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**DEPARTMENT
OF UTILITIES**

ENGINEERING
SERVICES DIVISION

**CITY OF SACRAMENTO
CALIFORNIA**

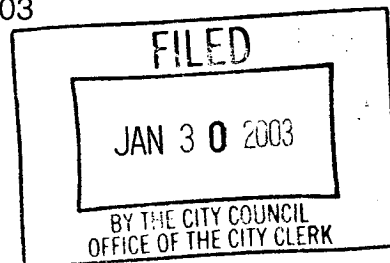
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January 13, 2003

City Council
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session:



SUBJECT: FREEPORT REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY PROJECT UPDATE

LOCATION AND COUNCIL DISTRICT:

Between the Sacramento River near the southern City limits and the Folsom South Canal in Council Districts 7 and 8 (see Exhibit A).

RECOMMENDATION:

This report is for City Council information only.

CONTACT PERSON: Gary A. Reents, Director of Utilities, 264-1433
Candace A. McGahan, Supervising Engineer, 264-1416

FOR COUNCIL MEETING OF: January 30, 2003

SUMMARY:

The Freeport Regional Water Authority (FRWA), comprised of East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD), and County of Sacramento (County), and, as an associate member, the City has completed an alignment study for a proposed project that would construct a water diversion facility near Freeport and pipeline conveyance east to the Folsom South Canal. The purpose of this report is to inform Councilmembers of the principles regarding the City's interests in the project and results of the alignment study and public outreach efforts.



COMMITTEE/COMMISSION ACTION: None.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In February 2002, Council approved a resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign the Associate Member Agreement between the City and the FRWA, a joint exercise of powers authority (JPA) between the County and EBMUD. The JPA was formed for the purpose of constructing a water diversion facility near Freeport and pipeline conveyance east to the Folsom South Canal. It was recognized that the City, EBMUD, and the County shared a common interest in the manner in which the Freeport Regional Water Project is planned and constructed and that those interests would be benefitted by the City's association with the project partners.

The City has been meeting with EBMUD and the County to negotiate principles regarding acceptable compensation for the use of City property, as well as, mitigation for development of facilities on City owned land or within City boundaries. Broadly, these principles are to incorporate the following:

- Just compensation for any use of City-owned property at Freeport. Compensation must include providing the City with a suitable water treatment plant site north of the Sacramento International Airport.
- City involvement in and approval of the architectural design for any prominent physical features, such as, the diversion structure.
- In-street construction and construction mitigation is to adhere to all City standards.
- Recognition of the existence of regional discharges above and below proposed diversion sites and conditions required to protect discharger's operations within state and federal water quality requirements.
- Outreach efforts including:
 - Public outreach to all stakeholders.
 - Coordination with other projects, such as, the Lower Northwest Interceptor, Regional Transit Rail Extension, Delta Shores, Cosumnes River Boulevard Extension, and those of the City's Parks, Public Works, and Utilities.

The alternative alignments from the Sacramento River to the Folsom South Canal for the proposed project have been developed and are illustrated in Exhibit B. Routing selection criteria included cost and non-cost factors. Considerations for the non-cost factors included disruption to businesses, traffic impacts, air quality and environmental issues. From evaluation of the factors, two principal alignments have been delineated. The FRWA's preferred alignment uses the City's property at Freeport for the diversion structure. The pipeline from there follows an alignment south parallel to I-5 on the west side and then crosses under I-5 north of the Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant buffer land. It then connects up to existing Cosumnes Boulevard and follows it to Power Inn Road. Turning north on Power Inn Road the alignment continues to Mack Road, makes another jog northward to Gerber Road and continues east. At Bradshaw Road the pipeline again turns north to Florin Road and then east to the Folsom South Canal.

