



SACRAMENTO COUNTY
WATER AGENCY

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**COUNTY FILES SUIT AGAINST
AEROJET-GENERAL AND BOEING CORPORATIONS**
Companies Fail to Remedy Groundwater Contamination Impacts

Sacramento CA – On July 1, 2009, the Sacramento County Water Agency initiated legal action to remedy significant impacts on its ability to supply drinking water to its existing and future customers. These impacts result from groundwater contamination caused by industrial chemical disposal practices of the Aerojet-General and McDonnell-Douglas Corporations.

At various times over the past 50 years, both Aerojet and McDonnell-Douglas (since acquired by the Boeing Corporation) disposed of industrial chemicals at their Rancho Cordova sites in a manner that resulted in the contamination of groundwater under a large area of eastern Sacramento County. As a result, many public drinking water wells have been shut down, including six wells operated by the Water Agency in its Mather-Sunrise service area, and many more continue to be at risk.

As part of the cleanup program directed by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the State Department of Toxic Substances Control and the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, Aerojet and Boeing will pump, treat and discharge approximately 40,000 acre-feet of groundwater every year for an estimated 200 years -- *enough water to meet the needs of more than 60,000 homes.*

Keith DeVore, Director of the Sacramento County Department of Water Resources said, "Action needs to be taken. The Water Agency is disappointed that after more than nine

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years of discussion, Aerojet and Boeing have yet to accept their responsibility and provide any meaningful proposal to resolve the very serious damages they have inflicted on the area's water supply." A 2003 agreement between the parties was terminated by the Agency in 2008 when it failed to provide a viable project without putting Agency customers at significant financial risk. "Our customers need to have the reliability of their water supply assured now and in the future, with complete confidence that they will not have to bear any of the financial burden for the extraordinary measures that will be required to mitigate past contamination impacts," said Mr. DeVore.

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The Sacramento County Department of Water Resources manages the county's groundwater and surface water resources and actively participates in strategic regional planning for future water supplies through the powers of the County of Sacramento and the Sacramento County Water Agency. The governing body of the County of Sacramento and Sacramento County Water Agency is the County Board of Supervisors.