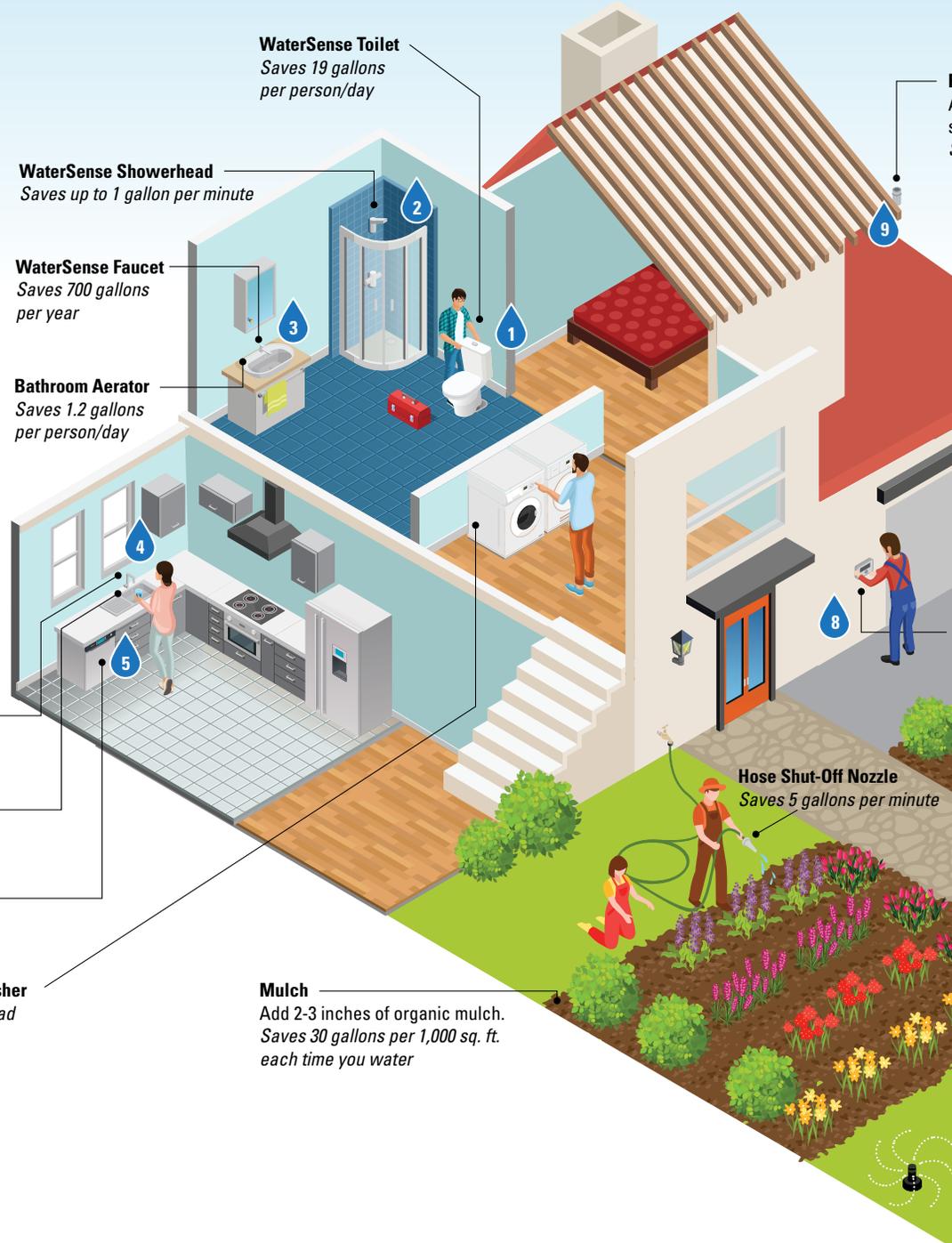
- 23. Mow before 10 a.m., but never when it's windy or excessively dry.
- 24. Protect water quality. Do not clear vegetation near waterways to bare soil. Vegetation removal can cause soil erosion—especially on steep slopes.
- 25. Logs or stumps embedded in the soil must be removed in Zone 0. In Zones 1 and 2 they need to be removed or isolated from other vegetation.

The Water-Wise Home

Each drop of water drawn from our local lakes, rivers and streams is precious. Here are some ways to both upgrade your lifestyle with high-efficiency products and fixtures while making water efficiency a way of life.

TIPS!