The Draft EIR/EIS detailing the alignment alternatives will be released in April 2003 and will have 60 days after that for public comment. As part of the preparation of the draft document, FWRA met extensively with stakeholders and has prepared Fact Sheets and Public Comment Overviews (see Exhibit C). During the comment period, FRWA will contact approximately 140 stakeholder organizations and make presentations to at least 40. Public meetings will be scheduled in Freeport, Meadowview, central Sacramento County, Herald, Lodi and Oakland. Informational materials are also available through the web site, www.FreeportProject.org.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:

Environmental review required for the Freeport Regional Water Project will be the responsibility of the FRWA and its member agencies, EBMUD and the County. The Draft EIR will be circulated for public review in April 2003. The comment period will close 60 days later and the final EIR, including comment responses and proposed mitigation measures, will be certified in the fall of 2003.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS:

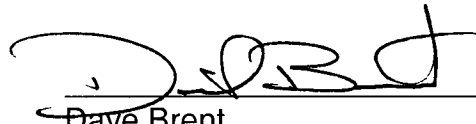
City Council has previously approved discussions and negotiations with EBMUD and the County in an effort to develop an acceptable water supply project.

City Council
Freeport Regional Water Authority Project Update
January 30, 2003

ESBD CONSIDERATIONS:

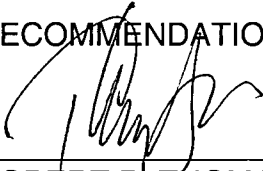
As no services or supplies are being purchased there are no ESBD issues.

Respectfully submitted,



Dave Brent
Acting Engineering Services Manager

RECOMMENDATION APPROVED:



ROBERT P. THOMAS
City Manager

APPROVED:



