

DALLAS FOWLER

CONSULTANT

2158 WEST VIEW STREET, LOS ANGELES, CA 90016

November 11, 2020

THIRD AND FINAL NOTICE OF DEMAND FOR PAYMENT

Administration and Finance Committee

Central Basin Municipal Water District

6252 Telegraph Road, Commerce, CA 90040-2512

Tel: 323.201.5500 | FAX: 323.201.5550

**Sent via email: sharonk@centralbasin.org, artc@centralbasin.org,
roberta@centralbasin.org, philliph@centralbasin.org, alexr@centralbasin.org**

Greetings CBMWD Administration and Finance Committee,

It is with unfortunate displeasure that I am writing you today. On a verbal agreement with Central Basin Directors and the General Manager at the time I performed emergency services based on the good faith and credit of the Central Basin Municipal Water District during the period of June 2020 – August 2020. As my requests for payment has been ignored by your current General Manager Alex Rojas yet according to public record he is paying many other invoices without contract and sometimes even without board approval for amounts over his \$25,000 approval threshold.

We were at the height of a pandemic and racial & civil unrest and SB 625 was being fast tracked through the Assembly with no public comment. I was contacted by the President of your board at the time Director Leticia Vasquez-Wilson for emergency assistance to provide outreach around this bill. Subsequently, I had further dialogue with Leticia, Director Martha Camacho-Rodriguez and the general manager at the time Carlos Panilla who told me they were not able to access the building to formalize any contracts but I would still be able to invoice and be compensated.

THIRD AND FINAL NOTICE OF DEMAND FOR PAYMENT

Continued...

I'm not sure why I am experiencing this form of discrimination but I it should not be tolerated by this committee or the Central Basin Board of Directors. As my integrity is now being attacked by local blogs for submitting an invoice based on a verbal agreement for emergency services to educate the community about the impacts of SB 625.

I shall not suffer any further damages. It was made clear to me that I would be compensated for my services. Included in this email are details of the services performed.

We worked on this daily for almost three months. Unless I receive payment in full for the total amount of \$19,600.00 by Friday, November 13, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. pacific. I will seek appropriate relief before a court of proper jurisdiction for full payment of the check, plus all costs, treble damages and witness and legal fees. Our grassroots efforts were effective and resulted in the bill being shelved. We were very successful.

Please see the attached supporting documentation. I am hopeful that we can resolve this matter without going through court proceedings. I am sure it is not the intent and practice of Central Basin to discriminate against minority women business enterprises and I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

Dallas D. Fowler

Almost every day of the period of June – August of 2020 I participated in daily morning and evening briefings and provided a daily tracking of the bill's activity and status. I have phone records that will also confirm this as fact. I also coordinated meetings and briefings with legislators, community advocacy groups, media, local clubs, etc. I would brief the Directors before their meetings with the legislature and we would discuss strategy and best practices to communicate the impact of the bill. I also provided talking points for certain organizations who had taken the bill up for consideration.

Leticia contacted me about the bill being introduced and I began researching and compiling the details about the districts solvency, the impact of the bill, the history of similar bills, and compiling a plan of action to get the district residents attention and setting up meetings for Central Basin Directors to talk with legislators about the bill.

A Media Alert was blasted and updated several times over the course of the two months and went out to several environmental news wires. We began outreaching via social media and creating social memes to educate the southern california residents on SB 625. Providing daily briefings and status updates while tracking the bill as well as strategy to motivate each member from community stakeholders, grassroots organizers, water and environmental advocates, and host of advocacy groups, commissioners, block clubs, elected officials, appointed officials from their districts.

Email to Alejandro Rojas
September 23, 2020 9:37 am

Greetings Alex,

I'm Dallas Fowler, Consultant, I was referred to you by Directors Vasquez-Wilson and Comacho-Rogriguez to submit my invoices for work performed June - August of 2020. Let me know if you will need a W-9 or any additional information.

In Summary

I provided public relations and community outreach around the impact of SB 625. I worked a total of about 245 hours over the course of June - July to help spread awareness of the effort send Central Basin into receivership. It was my pleasure to assist with coalition development and empower residents of the Central Basin, surrounding communities, and throughout the state of California as well as national attention.