- 1 Check and fix leaky toilets**
 Add food coloring to the tank. If the color seeps into the bowl within 15 minutes, your toilet is leaking. Flush quickly to avoid staining.
 Saves 30 to 50 gallons per day per toilet
- 2 Take five-minute showers**
 Saves 9 gallons per shower with a water-efficient showerhead
- 3 Turn off the faucet when brushing teeth or shaving**
 Saves 8 gallons per day
- 4 Fix leaky faucets**
 Saves 5 to 20 gallons per day/leak
- 5 Run the clothes washer and dishwasher only when full**
 Saves 2 to 4.5 gallons per load of dishes
 Saves 15 to 45 gallons per load of laundry



WaterSense Toilet
 Saves 19 gallons per person/day

WaterSense Showerhead
 Saves up to 1 gallon per minute

WaterSense Faucet
 Saves 700 gallons per year

Bathroom Aerator
 Saves 1.2 gallons per person/day

Water-Efficient Faucet
 Saves 700 gallons per year

Kitchen Aerator
 Saves 0.5 gallons per minute

Efficient Dishwasher
 Saves 3 to 8 gallons per load

High-Efficiency Clothes Washer
 Saves 15 to 45 gallons per load

Mulch
 Add 2-3 inches of organic mulch.
 Saves 30 gallons per 1,000 sq. ft. each time you water

Hose Shut-Off Nozzle
 Saves 5 gallons per minute



WaterSense-labeled fixtures ensure efficiency and performance

Ready for an Upgrade?

Many water providers offer rebates to replace older water-wasting fixtures and irrigation equipment with high-efficiency models. Ask your water provider or visit BeWaterSmart.info to learn more.

Rain Sensor

Automatically turns off your sprinkler system when it rains.
Saves 4,300 gallons per year

Drip Irrigation

Saves 15 gallons per 500 sq. ft. each time you water

Replace Grass with Low-Water Trees & Plants

Saves 90 gallons per 1,000 sq. ft. each time you water

Hot Water Recirculating System

Gets hot water to the tap fast.
Saves 7 gallons per person/day

High-Efficiency Rotator Sprinklers

Saves over 2,300 gallons per 800 sq. ft. per year

Sprinkler Heads Adjusted to Water Plants not Pavement

Also stops fertilizers and pesticides from washing into the storm drain, which leads directly to our creeks, streams and rivers.
Saves 40 gallons each time you water

WaterSense Smart Sprinkler Timer

Saves about 13,500 gallons per year

TIPS!

6 Look for and quickly repair leaks in your irrigation system

Saves 20 gallons per day/leak

7 Set mower blade to 3 inches

Longer grass reduces evaporation.
Saves 16 to 50 gallons per day

8 Water in the morning

To beat evaporation from sun and wind.
Saves 50 gallons each time you water

9 Check out the Smart Sprinkler Scheduler at BeWaterSmart.info

To create a custom watering schedule based upon the weather.

10 Cycle and Soak

Water in several shorter segments, allowing water to soak in, rather than one long cycle.
Saves 12 to 40 gallons each time you water

Did you know...

Most household water use occurs outdoors? There are lots of ways to save, but using water efficiently in the landscape can make the biggest difference of all.

The wondrous world of water

How Roseville is increasing water reliability in light of drought and climate change



Planning for those not-so-rainy days

Our changing climate is all around us. We see those impacts daily – from more extensive fires to longer, more pronounced droughts. We know that weather patterns are becoming more extreme and even more unpredictable. Because of this, Roseville water managers are working hard to maintain the commitment to delivering safe, clean water to our thriving community. As part of this pledge, we are forecasting and planning for a water supply portfolio that is diverse, resilient, and provides sufficient water resources.

“Having water reliability refers to having adequate water resources to avoid shortages from drought or other major natural emergencies,” said Richard Plecker, director for Roseville’s Environmental Utilities. “It also means that customers can have the confidence of dependable water supplies every time they turn the tap today, tomorrow, and in the future.”

Studies show that we can anticipate less snowpack over time, a critical puzzle piece for water supplies in many communities, including Roseville. Most of our water comes from surface water resources at Folsom Lake, which comes from the upper American River and the Sierra Mountains.

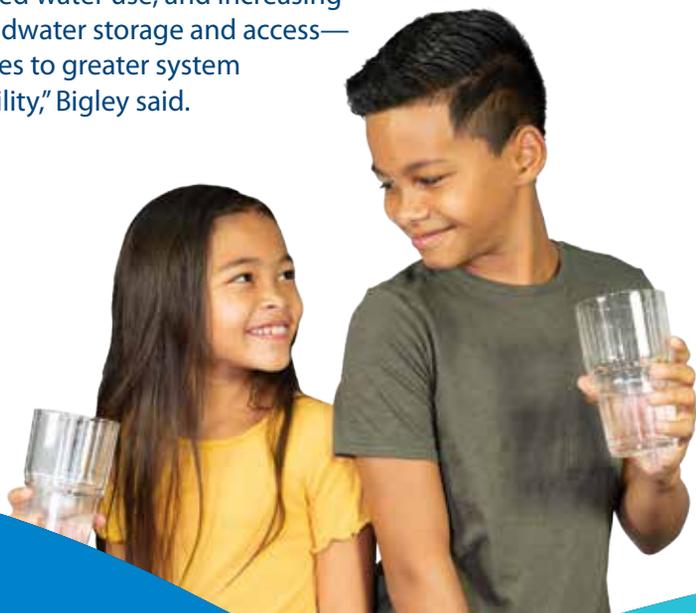
As part of Roseville’s Water Future Initiative, water managers are expanding infrastructure and diversifying water sources and ways to deliver water. In the end, these projects will provide the water security needed to reduce the impacts of climate change and provide the required water as Roseville grows.