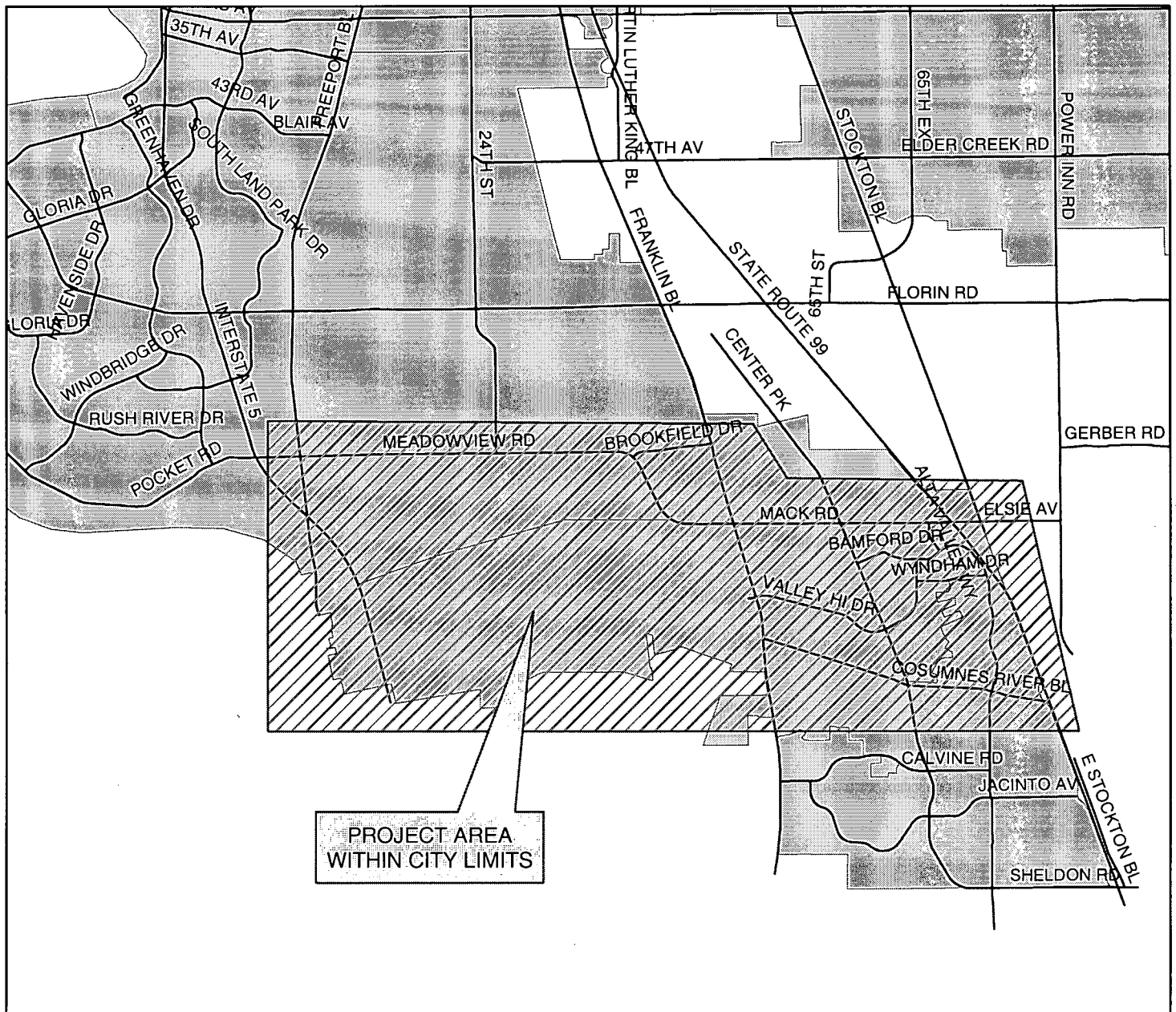
GARY A. REENTS
Director of Utilities

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

- 1) Exhibit A - Location Map - pg. 5
- 2) Exhibit B - Pipeline Routes - pg. 6
- 3) Exhibit C - Newsletter - Freeport Regional Water Project - pg. 7

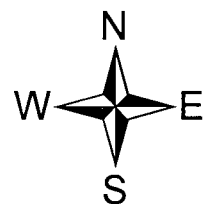
FREEPORT REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY PROJECT

