

Exhibit *A*

Adjudication Antelope Valley Groundwater

Agenda:



- **Introductions**
- **Background**
- **Los Angeles County Farm Bureau**
- **Antelope Valley Groundwater Agreement Association, “AGWA”**
- **Next Meeting**
- **Public Questions and Comments**

Antelope Valley Groundwater Adjudication

Severe damage to the Antelope Valley is occurring Because:

- The Adjudication process is taking too long
- Threatens to damage too many parties
- And is too costly during these times of severe economic depression



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The Reason We Are Here Tonight:

- The Public Agencies have kept the community “In the Dark”
- The newspapers have Not adequately covered the Adjudication.



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Some Objectives of This Meeting:

- Inform the public, who have been “Kept in the Dark”
- Encourage the “Public Water Suppliers” to adopt a settlement that keeps the community whole
- Stop the tremendous waste of money on attorneys and technical people
- Especially during this extreme recession
- Encourage the public to step up and make themselves heard
- Begin circulation of a petition to form a Groundwater Storage District.

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“PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIERS” (PWS)

- Los Angeles County Waterworks No. 40 (LA Co. Waterworks)
- City of Lancaster
- City of Palmdale
- Palmdale Water District
- Rosamond Community Services District
- Quartz Hill Water District
- California Water Service Company
- Littlerock Creek Irrigation District
- Palm Ranch Irrigation District



Current Adjudication

Processes are based on:

Destruction

Rather than

Construction

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Especially Frustrating

(Because)

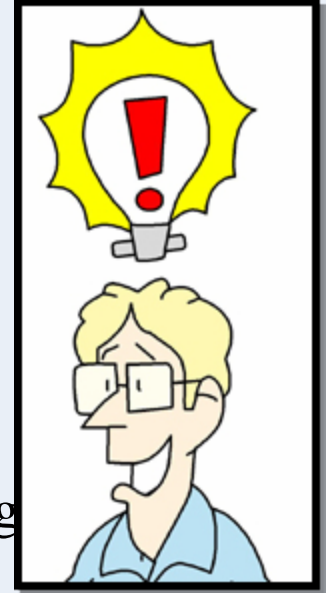
Solution Exists
to Improve Situation of
Every Person and Party
In the Basin



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PROPOSED SOLUTION

- Set Available yield at current pumping
- Allow equitable adjustments
- Provide “safety net” consisting of improved monitoring
- Make changes only if irrefutable, concrete evidence shows a need for changes



Supported by:

City of Lancaster, Supervisor
Antonovich's Office, and most
landowners

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SOME REASONS FOR PROPOSED APPROACH

- Will not throw the community into chaos
- This approach will be protective of the Basin
- Past pumping data with Basin water storage estimates over 25-year periods supports this level of pumping



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COMMUNITY CONCERNS

- The “Public Water Suppliers” are trying to take the landowners’ most important property rights.
 - Source: Los Angeles County Waterworks No. 40 Complaint and Public Water Suppliers First –Amended Cross-Complaint
- Using taxpayer and ratepayer monies to fund this effort
- Forcing their own citizens and constituency to go into their own pockets to get money to defend themselves.
- Dragging out the proceedings apparently to waste the landowners’ resources in hopes they will settle for less.
 - Source: Los Angeles County Waterworks No. 40 complaint filed November 2004 (52 Months Ago)
- Now trying to rush the Court to go to trial before the landowners are served and are prepared.
- Vigorously opposes jury trial
 - Source: Public Water Suppliers Regarding Jury Trail and AGWA Response



We Farm, You Eat

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**LAWSUIT
AGAINST
COMMUNITY**

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SOME “PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIER” CAUSES OF ACTION

- Prescriptive Rights (PWS have admitted to the Court that their groundwater pumping in the past has been unlawful.)
- Municipal priority (Water Code Section 106)
- Some agricultural irrigation constitutes waste and unreasonable use of water and is therefore unlawful.

Source: Los Angeles County Waterworks No. 40 Complaint and PWS first-amended cross-complaint



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SOME LANDOWNERS CAUSES OF ACTION IN RESPONSE

- PWS must import and recharge groundwater to make up for past unlawful pumping.
- Enjoin PWS from issuing “will-serve” letters
- Enjoin PWS from pumping groundwater
- Damages for improper disposal of wastewater
- Landscape irrigation is a waste and unreasonable use of water therefore is unlawful.