“The nature of planning and preparation is a key component of the commitment to our City and local economy, said Sean Bigley, assistant director of water. “There are many benefits of planning for a better water future. For example, locally investing in water reliability projects means we can capture, store and reuse more water to ensure Roseville remains open for business, help minimize the strain during droughts, and reduce environmental impacts.”

A well-balanced water supply

The more recent droughts in California have helped shine a light on the need for water supply diversification. Similar to your own financial investment portfolio, having a well-balanced water supply collection reduces the risk of having no water.

“A coordinated water supply strategy for us—including different access points to surface water, growing recycled water use, and increasing groundwater storage and access—equates to greater system reliability,” Bigley said.



While water supply diversity isn't a new concept, plans are underway to protect and strengthen the water infrastructure investments and the partnerships we have made over the past 50-plus years. As a result, today, we have an expansive water supply portfolio that meets the needs of our community.



Surface water

We have secured our surface water supplies through partnerships with nearby water agencies to supplement our existing, indefinite contract with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation for water from Folsom Lake. The balance of our water resources comes from contracts with Placer County Water Agency and San Juan Water District. Today, roughly 98 percent of our water supply needs are from surface water resources.



Uncover how we treat and deliver water to homes in Roseville.

Groundwater recovery and replenishment

In the early 2000s, we initiated a new groundwater program to provide additional water supply reliability. The approach was unique, using advanced technology that enables us to divert, recharge and store excess surface water in our "underground reservoirs" during wet years. Our groundwater program provides operational flexibility based on water supply conditions, and that flexibility creates local, regional, and statewide benefits.

As a recent example, in 2019 and 2020, Roseville recharged and banked more than 1,800 acre-feet (nearly 600 million gallons) of surplus water from the American River (water that would otherwise spill into the ocean.) And in 2021, during a dry period, we recovered almost an equivalent volume of water and

used it for beneficial use by serving it to our customers. This resulted in a "no net take" and no impacts on the groundwater basin.



Over two years, Roseville replenished the groundwater basin with enough water to fill over 900 Olympic-sized pools.

Recycled water

We have a robust water recycling program that cleans approximately one billion gallons of water annually to irrigate landscapes and keep ball fields, parks, and golf courses green.

We have extensive recycled water networks in the City, primarily in West Roseville. We also use 180 million gallons per year of recycled water in the City's power plant cooling system, and about 80 sites (like parks and street medians) are beneficiaries of this water.

Using recycled water for these purposes preserves drinking water for people.



A resilient water supply future for Roseville

Not solely relying on current water supplies, we are advancing plans to increase our ability to utilize surface water and groundwater resources to create drought- and climate-resilient systems. The future of the region's economy, environment, and quality of life depend on building a modern, more adaptable water management system.

Growing groundwater supplies

We are expanding the number of groundwater wells in our service area—currently two are under construction, and an additional two planned for construction starting in 2023. Ultimately, we intend to have 10 wells throughout the City by 2027.



How do we bank and extract water from the ground?

