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Aerojet reaches settlement on water

Bee Metro Staff - (Published October 21, 2003)

RANCHO CORDOVA -- Aerojet-General Corp. and American States Water Co., which owns Arden Cordova Water Service, have tentatively agreed to a \$10 million settlement of a lawsuit the water company filed in 1999, according to a news release issued last week by Aerojet parent GenCorp.

The settlement follows an agreement in August with Sacramento County to resolve a dispute over contaminated water.

Starting in the 1950s, rockets were tested and developed by defense contractors in Rancho Cordova. The testing produced pollutants that ended up in the groundwater.

The water company sought money and replacement water for contaminated drinking water wells near Aerojet, the release said. Aerojet said it expects to recover \$8 million from "the U.S. government and other third parties."

The settlement is for wells in Rancho Cordova that have already closed because of contaminated groundwater, the release said.

In August, Aerojet and Boeing signed an agreement with Sacramento County, providing the county \$25 million to pump, treat and deliver enough water to supply tens of thousands of homes a year.

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