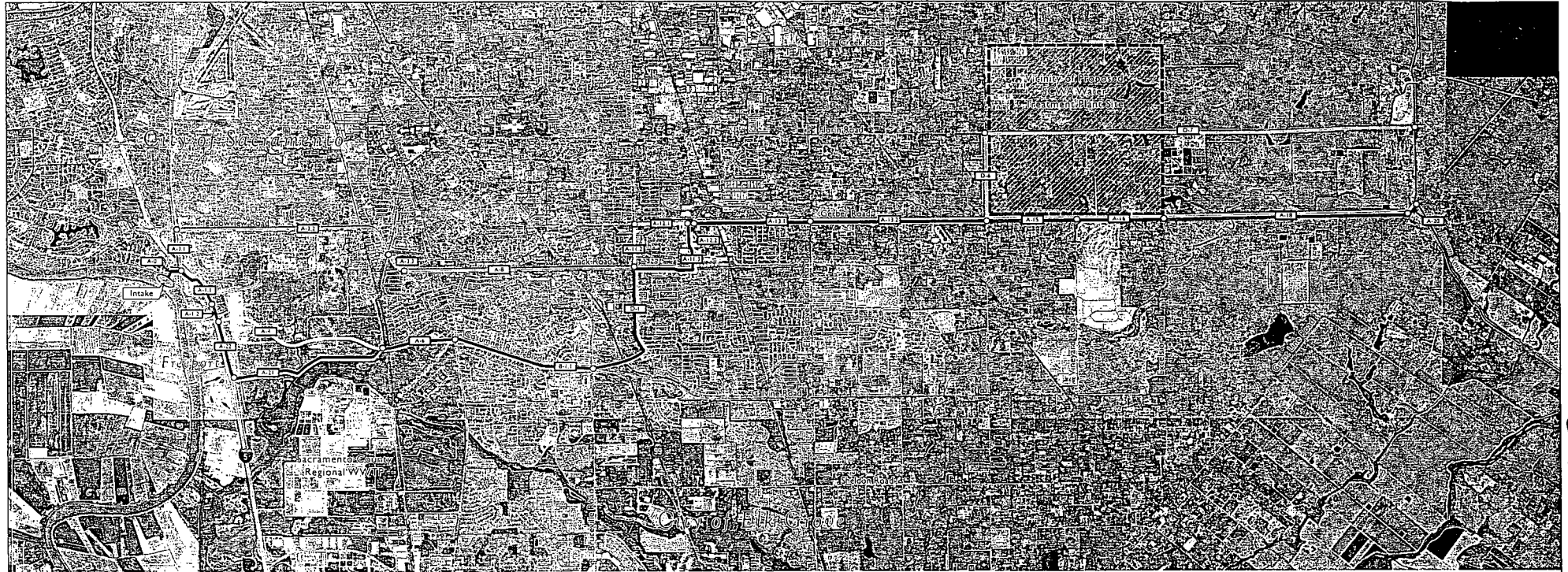
EXHIBIT A



CITY OF SACRAMENTO
DEPARTMENT
OF UTILITIES

MAP PREPARED BY
CITY OF SACRAMENTO
DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES
JANUARY 2003





Alignment Alternative 2
 Alignment Alternative 3
 Alignment Alternative 4
 Alignment Alternative 5
 Optional

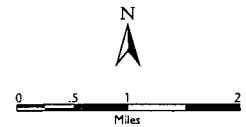


EXHIBIT B

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Figure 2
 Pipeline Routes from the Freeport Diversion to the Folsom South Canal

Fact Sheet and Public Comment Overview

Freeport Regional Water Project

OCTOBER 2002



- This fact sheet provides a general overview of the Freeport Regional Water Project (Freeport Project), and outlines opportunities for public comment.
- It also summarizes comments received to date as part of the initial environmental review process. The input received identified several project impacts, alternatives, mitigation measures, and environmental subject areas to be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Report and Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS).

Description of the Freeport Regional Water Project

The Freeport Project is a joint regional water supply project being developed on the Sacramento River near the town of Freeport by the Sacramento County Water Agency (SCWA) and East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD), in close coordination with the City of Sacramento (City) and the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation). The project is designed to help meet future drinking water needs in the central Sacramento County area and supplement aggressive water conservation and recycling programs in the East Bay to provide adequate water supply during future drought periods. The Freeport Project is important because it will:

1. provide up to 85-million gallons per day (mgd) of surface water to SCWA to be used in conjunction with groundwater to help meet future water supply needs in the central Sacramento County area (these future water supply needs have been identified and recognized as a part of the landmark Water Forum Agreement [ratified April 2000]);
2. provide up to a 100-mgd, dry-year water supply to EBMUD customers to supplement aggressive water conservation and recycling programs and reduce the potential for severe water rationing and associated economic losses and hardships during drought periods; and

(continued on page 2)

Public Participation

Opportunities for public comment will occur throughout the entire EIR/EIS process. The Draft EIR/EIS for the Freeport Project is scheduled for public review and comment in the winter of 2003. Another series of public hearings will be held at that time to provide the public an opportunity to review the draft environmental documents and make formal comments, which will then be addressed in the Final EIR/EIS. Consideration of formal certification of the EIR/EIS by the Freeport Regional Water Authority is expected by fall of 2003. Environmental documents will be available by mail from the Freeport Regional Water Authority, online, and at area libraries.

The project partners remain committed to fully informing and engaging potentially affected communities and agencies throughout the development of the Freeport Project. To date, representatives of the Freeport Regional Water Authority have met with more than 100 community groups, industry associates, and federal, state and local agencies. Individuals or organizations that are interested in receiving additional information, have questions or concerns, or would like to schedule a group presentation are encouraged to contact any of the project representatives or email the Freeport Project at info@FreeportProject.org.

