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## **Regional Water Plan Poised to Receive \$25 Million Grant** *RWA, Freeport Authority Program Among 7 Selected for Funding*

**SACRAMENTO, Calif.** – A cutting-edge plan aimed at improving water supply and water quality in the American River basin is poised to receive \$25 million in grant funding under draft recommendations released this week by the California Department of Water Resources.

The American River Basin Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, developed jointly by the Regional Water Authority (RWA) and the Freeport Regional Water Authority (FRWA), is among seven projects recommended for funding statewide in a two-step grant process through Proposition 50 of 2002. The RWA / FRWA application was the third-highest ranking program in the state.

RWA and FRWA formally adopted the American River Basin Integrated Regional Water Management Plan earlier this year to better integrate their water supply planning efforts. The plan will increase water supply reliability, improve water quality, enhance local flood control and help protect the lower American River and the lower Cosumnes River watersheds.

“This announcement proves once again the value of collaborative planning that began more than a decade ago with the Sacramento Water Forum,” RWA Executive Director Ed Winkler said. “This funding assistance will help our region move forward with a variety of projects that will produce real improvements in water supply, water quality and protection for the American River and the lower Cosumnes River.”

The \$25 million grant will help fund key elements of the plan, including a suite of 14 infrastructure projects such as groundwater wells, surface water pipelines, water treatment plants and water recycling facilities. In addition, the projects will generate statewide benefits by improving habitat and the quality of water reaching the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, an ecologically sensitive estuary that is also a critical link in the state's water delivery system.

Local projects benefiting from the funding include: the Freeport Regional Water Project, which will supply surface water from the Sacramento River to customers in central Sacramento County and the East Bay area; a flood management and habitat restoration project by the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency; expansion of water recycling by Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District; construction of new groundwater wells by Sacramento Suburban Water District, San Juan Water District, Orange Vale Water Company and Citrus Heights Water District; water treatment plant expansions by Carmichael Water District and the City of Roseville; development of river management and conjunctive use opportunities on the Cosumnes River by The Nature Conservancy; groundwater supply improvements by Placer County Water Agency; and expansion of recycled water distribution facilities by the City of Lincoln.

"The state is clearly rewarding regional solutions to water resource problems," said FRWA General Manager Eric Mische. "I expect the ongoing partnerships with our member agencies, East Bay Municipal Utility District and the Sacramento County Water Agency, and RWA to pay dividends for years to come."

Sacramento County Water Resources Director Keith DeVore pointed to the value of regional collaboration on water. "Working together maximizes our ability to provide the greatest benefits to residents of our communities," he said.

Anthony Saracino, director of California water policy for The Nature Conservancy, said the successful collaboration has yielded a progressive groundwater management plan that begins to address linkages to the Cosumnes River. "We look forward to continued collaboration to further our efforts in protecting the Cosumnes River ecosystem while providing for a sustainable water supply," Saracino said.

A final decision on the draft funding recommendation is expected in early 2007.

RWA is a joint powers authority representing 22 water providers in the greater Sacramento area. Its primary mission is to help its members protect and enhance the reliability, availability, affordability and quality of water resources. For more information, see [www.rwah2o.org](http://www.rwah2o.org).

FRWA is a joint powers authority developed between the Sacramento County Water Agency and East Bay Municipal Utility District in Oakland. It is currently implementing a project to supply Sacramento River water to customers in Sacramento County and East Bay MUD's service area. For more information, see [www.freeportproject.org](http://www.freeportproject.org).

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