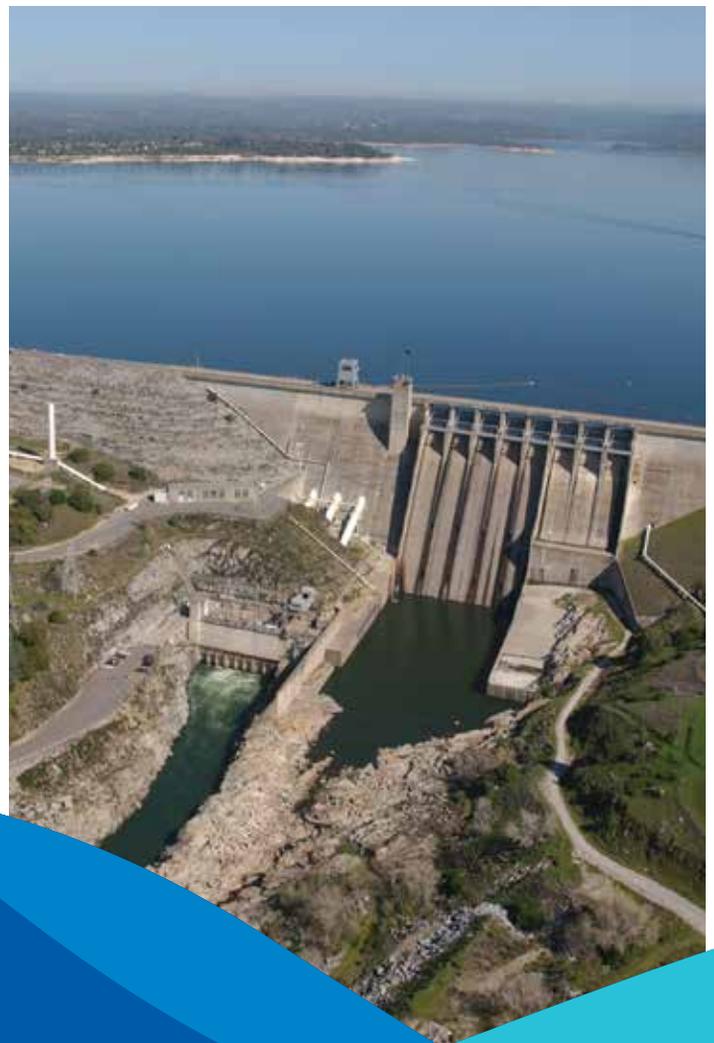
New surface water infrastructure

Folsom Lake, Roseville’s primary water source, acts as a first response to maintain water quality and temperature in the Lower American River and the Delta. In addition, it serves first as a flood control facility to maintain the health and safety of the Sacramento community. Because of these factors, our water allocation from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation changes yearly.

“When people see water spilling from Folsom Lake, they are often puzzled by how the lake operates,” Bigley said. “Because of the demands of Folsom Lake – used for cold water and to reduce salinity in the delta, or to regulate water for flood protection – there is a need to create other access points to surface water.”

Growing the number of groundwater wells in our service area allows us to supplement surface water supplies during high-demand periods such as summer, droughts, or emergencies. However, what is unique about our groundwater wells is the advanced technology employed in the design, construction, and operation that enables us to use them not solely as extraction wells. These same wells can be used to recharge and store excess surface water underground also referred to as “groundwater banking”. Our ability to capture and store excess surface water will become critically essential as snowpack for use during warmer months will become increasingly scarce.

In addition, banking groundwater will enable us to capture water runoff – like spring snowmelt that will occur sooner in the future – which would otherwise end up in the Pacific Ocean. “Banking groundwater in the future will provide water storage similar to how the snowpack has provided for decades, except this water will be stored in the ground beneath us,” says Trevor Joseph, hydrogeologist for Roseville.





Through our partnership with Placer County Water Agency (PCWA), we have access to water upstream of Folsom Lake. We are exploring alternative access points to PCWA water, including:

- Upsizing an intertie (a connected pipeline between two water providers) to gain more water capacity from PCWA
- Constructing a new pipeline to deliver water from PCWA's water treatment plant in Newcastle to ours in Granite Bay

Roseville is also participating with a dozen other agencies in developing Sites reservoir. This planned "off-stream" reservoir will not connect directly to Roseville, but the water stored here will be used to maintain river flows and relieve pressure on our primary water source at Folsom Lake.



Contact us about saving water

Our Environmental Utilities is here to help with saving water. Even when water is plentiful, we're committed to helping our residents and businesses with information, training, rebates, and other tools that make our homes and gardens efficient users of water.

You can call staff at (916) 774-5761 or visit our website, Roseville.ca.us/savewater.



Where you can make a difference

Water supply management, droughts, and water efficiency are all part of any water supply strategy. As Roseville invests in bolstering its water supply portfolio, we ask customers to use water with care by reducing water use where possible.



Outdoor watering

In the Sacramento region, most daily water use goes on lawns and landscaping. About a third of landscape water is lost due to overwatering and evaporation. However, there are many ways to save water at home, and conserving water outdoors can make the most significant difference. We ask customers to "Stress Your Lawn and Save Your Trees" by reducing sprinklers by two minutes each cycle while continuing to water their trees.



Finding and fixing leaks

Inside, you can reduce your water use by finding and fixing leaks. Unfortunately, leaks are more common than most people think: According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 10 percent of homes have leaks that can waste 90 gallons or more daily—enough to fill 1,440 glasses of water.

If you have an unusual spike in your water bill, your home could have a leak. A leaking or running toilet is the most common leak inside your home, followed by dripping faucets and showerheads. Outdoor leaks can be easy to miss but shouldn't be ignored because the water wasted can be significant.



We Partner for Fire Safety



Reducing Fire Fuels

NID has partnered with CALFIRE, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, U.S. Forest Service and others to implement forest thinning.

NID has cleared more than 1,000 acres and efforts continue to remove dead and dying trees, small diameter trees, and shrubs that compete with larger trees for water. We are able to reduce the fuels for large fires and allow more water to flow through the watershed. When forests are selectively thinned, they grow faster and capture more carbon, which helps to reduce global warming and other effects of climate change.



Clearing Around Power Lines

Keeping vegetation and hazard trees away from a primary power line is of utmost importance, and our team has been walking the line for years to manage vegetation and provide a safe clearing. Now, efforts have increased to maximize protection against wildfire.



Providing Fire Hydrants

Throughout the District, NID has installed 2,551 hydrants to help protect neighborhoods in the event of fires. Water to the hydrants is supplied by the treated water system. Is there an NID fire hydrant near you? Check out our locator map at nidwater.com.



Promoting Conservation

Conservation and water use efficiency is important to preserving our precious water resources. Water is needed for drinking water, household use, growing food, commercial and industrial uses, groundwater recharge and the environment.

