

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 PALMDALE; PALMDALE)
WATER DISTRICT; LITTLEROCK CREEK)
IRRIGATION DISTRICT; PALM RANCH)
IRRIGATION DISTRICT; QUARTZ HILL)
WATER DISTRICT; ANTELOPE VALLEY)
WATER CO.; ROSAMOND COMMUNITY)
SERVICE DISTRICT; and DOES 1 through)
1,000;)

Defendants.

NOTICE OF CLASS ACTION

TO: ALL PRIVATE LANDOWNERS WITHIN THE ANTELOPE VALLEY

THIS LAWSUIT MAY AFFECT YOUR PROPERTY RIGHTS

This notice is to advise you about a pending class action lawsuit. You may be a member of the Class. **PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO READ THIS IMPORTANT LEGAL NOTICE. YOU ARE REQUIRED TO RETURN THE ATTACHED RESPONSE FORM WITHIN SIXTY DAYS.**

This Class Action lawsuit involves water rights in the Antelope Valley Groundwater Basin. Plaintiff Willis brought this case to protect her right and that of other landowners in the Basin to pump water on their properties in the future. The case has been combined with other cases to determine all the groundwater rights in the Basin. The Court has not yet decided the case. This Notice is intended to inform you of the pendency of this case and advise you how you can protect your rights. You have been sent this Notice because as a property owner in the Antelope Valley your rights to pump and use groundwater on your property may be affected by this case. **PLEASE RETURN THE ATTACHED RESPONSE FORM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, EVEN IF YOU DO NOT OWN PROPERTY IN THE ANTELOPE VALLEY.**

EXHIBIT A

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE CLASS?

You have been designated as a possible class member because records show that you may own property in the Antelope Valley. The class includes all private (i.e., non-governmental) landowners within the Antelope Valley Groundwater Basin, with certain exceptions set out below. A map of the Basin is attached to this notice.

You are NOT in the Class if you fall within one of the categories set forth below. BUT YOUR RIGHTS MAY BE AFFECTED UNLESS YOU RETURN THE ATTACHED RESPONSE FORM AND MAKE CLEAR THAT YOU ARE NOT IN THE CLASS. HENCE, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU RETURN THE RESPONSE FORM AS PROMPTLY AS POSSIBLE, EVEN IF YOU ARE NOT A CLASS MEMBER.

You are NOT in the Class if your property within the Antelope Valley Basin falls within any of the following categories:

1. You pump groundwater on your property or have done so within the last ___ years; or
2. You own a property that is larger than 100 acres (but you will be a class member to the extent you own other properties of lesser size); or
3. Your property is connected to a public water system or you have a contract to receive water for your property from a public water system; or
4. You are already a party to this litigation.

WHAT IS THE CASE ABOUT?

Under California law, property owners have a right to pump and use groundwater (water underneath the surface) on their land. In this case, however, the naturally available supply of water in the Basin is not adequate to satisfy everyone who wants to use that water. Plaintiff Willis brought this action to protect her right and that of other Antelope Valley landowners to pump and use the water under their properties and to obtain compensation for any wrongful taking of their property rights. She claims that she and other landowners have water rights which are superior to the rights of certain public water suppliers (listed as defendants on page 1) to use that water. The public water suppliers claim that their historical pumping has given them superior water rights. If the public water suppliers win, your rights to use the groundwater under your property may be cut back.

In other words, the Willis Class Action asks the Court to rule that private land owners in the Antelope Valley who do not presently pump water on their properties retain the right to use the water underlying their properties. The Court has not yet ruled on these claims.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO?

YOU ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE AND RETURN the attached RESPONSE FORM by _____, 2008. All persons who receive this Notice should return that form, so that the parties and Court will know whether you are a class member.

If you are a Class Member (any private (i.e., non-governmental) person or entity who owns property within the Antelope Valley Basin and who does not fall within any of the exclusions set forth above), you have the right to remain in the Class or exclude yourself from the Class. You should complete and return the attached response form 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.
- You *may*, but need not, hire your own lawyer at your own expense to represent you.

If you exclude yourself from the Class,

- You will not be bound by any decision that affects the Class;
- But you may be added to the lawsuit as an individual defendant, and you may have to represent yourself or hire a lawyer to represent you.

Please complete and return the attached response form no later than _____, 2008 to the following:

Antelope Valley Groundwater Litigation
P.O. BOX _____
_____, CA

WHERE CAN YOU GET ADDITIONAL INFORMATION?

The amended complaint and certain other documents from the litigation are available at www._____. In addition, that website has a list of answers to certain other questions you may have. That website has an e-mail address for you to obtain further information if you have questions. That website will be updated from time to time to advise you of the status of this litigation. Or you may call the following number for information: _____. Also, all of the documents filed in the case are available on the court's website at <http://www.scefiling.org/cases/casehome.jsp?caseId=19>.

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

Dated: _____, 2008

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

EXHIBIT A WILL BE THE MAP SHOWING THE BASIN (as set out in the Court's ruling).

ANTELOPE VALLEY GROUNDWATER LITIGATION RESPONSE FORM

[SELF MAILER]

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN A SEPARATE FORM FOR EACH SEPARATE PROPERTY YOU OWN WITHIN THE BASIN IN ORDER TO FULLY PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS.

PLEASE CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOXES BELOW AND RETURN THIS MAILER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND IN ANY EVENT BEFORE _____, 2008. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONSULT YOUR COUNSEL OR VISIT THE FOLLOWING WEB SITE, WHICH HAS INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW YOU SHOULD COMPLETE THIS FORM: _____. PLEASE CHECK ONLY ONE BOX FOR EACH ITEM. PLEASE THEN SIGN, FOLD, AND RETURN THE FORM.

1. I OWN ___ DO NOT OWN ___ PROPERTY WITHIN THE ANTELOPE VALLEY BASIN (AS SHOWN 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. YOU SHOULD COMPLETE AND RETURN A SEPARATE FORM FOR EACH SEPARATE PROPERTY YOU OWN IN THE BASIN*

2. I AM ___ AM NOT ___ PRESENTLY PUMPING GROUNDWATER ON MY PROPERTY.
3. I (or my predecessor owners) DID ___ DID NOT ___ PUMP GROUNDWATER ON MY PROPERTY IN THE PAST ___ YEARS.
4. PLEASE SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:
- A. I WANT TO REMAIN IN THE CLASS. _____
- B. I WANT TO EXCLUDE MYSELF FROM THE CLASS. _____

ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NUMBER AND ADDRESS OR LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF YOUR PROPERTY IN THE BASIN:

THE ABOVE PROPERTY TOTALS APPROXIMATELY _____ ACRES.

PRINT YOUR NAME: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE: _____

E-mail address
or telephone number: _____