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Local Agencies Unite on Regional Water Plan
*RWA, Freeport Regional Water Authority Submit Joint Application for
Prop. 50 Funds*

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – The Regional Water Authority (RWA) and the Freeport Regional Water Authority (FRWA) this week submitted a joint grant application for a plan that will take regional collaboration to unprecedented levels in the history of Sacramento-area water management.

The application submitted to the California Department of Water Resources consolidates water supply planning efforts under way by RWA, FRWA, Sacramento County Water Agency (SCWA) and East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) into a single plan known as the American River Basin Integrated Regional Water Management Plan. Adopted by the RWA and FRWA governing boards in May 2006, the plan will enhance water supply reliability, improve water quality, increase flood control and help protect the lower American River.

The combined application seeks \$25 million in funding from Proposition 50 of 2002 to help implement the plan. It identifies a suite of 14 water projects, including groundwater wells, surface water pipelines, water treatment plants and water recycling facilities that will result in significant water quality and environmental benefits for the region. 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.

“Cooperative planning in this region began more than a decade ago with the Sacramento Water Forum process. By joining forces to develop the American River Basin Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, we are taking collaborative planning to new heights.” RWA Executive Director Ed Winkler said.

“FRWA is proud to collaborate with RWA and SCWA on a solution to regional water management.” FRWA General Manager Eric Mische said. “The Freeport Regional Water Project will be the backbone of water management in the central and southern Sacramento region by delivering surface water from the Sacramento River to support groundwater recharge and banking, and implementing environmental enhancement programs that uphold the principles of the Water Forum Agreement.”

“This consolidated application positions our region well to compete for state grant funds that will produce local, regional and statewide benefits at a time when water quality and water supply are increasingly critical to all Californians.” SCWA Director of Water Resources Keith DeVore said.

The application is one of 16 proposed plans to advance to the second stage of the statewide grant process. A preliminary decision on which plans will receive grant funding is expected in late 2006.

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.

FRWA is a joint powers authority developed between the Sacramento County Water Agency and East Bay Municipal Utility District of 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.