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VENTURA
WATER™

www.venturawater.net

July 15, 2020

Dear _____:

The Ventura River Watershed is a precious resource that we all depend on for life's most basic need — water. The Watershed supplies water to the many agricultural users, businesses, individuals, water districts and cities that rely on it, as well as wildlife that depend on it. Today, however, the Watershed is at risk as a result of changing climate conditions and prolonged periods of drought. The Watershed's resources are consistently being stretched to capacity. It is a serious challenge that requires timely action.

In order to safeguard this valuable water supply, the City of Ventura, in response to a lawsuit filed by Santa Barbara Channelkeeper, has commenced a legal process, the goal of which is to establish a collaborative, court-approved agreement (called a "physical solution") to protect this resource and those who rely on it.

What this means, is that the City is working with other water users to establish a plan that takes into account all of the Watershed's interests. This plan will be court-approved and binding. An example of one of those plan measures is to remove barriers to fish migration in the Watershed, to help ensure survival of the Southern California Steelhead. This approach enables a locally developed solution, rather than the State solely determining water usage, and allows the City and its settlement partners to maintain control of our unique local resource, considering all water users' needs and safeguarding this supply for users and the environment. The agreement would ensure that water users are held accountable — including the City — in an enforceable document.

In order for the court to approve a solution and settlement agreement between the City and other water stakeholders, the City must serve a summons and cross-complaint ("Service Package") on all owners of property abutting the Ventura River or its tributaries. You fall into this category.

The law requires the City to serve you with the Service Package. The City previously attempted to personally serve you with the Service Package, along with everyone else who owns similar property, but was not able to do so. As a result, the City is now making every effort to send you this Service Package via mail and will send you a form that allows you to acknowledge that you have received the Service Package. The City will send you a return envelope, postage prepaid, addressed to the City so that you can return the form acknowledgment that you have been served.

If the City does not obtain the acknowledgment from you within 20 days after you receive it, it will be required to serve you via publication. The City would greatly appreciate receiving your acknowledgment of receipt.

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What You Should Expect

In the upcoming weeks, you will receive the Service Packet via mail and a form for you to sign and return to the City. You are receiving this material because the law requires it. The specific property and/or properties covered by this notice are:

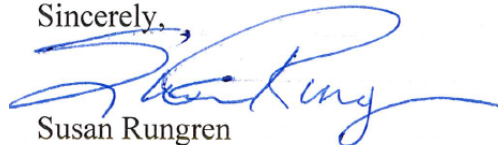
_____, _____, _____, _____, _____

The City would like to note that it is not actively seeking litigation in this matter, and is working with other water users to establish a collaborative, court-approved physical solution to protect the Watershed and reach a settlement agreement. However, until an agreement is reached, you are a party to the lawsuit, and the law requires that if you wish to participate in the lawsuit you must file an answer to the City's cross-complaint within 60 days as specified in the summons you will receive. You may choose to use a form answer that is provided on the Ventura River Watershed Adjudication website at www.venturariverwatershedadjudication.com/documents. The City is not seeking any monetary judgment and the action will not directly impact people who receive water from a public water provider. It is possible that implementation of the proposed physical solution may increase costs to public water providers and may result in increased water rates in the future. It is also possible that monetary assessments may be imposed on those that divert and/or pump water from the Watershed.

For more information about the City's goals in this process, as well as answers to frequently asked questions, please visit www.venturariver.com — a website the City has created to cover this issue exclusively. Additional information and legal documents may be found at the official adjudication website: www.venturariverwatershedadjudication.com. If you have questions about this letter, please feel free to contact me or the City Manager's Office at (805) 654-7740. If you have questions about the legal material, please feel free to contact Patrick Skahan with Best, Best & Krieger at (213)-542-3869, or consult with your own attorney. The City and its attorneys cannot give you legal advice.

The City recognizes its responsibility in providing clear communication about this complicated process, and is committed to performing its due diligence in this matter to ensure clarity and transparency of the proceedings and any actions that may impact water users. This is a pivotal moment for the Watershed. To reach our collective goals of protecting our vital local resources and environment, and maintaining local control, we all need to have clear and accurate information. The City looks forward to working with everyone who has an interest in this proceeding to achieve these goals.

Sincerely,



Susan Rungren
Ventura Water General Manager
City of Ventura