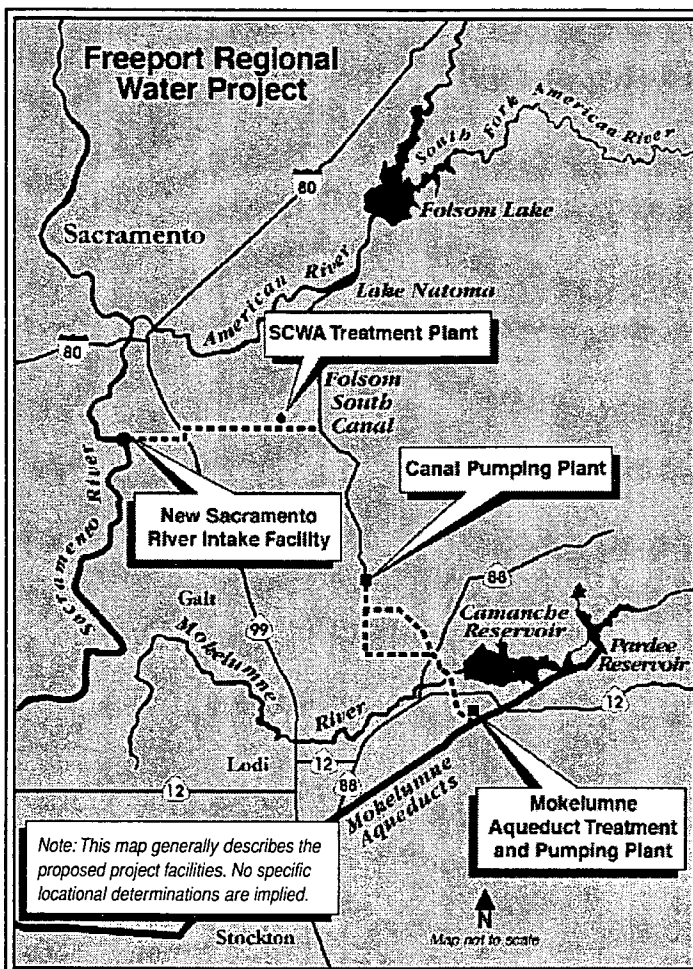


(Description continued from page 1)

3. offer the opportunity for use of EBMUD capacity by others during non-drought periods, although such use would be subject to additional environmental review.

The Freeport Project would consist of:

- a proposed new 185-mgd intake on the Sacramento River near the community of Freeport, including state-of-the-art fish screens;
- a proposed new pipeline to convey water east to the existing Folsom South Canal;
- a proposed future water treatment plant in central Sacramento County, to be owned and operated by the SCWA, to provide treated surface water supplies; and
- proposed new facilities to transport Sacramento River water for EBMUD from the southern end of the Folsom South Canal to the existing EBMUD Mokelumne Aqueducts, through which the water would be conveyed to the EBMUD service area.



Public Comment Overview

The Freeport Regional Water Authority is in the process of conducting an environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This review process will study the proposed project and alternatives to determine the environmental impacts, appropriate mitigation measures, and costs associated with each alternative.

In April 2002, the Freeport Regional Water Authority hosted a series of five public scoping meetings to seek early input and to identify issues and concerns to be examined in the Draft EIR/EIS. More than 50 comments were received. The following is a brief summary of the general themes heard from those submitting comments. A comprehensive scoping report providing every comment in full, as well as specific details about how the Freeport Regional Water Authority proposes to address identified impacts, will be included in the Draft EIR/EIS.

Water Quality and Water Supply Concerns

Questions and concerns regarding potential effects on water quality in the Sacramento River included:

- potential negative impacts on biological and ecological systems in the Sacramento River and Delta,
- impacts of tidal action (reverse water flows),
- consistency with the Endangered Species Act and Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act,
- potential changes in salinity levels and water delivery affecting downstream water purveyors,
- mixing water from the American River with lower quality Sacramento River water in the Folsom South Canal, and
- possible impacts on farmers in Yolo County.

How These Issues Will Be Addressed in the Draft EIR/EIS

The potential impacts of the alternatives on water quality in the Sacramento River are being analyzed through engineering studies, modeling and discussions with potentially affected parties. The Freeport Regional Water Authority is committed to preparing a complete and thorough Draft EIR/EIS consistent with applicable environmental laws.

