

Chapter 1
Foreword

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This document presents comments and responses pertaining to the draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) for the Freeport Regional Water Project (FRWP). The draft EIR/EIS for the FRWP, prepared by the Freeport Regional Water Authority (FRWA) and the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), was distributed to the public and to agencies for review and comment on August 8, 2003. The draft EIR/EIS includes a description of the proposed project, an assessment of potential effects associated with implementation of the project alternatives, and proposed mitigation measures aimed at avoiding or reducing significant environmental effects.

Comments on the draft EIR/EIS were received at a series of public hearings held in September 2003 in communities within the project area, including Herald, Oakland, and multiple locations in Sacramento. Comments were also received in letters and other written materials submitted during the public comment period. The comment period began August 8, 2003, and was extended twice before its final expiration on December 15, 2003.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines require the lead agencies to respond to comments received during the comment period. This document has been prepared pursuant to these requirements. This response to comments volume, together with the draft EIR/EIS, constitutes the Final EIR/EIS for the FRWP.

Organization of This Summary of Comments and Responses

This document presents responses to comments received during the comment period. Comment letters are presented in their entirety followed by responses. Each comment within each letter has been marked and numbered. Oral comments received during the public hearings have been paraphrased for clarity and are included in Chapter 10. The location of the full transcripts is noted in Chapter 10.

Chapter 3 of this document contains detailed responses to key issues raised during the comment period. Chapters 5 through 10 contain comment letters and responses organized by the category of commentors. For example, comments

received from federal agencies are contained in Chapter 5. The responses generally provide clarification of the materials in the draft EIR/EIS; however, they occasionally include changes or additions to its text. The document is organized as follows:

- Chapter 1—Foreword
- Chapter 2—Project Update/Activities since Publication of the Draft EIR/EIS
- Chapter 3—Master Responses
- Chapter 4—List of Comments Received
- Chapter 5—Responses to Federal and State Agency Comments
- Chapter 6—Responses to Local Agency Comments
- Chapter 7—Responses to Comments from Special Interest Groups
- Chapter 8—Responses to Comments from Individuals
- Chapter 9—Responses to Form Letter Comments
- Chapter 10—Responses to Comments from Public Hearings
- Appendix A—Intake Structure Siting Summary

Guide for Review

Chapter 4 provides a list of commentors and indicates the numbering system used to organize comment letters. A total of 103 comment letters were received for this project (not including two different form letters). The following key presents the code and numbering system used to identify written comments received.

Comment Code Key (Written Comments)		
F	=	federal agency comment
St	=	state agency comment
L	=	local agency comment
Sp	=	comment by a special interest group
I	=	comment by an individual
FL	=	form letters

Examples:

I1-1	=	individual, letter #1 from those sent by individuals, first comment in letter
I2-2	=	individual, letter #2 from those sent by individuals, second comment in letter

Chapter 10 identifies oral comments received during the public hearings. The oral comments are grouped by meeting location.