Resources and Utilities

This section covers a description of utility distribution companies, natural gas, water, and hazardous water and waste water.

Utility Distribution Companies

Electricity in the region is provided by the City of Roseville, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) and Sierra Pacific Power Company. Hydroelectric stations generate a considerable quantity of the electricity in the region.

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) is a subsidiary of PG&E Corporation and maintains its headquarters in San Francisco. PG&E provides natural gas and electric service to approximately 13 million people, or nearly one in every twenty Americans in its 70,000 square mile Northern and Central California service area. PG&E has a number of locally based economic development representatives to provide comprehensive services for new and expanding businesses facilities. PG&E economic development representatives partner with the local economic development corporations in its service territory to provide these services. Its representatives can discuss the energy efficiency program options available to help building owners and designers to make a new or retrofitted facility as energy efficient as possible.

Roseville Electric is a not-for-profit electric utility owned by the City of Roseville and regulated by the City Council. Roseville Electric has some of the lowest energy prices in the state, and provides the highest power reliability in Northern California. For over 90 years, Roseville Electric has assisted its customers in designing and constructing electric facilities, launching new businesses, and implementing energy efficiency projects.

Sierra Pacific Power Company is an investor-owned public utility company engaged primarily in the generation, purchase, transmission, distribution, and sale of electric energy. The company supplies power to approximately 308,000 customers residing in an area of 50,000 square miles in western, central, and northeastern parts of Nevada, and a portion of eastern California in the counties of Alpine, Placer, Nevada, Sierra and Plumas. In mid-1996, Sierra Pacific Power Company completed development of the Pinon Pine Power Project, a state-of-the-art "clean coal technology" generator providing power to 60,000 homes.

Natural Gas

Natural gas is available for commercial and residential uses in Placer County through PG&E. All large PG&E gas customers can now purchase their gas from the supplier of their choice and pay PG&E only for the gas transportation services they actually use. Other gas purchasing options for smaller customers assure that all PG&E customers have access to reliable, competitively priced sources of natural gas. Southwest Gas provides

natural gas services in the North Lake Tahoe area. Rates for commercial/industrial users appear in Figure 61.

FIGURE 61
COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL NATURAL GAS RATES

Commercial/Industrial	Summer Per Therm Charge (1)		Winter Per Therm Charge (2)	
User Class	*1st 4K Therms*	*Excess*	*1st 4K Therms*	*Excess*
Up to 20,800 Therms/Month (3)	$0.78945	$0.67063	$0.85810	$0.70590
Above 20,800 Therms/Month (4)	$0.76570	$0.64688	$0.83435	$0.68215

Prepared by the Sacramento Regional Research Institute
Source: Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Schedules G-NR1 & G-NR2 on website. Rates effective January 1, 2002.
Notes: Rates above include gas procurement & transportation charge. The gas procurement charges change monthly.
(1) April 1 through October 31.
(2) November 1 through March 31.
(3) Customer charge is an additional $10.50-$13.42/month.
(4) Customer charge is an additional $150.72/month.

Water

The Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) is a major provider of water to Placer County customers. PCWA is a public non-profit agency established in 1957 by a special Act of the California Legislature.

Two specialized water resource service divisions are managed by PCWA. The Power Division, headquartered in Foresthill, operates the Middle Fork Project. The main features of this project are large reservoirs and five diversion dams, five hydroelectric power plants, diversion and water transmission facilities and five tunnels. This division controls the waters of the American and Rubicon Rivers and other tributaries for irrigation, domestic and commercial purposes as well as for the generation of electric energy.

The Water Division, headquartered in Auburn, operates nine water treatment plants, eleven reservoirs, five dams, 22 storage tanks, three wells and a 385-mile network of pipelines and canals. This system provides water for commercial, domestic, irrigation, and other agricultural uses.

The main sources of water for the PCWA are the Yuba and Bear Rivers. This supply comes from Lake Spaulding and is purchased from the Pacific Gas and Electric Company. The American River provides a second source from appropriated water rights developed through construction of the Middle Fork Project. The United States Bureau of Reclamation Central Valley Project (CVP) provides a third source of water to the Agency. The fourth water source for PCWA comes from area wells.

The City of Roseville's Water Treatment Plant (WTP) recently underwent a 12 million gallon per day expansion resulting in a total water treatment capacity of 60 million gallons per day. This plant expansion is the next step in meeting the needs of a growing

population. Two more plant expansions are anticipated which would bring the total treatment capacity to 100 million gallons per day.

Additionally, several private and other mutual water companies serve parts of Placer County. A listing of these agencies is provided in the Directory.

Figure 62 shows the water usage cost comparison of different areas in Placer County and Greater Sacramento Area.

FIGURE 62
COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL WATER USAGE COSTS
FOR SELECTED AREAS

Area	*Monthly Cost 30,000 cu. ft./2" Meter*
El Dorado Hills	$264
Yuba City	$253
Rocklin	**$243**
Folsom	$230
Woodland	$204
Sacramento	$178
Marysville	$144
Roseville	**$108**

Prepared by the Sacramento Regional Research Institute
Source: El Dorado Irrigation District
City of Folsom Finance Department
Placer County Water Agency
City of Roseville Environmental Utilities Department
City of Sacramento Public Works; Utilities Department
City of Woodland Public Works Development Services
City of Yuba City Public Works Department
California Water Service for Yuba County
Note: Monthly costs as of January 2002.

Solid Waste and Waste Water

Solid waste collection for the unincorporated areas of Placer County is divided into six separate franchise areas. The Eastern Regional Landfill is the disposal site for solid waste collected from the three franchise areas located in eastern Placer County, the Town of Truckee, the City of Colfax, and portions of El Dorado and Nevada Counties. The landfill ceased burying solid waste in 1994. A materials recovery facility (MRF) and transfer station are currently in operation on the site. Recyclable material is diverted from the waste stream at the MRF. Non-recyclable waste is transported to the Lockwood Landfill near Reno, Nevada.

Three franchise areas in western Placer County, the cities of Roseville, Auburn, Loomis, Lincoln, and Rocklin are serviced by the Western Regional Sanitary Landfill and the Western Placer Materials Recovery Facility (WPMRF). The landfill, owned by the

Western Placer Waste Management Authority, began operation in 1979. The WPMRF began operation in late 1995. This landfill is located between Lincoln and Roseville. The cities of Auburn and Colfax and the Town of Loomis purchased the services of this solid waste facility. This landfill is scheduled to close in 2025. Adjacent to the existing location a 400-acre expansion area was set aside, but the environmental document for the proposed expansion is currently being challenged in court.

The Dry Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), owned and operated by the City of Roseville, serves the southwest corner of Placer County. The Dry Creek facility has a capacity rating of 18 million gallons per day. A second plant is under construction on Pleasant Grove Creek. The Pleasant Grove facility will be rated at 12 million gallons per day and is expected to be completed and operational by spring of 2003. Total treatment capacity resulting from both facilities is 30 million gallons per day.

The Tahoe-Truckee Sanitation Agency was formed on May 1, 1972, to carry out the mandate of the Porter Cologne Water Quality Control Act to export all sewage out of the Tahoe Basin and to replace existing treatment facilities in the five member entities. These entities are the Tahoe City Public Utility District, the North Tahoe Public Utility District, the Squaw Valley County Water District, the Alpine Springs County Water District, and the Truckee Sanitary District. The Agency constructed a regional system that transports all sewage from the member districts to a regional plant. Transporting wastewater out of the Tahoe Basin is designed to protect potable water sources and to preserve the purity of Lake Tahoe.

The effluent is retained in the Truckee River Basin, so that the quantity of water available to users downstream would not be diminished by the project. The project required construction of an interceptor line from Tahoe City to the Martis Valley, construction of a 4.83 MGD regional sewage treatment plant, and installation of an underground disposal system that allows the effluent to percolate into the permeable glacial outwash soil near the plant site. Tertiary treatment is necessary to protect the quality of the Truckee River.