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News

Livermore Group to Sue Tri-Valley Water Agency

Patricia Jacobus, Chronicle Staff Writer

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1998-03-20 04:00:00 PDT LIVERMORE -- An environmental group plans to file a lawsuit today against the [Zone 7 Water Agency](#), contending that its agreement to deliver water to 9,500 homes that will be built in Contra Costa County's Dougherty Valley is illegal.

[Stuart Flashman](#), an attorney representing the Livermore group Citizens for Balanced Growth, said the water agency's bylaws state that it can supply water only to Alameda County homes in the Tri-Valley.

Environmentalists fear that water delivery in Pleasanton, Livermore and Dublin will suffer if the agency pipes water to homes outside of its boundaries.

"It says it very clearly, 'Thou shalt not export water out of the district,' " said Jim Day, a leader of the group. "Their duty is to take care of their existing customers."

The Zone 7 board of directors last month agreed to supply water to the huge subdivision that will be constructed near San Ramon and Danville.

The agreement was reached only after the developers, Shapell Industries and Windemere Ranch Partners, sweetened the deal by offering to pay \$18 million for the service.

That led Director John Marchand, who had opposed the water deal, to change his mind.

He said revenues from the Dougherty Valley deal will eventually cut water rates for 150,000 Zone 7 customers.

"Everybody acknowledges Dougherty Valley will be built," Marchand said yesterday. He added that it was better to have the extra money and new water rights and storage that the Dougherty Valley deal will provide.

Dougherty Valley developers bought water rights from the Berrenda Mesa Water District near Bakersfield. Zone 7 will divert the water from the California Aqueduct, then deliver to the Dublin San Ramon Services District, which would pipe it to 9,500 of the planned 11,000 Dougherty Valley homes.

Grading for the subdivision has begun, and the first homes are expected to be built by the end of the year.

Written By

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