



Central Basin's on the record statement to the Los Angeles Times

November 4, 2011

The below statement was provided by our General Manager this week to Sam Allen at the Los Angeles Times. We hope that this information will help him in writing a fair and accurate story and we will be very interested to see how it is used. A list of key facts, which is shared below, was also provided.

Statement from Art Aguilar:

"The Central Basin Municipal Water District provides consumers some of the lowest water rates in the region and is proud to have retained experts who have supported our effort to be able to continue providing the public some of the most affordable water rates in the area. Those interested in investigating high water rates being charged to consumers should be questioning why the Water Replenishment District is spending time and money, including creating fake and misleading online platforms, to attack Central Basin at the same time they are gouging customers with far higher water rates than they should be charged."

Key Facts:

1. The Central Basin Municipal Water District's surcharge is \$70 per acre foot, the lowest in the region.
2. An Infrastructure Surcharge of \$20 per acre foot was enacted in 2010 to fund projects that will strengthen the regional water supply system, create jobs and boost the economy. This surcharge will be removed once projects are complete. Even at a combined rate of \$90 per acre foot, Central Basin's rates are among the lowest.
3. The water rate charged by the Water Replenishment District is \$244 for each acre-foot of groundwater that is pumped. This includes a rate increase of 19% that was enacted in April 2011.
4. In ruling that the Water Replenishment District's replenishment assessment is an illegal tax, Judge Chalfant of the Los Angeles Superior Court specifically noted that the Water Replenishment District had levied fees for purposes other than those permitted by the Water Replenishment District Act and California Constitution.
5. The Water Replenishment District has appropriated more than \$450,000 for public outreach, conservation and education programs (a tenfold increase), which, according to the Los Angeles Superior Court, is an unconstitutional use of funds collected for the sole purpose of water replenishment.
6. Here are the links to the various misleading online platforms (known as cybersquatting) sponsored by the Water Replenishment District:

www.centralbasin.net
www.central-basin.com
www.centralbasinreplenishment.org