NID practices and encourages wise use of water. Conservation resources, water efficiency tips, workshop information, incentives and more are available at nidwater.com/conservation.



Confluence Area Trails



Once at the Confluence the choice of trails and things to do and experience radiates out like the wooden spokes on a wagon wheel. Pack your picnic lunch, musical instruments, inflatable river gear, (must fit under the seat), or load your mountain bike onto the bus bike rack and set out for another exciting American River adventure. There is a Native American grinding rock site at the Confluence!

Lake Clementine and Clark's Hole Trail

Difficulty: Easy, approximately 2 miles each way to the Lake Clementine Dam Waterfall. This shaded river trail begins behind the gate near the curved Old Foresthill Road Bridge.

Trail Snapshot: The trail parallels the North Fork and passes under the New Foresthill Road Bridge that towers 730 feet above the river. Just beyond the high bridge supersized Clark's Hole invites you to swim. Summer water temperatures are surprisingly warm and the current mild allowing for longer swims into the rock lined gorge above the pool. Bring a mask and snorkel. Rainbows in the mist and a giant pool below the dam greet you at the Clementine Waterfall. A partially hidden single-track trail to the river ends at the lap pool just below the dam. Sometimes otters can be seen munching crayfish on the rocky shore.

Stagecoach Trail

Difficulty: Moderate, approximately 2 miles one way climbing about 800 feet to the Russell Road Trailhead. Bring water as this south facing trail is hot in the summer. The trail head is at the green gate next to the parking kiosk.

Trail Snapshot: This historic wagon toll road built in 1852 originally known as Yankee Jim's Turnpike once served Auburn and the outlying communities of Yankee Jim's and Iowa Hill. It originally crossed the North Fork on a wooden covered bridge. **NOTE:** The Mud Wagon Stage is on view at Auburn's Courthouse Museum. The trail is a healthy aerobic workout to the top climbing about 800 feet in 2 miles. It offers scenic views of the American River and Mountain Quarries Railroad "No Hands" Bridge built of reinforced concrete in 1912. The trail passes through a few lush creek corridors, open oak woodlands and rocky outcrops. Wildflowers along the trail attract a variety of butterflies and wild bees when in bloom.

Mountain Quarries Railroad Bridge – Western States Trial

Difficulty: A moderate 2 mile each way out and back that can be combined with other trails. The trail head is the green gate on the El Dorado County side of the Highway 49 Bridge.

Trail Snapshot: This historic railroad bed trail completed in 1912 was once used for hauling limestone from the Mountain Quarries limestone quarry where it connected to the Central Pacific R/R main line in Auburn. The wooden beam trestles that spanned the ravines are long gone but one trestle site has been replaced with a wooden footbridge and a spectacular view of Canyon Creek Falls AKA The Black Hole of Calcutta a popular year-round destination. The graceful arched bridge has withstood several floods including the disastrous Hell Hole Dam failure in 1964 that completely destroyed the Highway 49 Bridge! **NOTE:** The 49 Bridge debris is still in the river but Protect American River Canyons is working with Cal Trans and Placer County to remove this river safety hazard.



Confluence to China Bar Whitewater Paddling

The Confluence to China Bar Birdsall takeout is a popular Class II-III whitewater paddle because of its easy access from Auburn. Its long deep pools are separated

by cool rapids culminating in the exciting whitewater park rapids at the PCWA Pump Station site. The adjacent portage sidewalk makes it easy to run the rapids many times. Advanced boaters can continue on to the Oregon Bar takeout.

& Paddling

Quarry & Tevis Cup Trail

Distance: Easy wheelchair accessible for the first mile to the quarry and then steep to moderately steep for the remaining 4.75 miles to Maine Bar where there is a Native American grinding rock site. The trailhead is located just across the Highway 49 Bridge on the El Dorado County side of the Middle Fork in a fee parking area.

Trail Snapshot: The trail stays close to the river with many side trails that lead to sandy beaches and blackberry pickin' in the summer. Equestrians ride this stretch of trail for the final leg of the 100 mile Tevis Cup Horse Endurance Ride. The rare Dogface butterfly, California's State Insect can be seen nectar feeding on flowers along the trail. About a mile from the trailhead a popular side trail climbs to the Hawver Cave/Limestone Quarry site and Cave Valley Rock Climbing and Picnic Area.

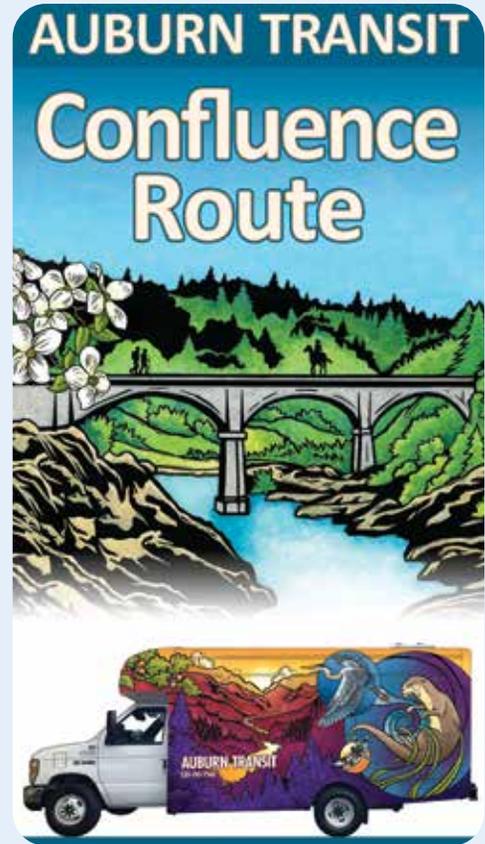
NOTE: The Auburn SRA Canyon Keepers and PARC are working to initiate Hawver Cave Limestone Quarry tours.



