

California Department of Water Resources

Advisory

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July 18, 2002

JOINT STATEMENT ON THE MONTEREY AMENDMENTS LITIGATION

By the Department of Water Resources, the Central Coast Water Authority, the State Water Contractors, the Planning and Conservation League, the Plumas County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, and the Citizens' Planning Association of Santa Barbara County

After extensive negotiations over the past 18 months, the parties have reached a joint agreement on the principles for settling the lawsuit over the Monterey Amendments (*Planning and Conservation League vs. Department of Water Resources and Central Coast Water Authority*).

In March 2001, interested parties commenced confidential mediation discussions under the auspices of Judge Daniel Weinstein (Ret.) of JAMS in San Francisco. The parties and their lawyers have reached an agreement in principle after protracted negotiations.

The Monterey Amendments comprise various amendments to the long-term water supply contracts for the State Water Project entered into between the Department of Water Resources and most of the State Water Contractors in 1995 and 1996. In a 2000 ruling in this lawsuit, the Third District Court of Appeal in Sacramento held that the Environmental Impact Report for the Amendments did not comply with the California Environmental Quality Act.

The Department of Water Resources has now commenced preparing a new Environmental Impact Report. The interested parties will continue mediation to convert the settlement principles into a legal agreement for filing with Superior Court during the next 60 to 90 days. The details of the settlement principles will be announced when the settlement agreement is final.