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Friday, July 18, 2003 · Last updated 5:52 p.m. PT

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## Proposed Microsoft settlement receives early approval

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEATTLE -- A California state judge on Friday gave preliminary approval to a \$1.1 billion proposed settlement between Microsoft Corp. and California consumers over alleged violations of the state's antitrust laws.

Consumers can now file claims under the settlement, which requires Microsoft to provide \$1.1 billion in vouchers for computer and software purchases from Microsoft or rival vendors. They can call 1-800-203-9995 to file their claims.

Two-thirds of any unclaimed portion of the settlement amount will go to California's poorest schools in the form of software, hardware and money for technology programs, under the terms of the agreement.

A hearing on final approval is expected early next year, said Microsoft spokesman Jim Desler. Microsoft has reached agreements with five of 17 states that have pressed class-action suits.

The lawsuits are separate from the antitrust lawsuit filed against

Mike Mailway  
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Microsoft by the U.S. Department of Justice and joined by 19 states. That case was settled last year, although one state, Massachusetts is appealing the agreement.

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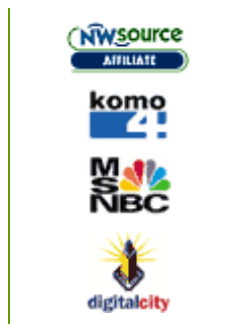
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(8:32 a.m. PT)

Two die fighting blown-out  
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(8:17 a.m. PT)

Boeing loses \$192 million in  
second quarter, lowers outlook  
(8:16 a.m. PT)

Three boats burn at Lake Union  
marina  
(7:44 a.m. PT)

Two arrested in discovery of  
dismembered remains  
(5:31 a.m. PT)

City, disabled woman settle  
access lawsuit  
(12:08 a.m. PT)

Dozen Anderson hay stacks  
catch fire  
(12:03 a.m. PT)

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