Trail and River Safety

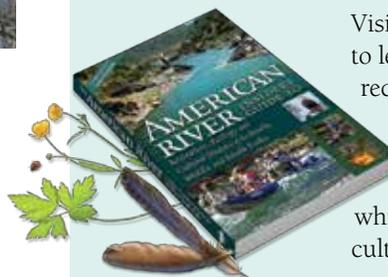
Enjoy your hiking, biking, riding and swimming adventures. Share the trail. All users yield to equestrians. Be alert and safe. River flows on the Middle Fork rise unexpectedly from upriver hydro dam releases. Life vests are located at convenient locations throughout the Confluence Area. Watch out for rattlesnakes and poison oak. Dogs on leash only. No fires. Please, please pack out your trash!

Get Off Your Gas - Go Wild!



The City of Auburn has expanded its Confluence Transit bus service to include an On-Demand bus service Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 9 am to 5 pm from 5 convenient locations in Auburn. Reserve bus service to or from the Confluence by calling 530-906-3171 or set up a TransLoc App account on your smartphone to make your Reservation. TransLoc connects people to places. For more information visit the Auburn Transit Confluence website at: auburn.ca.gov/585/Confluence-Route.

Why Protect American River Canyons?



Visit PARC's website, parc-auburn.org, to learn more about American River recreation and conservation or to purchase our 416 page *American River Insiders Guidebook* that features trails, mile-by-mile whitewater guides and natural and cultural history information.

Protect American River Canyons
P.O. Box 9312 Auburn, CA 95604





Is your family prepared for any **EMERGENCY?**

CREATE YOUR OWN PLAN TO STAY SAFE.

Emergency supply kit checklist

- Drinking water
- Flashlight
- Children's activities
- Non-perishable food, including baby and pet food
- First aid kit
- Cash and credit cards
- Tools and utensils
- Mobile phone and portable charger
- Toiletries
- Batteries
- Medication and eyeglasses
- Important documents
- Radio
- Blankets and clothing



1

UPDATE YOUR INFO FOR OUTAGE ALERTS

Update your contact information at [pge.com/mywildfirealerts](https://www.pge.com/mywildfirealerts) so we can reach you in an emergency.



2

CONFIRM YOUR EMERGENCY EXITS

from your home and establish a location where your family or roommates can reunite after evacuating.



3

PLAN FOR YOUR PETS

by including them in practice drills and helping them get comfortable with a leash or carrier during stressful situations.



4

LEARN HOW TO OPEN YOUR GARAGE DOOR MANUALLY

in the event the door is unable to open automatically during an outage.



5

CHECK YOUR STANDBY GENERATOR

and ensure that it is working properly because it can help avoid damage to personal property and keep emergency first responders safe.



To learn more ways to keep you and your community safe, visit safetyactioncenter.pge.com

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PREPARING FOR A PUBLIC SAFETY POWER SHUTOFF

During severe weather, high winds could cause tree branches or debris to contact electric lines and start fires. That's why PG&E may need to turn off power during severe weather to help prevent wildfires. This is called a Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS). While turning off the power helps prevent wildfires, we know it can be disruptive. We are working year-round to improve PSPS events for our customers and communities.

HERE ARE 5 WAYS TO PREPARE FOR A PSPS:



Make sure PG&E can reach you before a PSPS by updating your contact information at pge.com/mywildfirealerts.

1



Pack or restock your family's emergency kit including food, water, batteries, radio and a first aid kit.

2



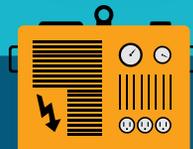
Make preparations for anyone in your family who depends on electricity for medical needs.

3



Practice manually opening your garage door.

4



Ensure any backup power sources are ready and safe to operate.

5



For translated support in over 200 languages, please contact PG&E at 866-743-6589.



To learn more ways to prepare for a PSPS and any emergency, visit safetyactioncenter.pge.com



Fire-Wise, Water-Wise Landscaping

Defensible space is an area between your home and other structures where potential fuel (materials or vegetation) are modified, reduced, or cleared to create a barrier and slow the spread of wildfire toward a home.

Much of PCWA's service area is located in the wildland-urban interface, where beautiful forests meet new and existing neighborhoods. As the threat of wildfire becomes ever-more present with a changing climate, a new type of landscaping—one that is not only water-wise but also fire-wise—is emerging as a new tool for reducing the vulnerability of homes and property to wildfire.

What is Fire-Wise, Water-Wise Landscaping?

Fire-Wise, Water-Wise Landscaping (also called “Firescaping”) is the practice of designing and maintaining

your yard in a way that reduces its vulnerability to wildfire. The goal is to create a landscape that is both beautiful and provides defensible space to protect your home and property from fire.

These landscapes can include many of the same traditional landscape elements that are important to living and enjoying your home, including places to entertain and play, and plants with varying colors, textures, flowers and foliage. The difference lies in the types of plants and their placement.

Firewise Trailer Program

Free from the Placer Resource Conservation District

To assist communities in becoming fire safe, the Placer RCD Firewise Trailer is now available for community and neighborhood clean-up days. The trailer is full of tools such as pruners, rakes, weed eaters, loppers, weed wrenches, and hand tools. Educational materials regarding defensible space and wildfire prevention are also available for events. For information, please contact info@placerrcd or call 530-390-6680.

Landscape Design and Plant Placement

Design principles incorporate all of a landscape's features to create defensible space and fuel breaks, including driveways, lawns, walkways, patios, parking areas, boulders and rocks, pools, ponds, streams, and other areas. The overall approach is "less is more"—with plenty of space between plants, groups of plants, and other elements.

Design is often built around concentric fire-safety zones or circles with plants that become taller and less water



intensive the further away from the home. Combined, the zones create 100 feet of defensible space around a home required by California law to prevent the spread of wildfire.

"The first five feet near your home is by far the most important area," said Kevin Marini of the UC Master Gardeners of Placer County. "Make sure there's no material that can catch fire in that area. As you move out 30 more feet, you can start incorporating perennials, bulbs and grasses. Beyond that, shrubs and trees."

Leaving space between plant groups is also important. "You can create islands of plant material with the same water requirements—called a hydrozone," said Jeff Ambrosia of Yamasaki Landscape Architecture. "Having proper spacing between these islands is important. If one island were to catch fire, space between the islands makes better defensible space."



Plant Selection

A fire-resistant landscape features plants less likely to catch fire placed in ways to resist the spread of fire to a home. These plants can be damaged or killed by fire, but their foliage and stems are less likely to significantly contribute to the fire's fuel and intensity as long as they are properly maintained, pruned and watered. Fire-resistant plants are great in California, because they are often native and/or drought tolerant.

"All plants will burn," Marini said. "But there are certain plants that have a growth habit, have a certain amount of water in their leaves, and have less oils and resins that make them fire-wise."

On the other hand, Fire-Wise, Water-Wise landscaping avoids the planting of evergreen shrubs and trees, as well as ornamental grasses and berries, within 30 feet of a home because they are typically more flammable.

Once planted, properly maintaining trees, shrubs and plants is just as important as their selection.

"Maintenance is crucial," Ambrosia said. "It's important to make sure that your irrigation system is running properly. It's also important to maintain the area around plants by



most flammable of all of the bark mulches. Instead, choose something that has a fairly large scale to it. Just remember to keep mulch away from the closest five feet to the house.”

Want to learn more? Find information about fire-wise, water-wise plants, landscape design plans, mulch, irrigation rebates, and more at pcwa.net/smart-water-use/fire-wise-landscaping

removing deadwood, clearing the area around plants, and making sure there aren't too many large clusters of plants that are encroaching on each other.”

And, don't forget the mulch. “Mulch is important to preserving soil moisture and keeping weeds at bay,” Ambrosia said. “Choosing the right mulch is also important. A lot of people like the look of shredded redwood—also known as gorilla hair—but it's by far the



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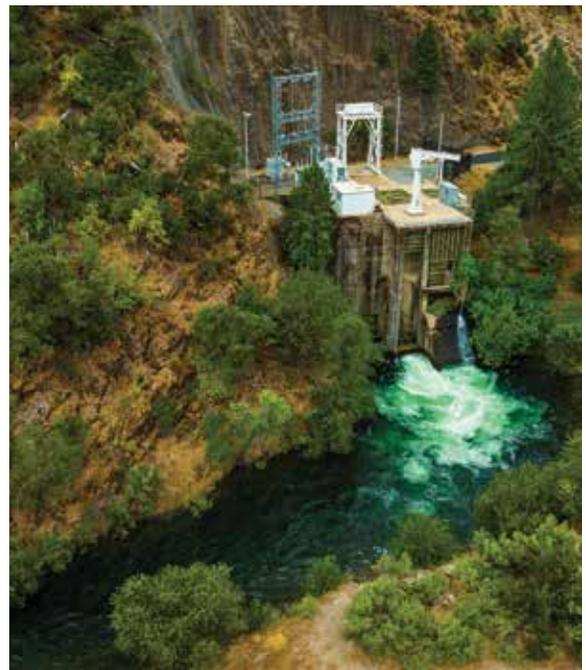
Protecting Placer through environmental stewardship

Placer County is a beautiful place to live, work and play. With this beauty comes great responsibility. Our leadership is committed to environmental stewardship and we encourage our residents to join us in protecting Placer County.

