

Appendix E

**Freeport Regional Water Project  
Scoping Report**

Scoping Report

for the

Freeport Regional Water Project



Freeport Regional Water Authority  
Sacramento County Water Agency  
East Bay Municipal Utility District



U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation

July 2003

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Appendix E

# Freeport Regional Water Project Scoping Report

## Summary

Public involvement in the Freeport Regional Water Project (FRWP) has been significant since the Sacramento County Water Agency (SCWA) and East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) signed a Joint Powers Agreement creating the Freeport Regional Water Authority (FRWA) on February 14, 2002. FRWA has made substantial efforts to solicit public input to the project and provide the public with updates on the progress of the project through scoping meetings, small group meetings, community presentations, development of a project web site, and distribution of two fact sheets.

In April 2002, FRWA issued a Notice of Preparation (NOP) of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and a Notice of Intent (NOI) of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), informing agencies and the general public that an EIR/EIS was being prepared and inviting specific comments on the scope and content of the document. The NOI/NOP also invited participation at public scoping meetings. The NOI/NOP included an initial study outlining what were considered the key issues related to the project and discussed the potential environmental impacts of the project.

## Scoping Meetings

FRWA held five scoping meetings in locations convenient for individuals and organizations most likely to be most affected by the development of the project. The meetings were held in Oakland, Freeport, South Sacramento, Herald, and Central Sacramento. Before the meetings, notices were published in local newspapers announcing the time, date, location, and purpose of the meetings. Copies of a fact sheet/meeting notice were sent to an extensive mailing list of interested parties. Each scoping meeting included an overview of the meeting's purpose, the proposed project and alternatives, potentially significant environmental issues, and opportunities for future public involvement. Attendees were given the opportunity to provide both written and oral comments. The meeting dates, locations, and attendance follow.

Date	Location	Attendance
April 8, 2002	Oakland	20
April 11, 2002	Freeport	24
April 15, 2002	South Sacramento	24
April 18, 2002	Herald	25
April 25, 2002	Central Sacramento	9

## Publicity

To publicize the scoping meetings, FRWA mailed approximately 3,800 public meeting notices/fact sheets to interested parties in Sacramento, San Joaquin, Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. FRWA also placed advertisements in local papers, including the *Oakland Tribune*, the *San Francisco Examiner*, the *Contra Costa Times*, the *Tri-Valley Herald*, the *Sacramento Bee*, the *Elk Grove Citizen*, the *Laguna Citizen*, the *Lodi News Sentinel*, the *Stockton Record*, and the *Galt Herald*.

## Staff

The following representatives of EBMUD, SCWA, Bureau of Reclamation, and City of Sacramento participated in the scoping meetings:

- Gary Darling, EBMUD
- John Lampe, EBMUD
- Maria Solis, EBMUD
- Tad Berkebile, SCWA
- Mark Blustein, EBMUD
- Diane Margetts, SCWA
- Jim Peifer, SCWA
- Rob Schroeder, Bureau of Reclamation
- Jim Sequeira, City of Sacramento

## Agenda

The meeting included an overview of the project—history, purpose, timeline, summary of the environmental studies and public review process—followed by a

public comment period. Following is a summary of the project description given at the meetings.

## The Freeport Regional Water Project

The FRWP is a joint regional water supply project being developed on the Sacramento River near the town of Freeport by SCWA and EBMUD, in close coordination with the City of Sacramento (City) and the U.S. Department of Interior, 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 FRWP 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 central Sacramento County (these future water supply needs have been identified and recognized as a part of the landmark Water Forum Agreement [ratified April 2000]);
2. provide 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
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 FRWP 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 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 water for EBMUD from the southern end of the Folsom South Canal to the existing EBMUD Mokelumne Aqueducts, through which the water will be conveyed to the EBMUD service area.

## Public Comments

Each meeting was recorded on audio tape, and detailed notes were taken. In addition, participants were asked to fill out and turn in comment cards. Lap top

computers were provided for individuals who preferred to type their comments directly into a comment form. Comments were also accepted via email through the project web site. Attachment A includes a list of individuals or organizations that submitted comments and, if written, copies of their letters. All verbal comments received at the scoping meetings and written comments submitted in response to the NOI/NOP were considered during preparation of the Draft EIR/EIS. Attachment B is a summary of comments and questions from each scoping meeting, and Attachment C contains the verbal transcripts.

## **Other Community Meetings/Presentations**

Freeport Project representatives attended multiple small group and community organization meetings to present information, answer questions, and receive feedback regarding the FRWP throughout the scoping process. All comments received during these community meetings were considered during preparation of the Draft EIR/EIS. Attachment D contains a list of agencies and organizations contacted by the FRWP prior to the release of the draft environmental documents.