



Central Basin
Municipal Water District

August 1, 2014

6252 Telegraph Road
Commerce, CA 90040-2512

Phone: 323.201.5500
Fax: 323.201.5550
www.centralbasin.org

President

Phillip D. Hawkins

Honorable Andre Birotte
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
312 North Spring Street, 12th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Ms. Jackie Lacey
LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
210 West Temple Street, Suite 18000
Los Angeles, CA 90012-3210

Dear Mr. Birotte and Ms. Lacey:

Division V Serving Cities of

Artesia
Bellflower
Cerritos
Hawaiian Gardens
Lakewood
Paramount
Signal Hill

On July 28th 2014, the Central Basin Municipal Water District (CBMWD) Board directed its staff to conduct an investigation into how a copy of a confidential federal grand jury subpoena that was issued to the CBMWD (hereinafter "subpoena") came into the possession of a private citizen. The private citizen, Ms. Lorraine Cervantes, addressed the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) Board during Public Comment on July 8th 2014 and then provided a packet of documents, which included a copy of the subpoena, to Metropolitan Water District staff for distribution. MWD then forwarded a copy of the packet to CBMWD.

Upon closer inspection of the copy of the subpoena, it was discovered that the document did not match the original subpoena in CBMWD's files: it appeared the subpoena's attachment page – which described the information requested by the federal authorities - had been altered to falsely include text and names that were not part of the original subpoena. Moreover, the portion of the cover letter from the prosecutor which instructs that the contents of this subpoena may not be publicly disclosed, and that such disclosure may constitute a violation under the United States criminal code, was missing.

CBMWD Special Counsel Arent Fox advised the District that tampering with and then distributing a confidential federal subpoena is a very serious criminal act which could be punishable under both federal and state criminal laws, and that law enforcement should be notified. I directed the General Manager to instruct Arent Fox to inform the U.S. Attorney's office of the fraudulent federal subpoena being distributed by Ms. Cervantes. Arent Fox has informed the District that the U.S. Attorney's office has been notified of these facts.

Unfortunately, it is my opinion that it is highly likely the subpoena in Ms. Cervantes' possession originated from within the District. Leaking of a subpoena to the public is by itself a serious crime, one which undermines the public's confidence in the integrity of institutions such as the grand jury. But altering a law enforcement document and making false representations about it is especially heinous. Ms. Cervantes' actions and those guilty of leaking confidential federal documents is an expensive distraction which inhibits the pursuit of the District's mission, and could expose the District to costly litigation. I am strongly urging law enforcement to aggressively investigate this case, and to prosecute the guilty parties if warranted.

This request is driven by sound public policy, and I would greatly appreciate a prompt response. The integrity of our public agency is at question and the possible involvement of any member of the CBMWD is of grave and important public concern.

Thank you for your consideration. My office and the staff of the Central Basin Municipal Water District, and I believe all the other Members of our Board, will be available to provide any and all information to assist in your evaluation of this important matter.

Sincerely,



Phillip D. Hawkins
President of the Board
Central Basin Municipal Water District

Cc: Mr. Douglas M. Miller, Assistant United States Attorney
Ms. Anne Ingalls, Head Deputy District Attorney
Michael Zweiback Esq., Arent Fox
Arnold Alvarez-Glasman Esq., Alvarez-Glasman & Colvin
Antonio Perez, General Manager CBMWD
Metropolitan Water District Board of Directors
Central Basin Municipal Water District Board of Directors

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