(continued on page 3)

Potential Pipeline Alignment, Location of Facilities, and Construction Concerns

Questions and concerns regarding the potential pipeline alignments and the construction associated with the project alternatives included:

- noise and visual impacts,
- traffic congestion,
- safety factors during construction,
- coordination with other regional development projects to minimize construction disruptions,
- private property and residential impacts,
- pumping plant located at terminus of the Folsom South Canal,
- disruption of existing and planned bikeways,
- preservation of community property, including landscaping, with historical significance,
- interference with levee improvement projects, and
- potential impacts on the groundwater table in Yolo County.

How These Issues Will Be Addressed in the Draft EIR/EIS

The Freeport Regional Water Authority will identify ways to reduce temporary construction impacts. Significant outreach is planned with the affected neighborhoods, and construction of the project will be closely coordinated with the City and County of Sacramento, as well as other regional agencies who have construction projects planned or underway. The Freeport Regional Water Authority is also committed to looking for ways to reduce any potential long term effects of pipelines on local groundwater tables to acceptable levels.

The Freeport Regional Water Authority is currently studying the development of the project along public rights of way, public lands, and property lines. However, depending on the alternative ultimately selected, some private lands may need to be acquired to construct the project. Upcoming studies will determine which lands would need to be acquired under each alternative.

Environmental Justice

Questions and concerns regarding impacts to communities potentially affected by the development of the project and opportunities to mitigate for those impacts included:

- traffic and construction impacts along Mack and Meadowview Road,
- an interpretive center or educational facility located near intake as possible mitigation measure, and
- economic impacts on businesses in construction areas.

How These Issues Will Be Addressed in the Draft EIR/EIS

The Freeport Regional Water Authority will develop measures to minimize community impacts, including visual impacts, effects on recreation, and disruption to adjacent uses. The Draft EIR/EIS will provide specific details of how the Freeport Regional Water Authority proposes to deal with all identified impacts. Where needed, monitoring procedures or formal mitigation measures will be provided.

Review of Alternatives and Identification of a Preferred Alternative

Questions and concerns were raised regarding how the proposed project alternatives will be evaluated and how a preferred alternative will be selected.

How These Issues Will Be Addressed in the Draft EIR/EIS

To identify the most appropriate project, the Freeport Regional Water Authority is conducting an environmental review under CEQA and NEPA. This review process will study the proposed project and alternatives to determine the environmental impacts, appropriate mitigation measures, and costs associated with each alternative. The preferred alternative will meet balanced criteria including the environment, community, cost and ability to construct.

Preliminary Project Schedule

- Winter 2003** Release Draft EIR/EIS for public review and comment
- Summer 2003** Complete local and federal environmental documentation
- Winter 2005** Complete engineering and permitting work
- Summer 2005** Award construction contracts
- Fall 2007** Project to be completed
- 2010** Complete SCWA treatment plant

The next Freeport Regional Water Authority meeting is currently scheduled for:

January 9, 2003 at 2:00 p.m.

Location:

Freeport Project Office
1510 J Street, Suite 140
Sacramento, CA 95814

For More Information

To obtain further information about the Freeport Project or the Freeport Regional Water Authority, please visit the project Web site at **www.FreeportProject.org**, or contact any of the project representatives below:

Mr. Eric Mische, Ph.D., P.E.

Freeport Project Manager
Phone 916/326-5480

Ms. Diane Margetts

Sacramento County Water Agency
Phone 916/874-4517

Mr. Tom Aiken

Bureau of Reclamation
Phone 916/988-1707

Ms. Candace McGahan

City of Sacramento
Phone 916/264-1416

Ms. Maria C. Solis

EBMUD
Phone 510/287-1358

Mr. Gerald E. Schwartz

EBMUD
Phone 209/748-2133

2600 V Street
Sacramento, CA 95818
Attn: Freeport Regional Water Project

To request removal from the Freeport Regional Water Project mailing list, please email **info@FreeportProject.org** or call Ingrid Norgaard at (916) 503-6681.