Source: WAGAS, AGWA, Bolthouse, Etc. Cross-Complaint

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WHAT THIS MEANS:

**Plenty of material to litigate in court
for years!**

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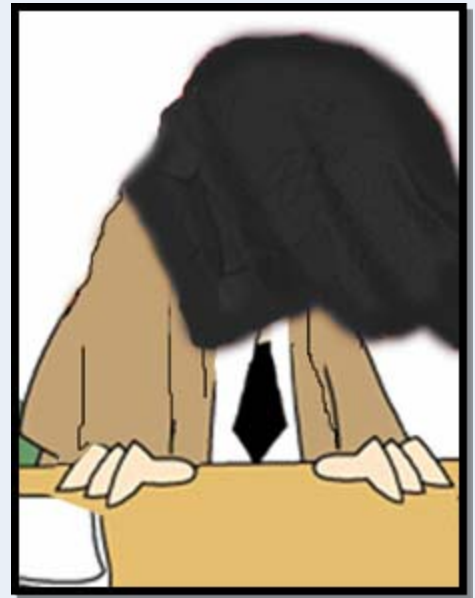
What are the Downsides of Going to Court?

- Spend Millions of Dollars on Lawyer and Expert Fees.
- Tie up the Community in Litigation for Years.
- Uncertain Outcome.
- Difficult if not Impossible to Change a Wrong Judicial Ruling
- No groundwater storage projects will occur.
- Inhibit and Damage Development
- **Court will be asked to enjoin the “Public Water Suppliers”**
 - From pumping groundwater
 - From issuing will-serve letters
 - From storing water in the ground
 - To restore the groundwater they have admitted pumping unlawfully

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TECHNIQUES TO KEEP THE LANDOWNERS “IN THE DARK”

- **Do not serve or notify the landowners.**
- **Two phases of the trial have already occurred.**
 - **Denial of due process**
- **Have newspaper notification in out of town newspapers rather than AV Press.**
- **Keep adjudication issues important to the citizens out of the papers.**
- **Have the trial in Los Angeles rather than in the Antelope Valley.**
- **No notification to landowners supplied by water districts**



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WHAT THIS MEANS:

This is you if you own property in the AV!



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Have the “Public Water Suppliers” Protected and Enhanced the Interests of:

- The citizens of the District
- Their ratepayers
- Those of the Community of the Antelope Valley



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**Have the “Public
Water
Suppliers”
Breached the
Public Trust?**

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Groundwater Storage District

- Many of the Public Agencies have disqualified themselves based on their actions and cannot be trusted to do what is best for the community.
- Landowners must take a leadership role
- Water Code Section 39000 *et.seq*



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**What *are* the Biggest Problems in
Reaching an Equitable
Negotiated Solution?**

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We are sick and tired of
**exporting millions of
dollars** out of the Valley
for lawyer and expert
fees.

Especially during this extreme
recession.



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Requested from the “Public Water Suppliers”

Agency

Los Angeles County Waterworks No. 40

City of Palmdale

City of Lancaster

Palmdale Water District

Rosamond Community Services District

Quartz Hill Water District

California Water Service Company

Littlerock Creek Irrigation District

Palm Ranch Irrigation District

County Sanitation District of Los Angeles County

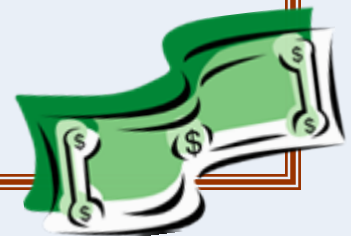
Antelope Valley East Kern Water Agency

Legal Fees

\$ _____

Consultants Costs

\$ _____



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COMMUNITIES' CHOICES

- Litigate for years, throw the community into chaos, and put off providing more water to the Antelope Valley and not protect the Basin
- Adopt an equitable plan that will protect the communities' rights and Establish a program soon to protect the Basin and the community



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What We Are Doing:

- Recalculating Basin Characteristics
 - Open and Transparent to Community
 - Anyone can participate
- Participate and Organize Principals Meetings
- Organize “Town Hall” Meetings
- Op. Ed. Articles in Newspapers
- Spots on Talk radio
- Public Service Announcements on TV



What You Can Do!

- Get Legal Representation
- Contact your Elected City Officials
 - Attend City Council Meetings
- Contact your County Officials
- Contact your Water District
 - Attend Water District Meetings
- Write letters to your local papers
- Talk to your neighbors tell them to become involved.

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Demand A Settlement ASAP

- Keep Community Whole
- Equitable to all

Demand That

- Millions of Dollars are not exported out of the Valley for lawyers and expert fees
- Taxpayers' and Ratepayers' money are not used to take their own property rights

If We Have To Go To Court Insist

- 190,000 Property Owners Know What Is Happening
- Trial is in the Antelope Valley, not LA
- Trial is by a jury

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Questions



**Antelope Valley Groundwater
Agreement Association,
“AGWA”**

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