Message from Placer County's Forest Health Coordinator Kerri Timmer

Placer's high-elevation forests are critical to our health and well-being. It is vital that we protect our watershed and our forest health to ensure resiliency. The water you see today in a forest stream or reservoir could soon end up on a rancher's pasture or a farmer's rice field. It is the same drop that will generate electricity for 240,000 households or supply the Placer County Water Agency's 41,000 treated water customers.

The key concern with wildfire is protecting life and property and ensuring the safety of our communities. But there's a concurrent need to protect the shared forest resources that residents, businesses, and visitors depend on – clean water, renewable energy, breathable air, sustainable wildlife habitat, safe recreation, and clear travel corridors. Placer's Regional Forest Health staff is honored to join the ranks of those working to protect Placer County from the impacts of catastrophic wildfire.



The Middle Fork Project is a multi-purpose water supply and hydro-generation project designed to conserve and control waters of the Middle Fork American River and the Rubicon River.



The French Meadows Project is a forest restoration and fuels reduction project located in the headwaters of the Middle Fork American River in the Tahoe National Forest. It is an extensive public-private partnership of numerous regional and federal partners - all working together to improve the health and resilience of a vital municipal watershed.

River Fire Recovery — Then and Now



It could've been a big one. As the River Fire raced up the Bear River canyon on a Wednesday afternoon in August 2021, homes, schools, and businesses on both sides of the river lay prone in its path. Interstate 80, the Union Pacific Railway, the Kinder Morgan interstate gas pipeline and water supply for thousands of Northern Californians were all imperiled.

Thankfully, the response was overwhelming. In its first hours the River Fire was the highest emergency response priority in the state. CAL FIRE's air and ground attacks were ferocious. Evacuations led by the Placer County Sheriff's Office were fast and efficient. Thankfully, a worst-case scenario was avoided.

The River Fire burned 2,619 acres in Nevada and Placer counties. In Placer County alone it destroyed 47 homes in the canyon below the City of Colfax - a fraction of those it might have reached.

As resettlement began, Placer agencies shifted focus to helping residents recover. Helping those affected rebuild their lives was

of course the highest priority. With the rainy season a few short months away, it was critical to remove hazardous debris to avoid it washing into the Bear River.

Close collaboration among Placer County entities, neighboring Nevada County, state and federal agencies, and community partners was essential. In a coordinated appeal, Nevada and Placer counties secured the state and federal disaster declarations that opened the door to needed recovery assistance for affected residents. The Placer Community Foundation also led a regional fundraising effort, yielding more than \$250,000 for survivor relief.

Disaster recoveries elsewhere in the state are still proceeding years after a fire. But in less than a year, Placer County issued rebuilding permits for five of the 47 destroyed properties, with another two in processing. Those homes will be built to wildfire protection standards far more advanced than the original homes.

Placer County Firewise Communities

72 OFFICIAL
FIREWISE
COMMUNITIES



97,801
COMMUNITY SERVICE
HOURS

In 2021, Firesafe Community members



Hosted 88 educational meetings and 16 fire safe events

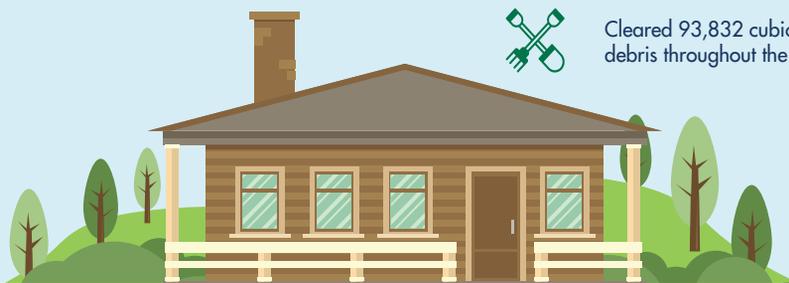


\$6,950,285 contributed to wildfire risk reduction



Cleared 93,832 cubic yards of potentially flammable debris throughout the county

75 MORE
IN VARIOUS STAGES
OF FORMATION



Become a Firewise Community

We are proud to share that Placer County is a leader in the nation for having the greatest number of Firewise communities, an indicator of our resident's unyielding commitment to wildfire preparedness. Placer County has successfully implemented the Firewise USA® Recognition Program to inspire residents living within the wildland-urban interface to be prepared by hardening their homes.

The Firewise program empowers communities with tools and resources and has proven extremely successful at mitigating fire risks and improving relationships in neighborhoods so that residents are more likely to look after each other during emergencies. To get involved or ask questions, please call 530-886-FIRE, email fireready@placer.ca.gov or visit <https://www.placer.ca.gov/5739/Firewise-USA-Community-Program>.

WATER SAVER



Come visit PCWA's booth and mention this ad for a FREE moisture meter at Hot Chili Cool Cars on September 17th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Rocklin Road & Quarry Park (4000 Rocklin Road)



PCWA.net