

# EXHIBIT A

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

REBECCA LEE WILLIS, on behalf of herself ) JUDICIAL COUNCIL COORDINATION  
and all others similarly situated, ) PROCEEDING NO. 4408  
)  
Plaintiff, )  
)  
vs. )  
)  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY WATERWORKS )  
DISTRICT NO. 40; CITY OF LANCASTER; )  
CITY OF LOS ANGELES; CITY OF )  
PALMDALE; PALMDALE WATER )  
DISTRICT; LITTLEROCK CREEK )  
IRRIGATION DISTRICT; PALM RANCH )  
IRRIGATION DISTRICT; QUARTZ HILL )  
WATER DISTRICT; ANTELOPE VALLEY )  
WATER CO.; ROSAMOND COMMUNITY )  
SERVICE DISTRICT; MOJAVE PUBLIC )  
UTILITY DISTRICT; and DOES 1 through )  
1,000; )  
)  
Defendants. )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

**TO: ALL PRIVATE LANDOWNERS WITHIN THE ANTELOPE VALLEY BASIN WHO DO NOT RECEIVE WATER FROM PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIERS**

**NOTICE OF PENDENCY OF CLASS ACTION**

1. THIS NOTICE IS TO ADVISE YOU ABOUT A PENDING CLASS ACTION. YOU HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AS A POTENTIAL CLASS MEMBER. *PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO READ THIS IMPORTANT LEGAL NOTICE AS IT MAY AFFECT YOUR PROPERTY RIGHTS. YOU ARE REQUIRED TO RETURN THE ATTACHED RESPONSE FORM WITHIN SIXTY DAYS.*

2. THIS CASE INVOLVES A DISPUTE OVER THE RIGHTS OF VARIOUS PERSONS TO GROUNDWATER UNDERLYING THE ANTELOPE VALLEY BASIN. Rebecca Willis is attempting to protect her right and that of other landowners to pump water on their properties in the future. THERE HAS BEEN NO DETERMINATION BY THE COURT AS TO THE MERITS OF THESE CLAIMS. This Notice is intended simply to inform you of the pendency of this case and your rights with respect thereto. You have been sent this Notice because as a property owner in the Antelope Valley your rights may be affected by this case.

### **ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE CLASS?**

3. On September 11, 2007, the Court ruled that Ms. Willis may pursue this matter on behalf of a Class consisting of all private (i.e., non-governmental) persons and entities that own real property within the Basin, as defined below, that are **not** presently pumping water on their property and have not done so at any time since January 18, 2001. The Class includes the successors-in-interest by way of purchase, gift, inheritance, or otherwise of such landowners.

4. The Class excludes certain persons. You are **not in the Class** if you fall within one of the below categories:

- A. Your property is connected to a municipal water system, public utility, or mutual water company from which you receive or are able to receive water service; **or**
  - B. Your property is within the service area of a Public Water Supplier and you have a water system agreement or water service agreement with that supplier.
5. You **are in the Class** if you own property within the Basin, as defined in paragraph 7, below, AND did not pump water for the five years preceding January 18, 2006; AND do not fall with any of the excluded groups in paragraphs 4A-4B, above.

### **WHAT IS THE CASE ABOUT?**

6. This case concerns the parties rights to pump and use groundwater underlying the Antelope Valley. The naturally available supply of water in the Basin is not adequate to satisfy all persons who want to use that water. Plaintiff Willis contends that she and other landowners have a priority to pump and use the groundwater greater than the rights of the Municipal Water Suppliers. The Water Suppliers contend that they have rights to use that water which may impact the rights of the overlying landowners who are in the Class. The Court has not ruled on the merits of these claims.

### **WHAT PROPERTIES DOES THE CASE COVER?**

7. The case generally covers all properties within the Antelope Valley Groundwater Basin. The precise boundaries and a map are set forth on the attached Exhibit A.

