

December 16, 2021

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL

Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin
Property Owner and/or Occupant

Re: *Indian Wells Valley Water District v. All Persons Who Claim a Right to Extract Groundwater in the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin No. 6-54 etc.; et al.*
(Orange County Superior Court Case No. 30-2021-01187275-CU-OR-CJC):
Notice of Comprehensive Groundwater Adjudication & Form Answer

Dear Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin Property Owner and/or Occupant:

On June 16, 2021, the Indian Wells Valley Water District (“District”) filed a water rights lawsuit to resolve the long-standing conditions in the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin (“Basin”) where water use has exceeded groundwater supply for years. This lawsuit is referred to as a “comprehensive adjudication” and should determine the water rights and quantities of all groundwater pumpers in the Basin. The District’s Board of Directors believes this lawsuit is necessary to protect and conserve the limited water supply that is vital to the public health, safety, and welfare of all persons and entities within the Basin.

The lawsuit is entitled *Indian Wells Valley Water District v. All Persons Who Claim a Right to Extract Groundwater in the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin No. 6-54 whether Based on Appropriation, Overlying Right, or Other Basis of Right, and/or Claim a Right to Use Storage Space in the Basin*. The lawsuit is now pending in the Orange County Superior Court.

The District filed this action on behalf of the District and not as a member of the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority that was formed pursuant to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and that developed and adopted what is called the “Groundwater Sustainability Plan” or “GSP” in January 2020.

Why Am I Receiving this Letter?

On October 13, 2021, the court entered an order approving a Notice of Commencement of Groundwater Basin Adjudication and Form Answer to Adjudication Cross-Complaint for use in this lawsuit. You are receiving this letter because you own and/or occupy land within the Basin and California law requires that the District provide all Basin landowners and occupants with a copy of these court-approved documents. Accordingly, a copy of each document is enclosed.

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Failing to participate in this lawsuit could have a significant adverse effect on any right to pump or store groundwater you may have. The District will request that any person that fails to appear in the lawsuit be bound by any judgment and their rights in the Basin, if any, be limited to the terms of the judgment.

How Do I Participate in this Lawsuit?

You may use the enclosed Form Answer to Adjudication Cross-Complaint to become a party to and to participate in the lawsuit. To do so, please complete the Form Answer, email or mail a copy to our office, and file a copy with the Orange County Superior Court. For filing with the court, the court strongly encourages self-represented parties to use one of its approved electronic filing service providers. Information about electronic filing is available here: <https://www.occourts.org/online-services/efiling/efiling-civil.html>. **Please note that to participate in the lawsuit, you must file an answer, such as the Form Answer, within sixty (60) days of receiving this letter.**

Please also note that the Court scheduled a Case Management Conference for March 15, 2022 at 10:00 AM in Department C16 of the Orange County Superior Court (located at 700 West Civic Center Drive, Santa Ana, California 92701).

How Can I Get More Information?

For more information, you may visit the District's website at <https://www.iwvwd.com/basin-adjudication/>. The District periodically updates the website as information becomes available.

The District will host at least two public workshops to provide more information and answer questions. The first workshop, held on December 14, 2021, was recorded and is available on the District's adjudication website, <https://www.iwvwd.com/basin-adjudication/>. Another workshop will be held after the first of the year, most likely at the City of Ridgecrest City Hall Council Chambers, located at 100 West California Avenue in Ridgecrest. The District will publicize the date, time, and location of this second workshop.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at iwvgb@murphyevertz.com or (714) 277-1750.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Douglas J. Evertz

Douglas J. Evertz of
MURPHY & EVERTZ LLP

Enclosures