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## **CCWD & EBMUD Settle Differences on Freeport Water Project**

The Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) and the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) have settled the lawsuit over the Freeport Regional Water Project, a joint effort by EBMUD and Sacramento County to increase Sacramento's water supply and protect EBMUD customers from a severe drought. The principal issue in dispute was how to operate the proposed Freeport Regional Water Project so that water quality at CCWD's delta intakes would not be diminished.

A coalition of 100 water agencies throughout California that rely on the Delta as their primary water source filed litigation in 2001, asserting that the proposed Freeport Project's diversion of up to 170 million gallons of water per day from the upper Delta, even during years of severe drought, would have adverse impacts on water supply and quality, as well as financial impacts on downstream users.

"I am very pleased that we have reached a conclusion to this process," said Joseph L. Campbell, CCWD Board President. "This marks the beginning of an era of regional cooperation which I embrace. Protecting delta water quality is very important, and CCWD will continue to find cooperative solutions that protect and improve delta drinking water quality for our customers through continued participation in the California Bay-Delta Program and continued partnering with neighboring water agencies."

The settlement resolves CCWD's two issues: water quality and financial impacts; negotiations between the Freeport partners and the other 99 agencies previously resulted in settlements, so this agreement concludes the litigation. As a part of the settlement, all parties have pledged their support for the project through its construction. The settlement details coordination of operations to lessen potential water quality impacts, addresses cost allocations, and provides a resolution to financial impacts.

"This is a significant step for EBMUD customers," said Frank Mellon, EBMUD Board President. "This clears the way for us to move forward in earnest with the Freeport Project. Once online, this project will provide EBMUD customers protection during times of severe drought."

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