



STOP THE WATER WASTE!



Los Angeles water consumers and businesses refuse to continue to be "fish on a hook" for a government regulator. We applaud LADWP's decision to ask a federal court to halt this regulator's unreasonable demands on L.A. residents and businesses and on California's scarce water supply.

The regulator is the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District, from Inyo County, California. For more than a decade LADWP's consumers have paid for the construction and operation of dust control measures on the dry Owens Lakebed. The project has cost \$1.2 billion dollars and absorbed billions of gallons of fresh drinking water -- all in an effort to fulfill the city's commitment to control dust resulting from diverting water from Owens Lake that started a century ago.

This year, the Great Basin regulator has demanded that Los Angeles water consumers dramatically expand the scope of efforts to control dust that Los Angeles did nothing to cause. These orders violate the law and will add another \$400 million dollars to the cost of the project.

Enough is Enough

Why should roughly two months of the average L.A. consumer's water bill be used to pay Great Basin's \$750 an hour legal bills; to fully fund the pensions and salaries of the bureaucrats who are taking this unlawful action; and to compel the continued pouring of billions of gallons of fresh drinking water on the Owens Valley floor until the desert ceases to produce dust -- a result that will never be achieved? All while other responsible parties are given a free ride because, in the words of Great Basin's chief administrator, L.A. consumers are right where he wants them, like "fish on a hook."

LADWP's dust mitigation efforts in the Owens Valley have been incredibly successful. In fact, L.A.'s efforts have gone beyond what was necessary to reduce air pollution related to water diversion.

We all know that water is an increasingly precious and expensive commodity, and all of our efforts at water conservation have resulted in dramatic savings. In fact, Los Angeles uses less water today than it did 40 years ago, despite growing by a million people. But while we all conserve water, every year the LADWP is forced to pour on the Owens Valley desert floor more than the amount of fresh drinking water the citizens of San Francisco consume in an entire year. That's enough water to fill and overflow the Rose Bowl each and every day of the year. It makes no sense. Water is scarce and this waste of water in the Owens Valley means LADWP has to buy more expensive water from the Metropolitan Water District, placing even greater strain on the Bay/Delta.

LADWP did the right thing by asking for relief from the federal courts. As L.A. water consumers, our patience has run out, and we will strongly oppose any effort by Great Basin to require us to pay for dust control that is beyond our responsibility.

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