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For more information, contact:

San Joaquin County: Fritz Buchman, 209-468-3161, fbuchman@sjgov.org

NSJWCD: Joe Valente, 209-481-0611

SEWD: Scot A. Moody, 209-948-0333, smoody@sewd.net

East Bay Municipal Utility District: Abby Figueroa, 510-287-0134,
figueroa@ebmud.com

**SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY AND LOCAL WATER AGENCIES ANNOUNCE
AGREEMENT WITH EAST BAY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT TO
FUND LOCAL WATER PROJECTS**

San Joaquin County, East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) and water agencies in San Joaquin County have reached an agreement that paves the way for much needed funding and water to improve the health of the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Basin via water from the Mokelumne River.

The County, North San Joaquin Water Conservation District, Stockton East Water District, Central Delta Water Agency, South Delta Water Agency and EBMUD have agreed to dismiss all their objections on various pending water right matters before the State in order to move forward on a groundwater banking pilot project.

Under the agreement, EBMUD will provide \$4 million and water from the Mokelumne River for a groundwater banking pilot project that can be used jointly by the County, North San Joaquin Water Conservation District, Stockton East Water District and EBMUD to manage the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Basin more sustainably.

EBMUD has also agreed to provide additional water to North San Joaquin Water Conservation District and Stockton East Water District, and assist the County with storing the County's Mokelumne River water in EBMUD's Camanche Reservoir.

“Partnerships are key to capitalizing on opportunities to utilize Mokelumne River water to manage our groundwater basin. I thank EBMUD and our leaders in the San Joaquin County water community for investing the time to forge this agreement and also for working diligently to develop mutually beneficial groundwater recharge projects.” – Ken Vogel, San Joaquin County Supervisor

“EBMUD and San Joaquin County haven’t always seen eye to eye on the Mokelumne River, but it seems that today, we are actually working to put aside our differences to do good things like recharging our groundwater basin, providing more reliable dry-year water supplies, and sustaining the environment. I think this is a great example of collaborating on water issues, which shows other parts of the State that San Joaquin County can work cooperatively with others.” – Larry Ruhstaller, San Joaquin County Supervisor

“I commend the hard work and the herculean effort by San Joaquin County, North San Joaquin Water Conservation District, Stockton East Water District and others in the county who drove this cooperative effort to a fruitful conclusion. We are thankful to have been invited to participate as this project can yield benefits to not only the county’s groundwater basin but to future generations of water users throughout our region.” – Katy Foulkes, EBMUD Board Vice-President

“We are excited to move forward with the projects in North San Joaquin that will allow our district to fully utilize its Mokelumne River water, including the Tracy Lake Groundwater Recharge Project and the South System Rehabilitation Project. The EBMUD funding and extra water has made these projects more affordable for our district.” Joe Valente, President of North San Joaquin Water Conservation District.

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