### **WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO?**

8. You are required to complete and return the attached **RESPONSE FORM WITHIN 60**

**DAYS.** If you are within the definition of the Class, you must decide whether to remain in the Class or exclude yourself from the Class. You should complete and return the enclosed letter stating whether you wish to (a) remain in the Class or (b) exclude yourself from the Class. If you remain in the Class

- You will be bound by the decision in the case, whether favorable or unfavorable; and
- Plaintiff Willis and her attorneys will act as your representatives in this case, and you will not personally be obligated to pay any fees or costs out of your pocket.

IF YOU WANT TO REMAIN A MEMBER OF THE CLASS, YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO DO ANYTHING. If you remain in the Class, you *may*, but need not, enter an appearance through your own counsel at your own expense.

*If you exclude yourself from the Class*, you will not be bound by any decision in this lawsuit; and you may pursue any claims you have by filing your own lawsuit. To request exclusion, you must complete and send the enclosed letter requesting exclusion from the Class postmarked no later than \_\_\_\_\_, 2007 to the following:

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
P.O. BOX \_\_\_\_\_  
Irvine, CA 92614

The request for exclusion must state your name and address, as well as the address of the property(ies) you own within the Basin.

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THE ENCLOSED FORM AS PROMPTLY AS POSSIBLE.

**WHERE CAN YOU GET ADDITIONAL INFORMATION?**

ALL OF THE DOCUMENTS FILED IN THE CASE ARE AVAILABLE ON-LINE AT <http://www.scefilling.org/cases/casehome.jsp?caseld=19>. The Complaint and certain other documents from the litigation are also available at \_\_\_\_\_. In addition, that website has a list of answers to certain other questions you may have. That website will be updated from time to time to advise you of the status of this litigation.

In addition, you may contact the following counsel for the parties for further information:

David B. Zlotnick, Esq.  
625 Broadway  
Suite 635  
San Diego, CA 92101  
619-232-0331  
(Class Counsel)

Stefanie Hedlund, Esq.  
Best Best & Krieger  
5 Park Plaza, Suite 1500  
Irvine, CA 92614  
949-263-2600  
(Defendants' Counsel)

PLEASE DO NOT CALL OR WRITE THE COURT OR CLERK'S OFFICE. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONSULT YOUR OWN COUNSEL OR CONTACT CLASS COUNSEL AT THE ADDRESS ABOVE.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_, 2007

BY ORDER OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF  
CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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(Perforation)

EXHIBIT A WILL BE THE DESCRIPTION OF THE ADJUDICATION AREA FROM THE COURT'S ORDER AND A MAP DEPICTING IT.

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(Perforation)

**ANTELOPE VALLEY GROUNDWATER LITIGATION RESPONSE FORM [SELF MAILER]**

**PLEASE CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOXES BELOW. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONSULT YOUR COUNSEL OR CLASS COUNSEL LISTED ABOVE. PLEASE CHECK ONLY ONE BOX FOR EACH ITEM. PLEASE THEN SIGN, FOLD, AND RETURN THE FORM.**

1. I DO \_\_\_ DO NOT \_\_\_ OWN PROPERTY WITHIN THE ANTELOPE VALLEY BASIN (AS DESCRIBED ON EXHIBIT A, ABOVE)

*IF YOU ANSWERED NO, PLEASE SIGN AND DATE BELOW AND RETURN THIS FORM. IF YOU ANSWERED YES, PLEASE CHECK **ONE** ANSWER FOR EACH STATEMENT BELOW:*

2. I AM \_\_\_ AM NOT \_\_\_ PRESENTLY PUMPING WATER ON MY PROPERTY.
3. I DID \_\_\_ DID NOT \_\_\_ PUMP WATER ON MY PROPERTY DURING THE FIVE YEAR PERIOD FROM JANUARY 18, 2001 THROUGH JANUARY 17, 2006.

**4. PLEASE SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

- A. I WANT TO REMAIN IN THE CLASS. \_\_\_\_\_
- B. I WANT TO EXCLUDE MYSELF FROM THE CLASS. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(PRINT YOUR NAME)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(SIGNATURE)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(MAILING ADDRESS)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(ADDRESS OF YOUR PROPERTY IN THE BASIN IF DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE)