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**GREEN VALLEY LANDOWNERS’ ASSOCIATION TO APPEAL MISGUIDED RULING IN LAKES WATER SYSTEM CASE**

*Appeal to argue City of Vallejo failed to maintain Lakes Water System, unfairly shifting repair costs to 800 families for system designed to serve 30,000*

*Health and safety concerns on the rise for water customers in Green Valley, Gordon Valley, parts of Cordelia and other areas*

**Vallejo, Calif.** – Today Judge Arvid Johnson supported a demurrer motion filed by the City Vallejo in a lawsuit filed by the Green Valley Landowners’ Association (GVLA) contesting Vallejo’s discriminatory water billing practices. At issue is the Lakes Water System (LWS), which has been poorly maintained and currently provides water to approximately 800 families. Judge Johnson’s decision puts an immediate stop to the lawsuit pending appeal.

“We are obviously disappointed by Judge Johnson’s decision, which we believe is deeply flawed,” said Stephen Flynn, the attorney representing GVLA in the case. “The Lakes Water System was built to serve 30,000 Vallejo residents. Now that the system has fallen into disrepair, the city is washing its hands of the whole situation. We are eager to argue our issues before the California Court of Appeals, where we are confident today’s ruling will be reversed.”

LWS was built by the City of Vallejo in the early 1900’s. The system was Vallejo’s only source of water for approximately sixty years. The LWS consists of three reservoirs in the hills above Green Valley and in Napa’s Gordon Valley and a network of pipes and other infrastructure designed to transport water primarily to the benefit of Vallejo residents.

Although the LWS was constructed to provide water to Vallejo, the city allowed a handful of non-residents to receive water through the LWS. Some of these arrangements were made in exchange for granting Vallejo easements to run the city’s pipes through private property.

Today, approximately 800 families in Green Valley, Gordon Valley, Cordelia, Willotta Oaks and American Canyon receive water from the system. It is these customers who are now solely financially responsible for upgrading and repairing the aged system. In recent months, there have been several significant breaks of pipes in the Lakes Water System that left many residents with little to no water. At issue in the lawsuit is whether the City of Vallejo should pay a proportional share to return the system to good working order, since it has allowed the system to fall into disrepair.

Vallejo has indicated it intends to sell the LWS to a private investor-owned utility. If the system is sold to a private utility, current estimates show that the average water bill for the remaining 800 families would likely be in excess of $7,000 per year. Many LWS customers would face significant hardship if forced to pay such a high price for water.

“The City of Vallejo’s actions in this matter are simply unconscionable,” added GVLA President Bill Mayben. “Judge Johnson’s decision leaves us with no choice but to take this issue to the Court of Appeals. The City has acted in bad faith, and continues to do so. We will pursue this matter until we reach a fair outcome for Lakes Water System customers.”

The Green Valley Landowners’ Association plans to file its lawsuit with the California Court of Appeal later this week.

“We’re looking forward to having the Court of Appeal review our lawsuit *de novo* with regard to the matters of law in the case,” added Mr. Flynn. “There are a lot of complex issues involved in this matter, and we respectfully disagree with Judge Johnson’s ruling. We feel confident moving forward into this next phase of the lawsuit.”

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