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**Landmark Agreement Reached to Continue Safeguarding Birmingham Metro's Drinking Water Source**

Birmingham, August 24, 2023 — The Birmingham Water Works Board (BWWB), the Office of the Alabama Attorney General Office, Cahaba River Keeper, and the Cahaba River Society have jointly announced a groundbreaking settlement aimed at fortifying the protection of the crucial water source that serves the Birmingham metropolitan area. This collaborative effort exemplifies a resolute commitment to environmental preservation and community well-being.

Under the terms of the consent judgment, meticulously crafted through extensive negotiations, the parties have solidified their dedication to safeguarding the purity and sustainability of the water supply. This significant agreement will see the implementation of watershed protective covenants, which will be formally filed in both Jefferson County and Shelby County Probate Courts within the next 60 days.

According to Birmingham Water Works (BWW) General Manager Michael Johnson, "This agreement underscores this utility's commitment to provide safe and affordable drinking water to our service area. Our responsibility extends beyond the present moment, and this collaboration ensures that our precious water resources remain protected for generations to come."

Chairwoman Tereshia Huffman of the Birmingham Water Works Board expressed her enthusiasm, stating, "I am excited to reach this agreement with our community partners. This proactive step protects drinking water for our community for generations to come. It's a testament to what can be achieved when we work together to prioritize the long-term well-being of our environment and residents."

What sets this agreement apart is the longevity of its impact. The watershed protective covenants, designed to ensure the preservation of the land's integrity, will "run with the land" for a substantial span of as long as 75 years. This commitment underscores the gravity of the initiative and aligns with the Birmingham Water Works Board's ongoing commitment to protect Lake Purdy and the Cahaba River as essential water sources.

The protective measures encompass not only the current custodians of the land but also any potential future owners. Irrespective of land transfers or sales, the shield of preservation remains intact—a testament to the unwavering dedication to securing the region's water resources for generations to come.

The Birmingham Water Works Board remains steadfast in their dedication to preserving the purity and abundance of the region's drinking water. This monumental settlement stands as a testament to the power of unity and collective determination in the face of pressing environmental concerns.

**About Birmingham Water Works:**

Founded in 1951, Birmingham Water Works (BWW) serves nearly 770,000 people in Jefferson, Shelby, Blount, St. Clair, and Walker counties. The BWWB operates four filtration plants, a certified testing laboratory, and has more than 4,000 miles of pipe in its distribution network; it ranked among the top five water systems in the United States.