Public Relations

Creating press releases, press kits, social media videos, and spreading that information to local and national media outlets. Using environmental news-wires to inspire advocacy and earned media.

Community Outreach & Communication Strategy

Alerting the communities withing the Central Basin via email, social media, and community group networking. Speaking at numerous community and policy watchdog groups. Activating

climate and water reliability activists to educate and further outreach including digital advertisement.

Coalition Development

Working with the Directors to pull in organizations and advocacy groups to engage the issue and take action. Collecting support letters. Updating supporters on the cause. Educating new and smaller organizations on water municipalities and the importance of their voices.

Search Engine Optimization

Boosted more positive news stories about the overall fiscal health of Central Basin and other articles water related that could help to share more positive news stories happening in the district.

This was also a labor of love. My standard hourly rate is \$195, you will find that I am billing at less than half of that and even comped the third month because I believed personally in Central Basin's right to be managed by its elected body. I look forward to meeting with you Alex and possibly furthering a relationship with Central Basin.

Thank you,
Dallas Fowler

Attachments (invoices)

RESPONSE FROM ALEX ROJAS SEPTEMBER 23, 2020 11:39 AM

Dallas,

Can you send me the approved/signed contract?

Best.

Alex R
General Manager
CBMWD
E: alexr@centralbasin.org
M: 323.895.6185

FOWLER RESPONSE TO ALEX ROJAS - September 23, 2020 2:36 PM

Greetings Alex,

As you know the state of Central Basin prior to the July court decision there was no clarity on getting a signed agreement and these were emergency services that I did not delay due to COVID and the office closure. Further, Carlos Panilla was the contracted General Manager up until July 23rd. I did the work based on the good faith of Central Basin and who was thought to be at that time the General Manager and that I would be able to invoice once services were complete. Also this rate is a deeply discounted based on your circumstances.

However, I am happy to provide you with a contract. See an attached contract and updated invoice, also please let me know if you have a W-9 you would like filled out as well.

Thank you,

Dallas Fowler
310.429.5777 m

(Attachments invoice, sample contract)

MEDIA ALERT: DIRTY WATER OPPOSE SB625 THE HOSTILE TAKEOVER AND PRIVATIZATION OF CENTRAL BASIN WATER DISTRICT

For media inquiries please contact Dallas Fowler (310) 429 - 5777

WHAT:

Senate Bill 625 is an effort to circumvent a court hearing scheduled for July 23, 2020 which will determine whether 4 members of the Central Basin's 7 Member Board are a majority to take action.

Oppose Senate Bill 625 because:

- ✓ Violates all notice rules and due process
- ✓ SB625 was introduced 12 days ago without input from the community
- ✓ Disenfranchises over \$2 million voters in Southeast Los Angeles wiping out a democratically elected board
- ✓ Cancels an election
- ✓ Violates the very law that created Central Basin by way of a ballot election from its electorate
- ✓ Eliminates a majority Latino elected water board in a time where there is a need for more Latino representation in this industry
- ✓ Violates civil rights
- ✓ Violates voting rights
- ✓ Unconstitutional
- ✓ Public was locked out of hearings
- ✓ Threatens other Metropolitan Water District of Southern Ca member agencies
- ✓ There was no notice to the community
- ✓ Plan to give away approx. \$100 million in public assets to secret private water interest
- ✓ Bill was amended without public discussion
- ✓ Cancels the election scheduled for November 2020
- ✓ Eliminates Central Basin's representation on the Metropolitan Water District
- ✓ Water rates will increase
- ✓ Bill was introduced on May 26, 2020 and is a gut and amend meant to deceive the citizens of our District with false statements
- ✓ This is not a Covid-19 bill and should not be heard without community input
- ✓ The issues identified in the 2015 Ca Audit are dated and have been fixed
- ✓ 5 elections have occurred since the 2015 state audit and this is a completely different board
- ✓ Makes numerous misrepresentations about the status of Central Basin

WHO:

Senator Steven Bradford authored (gut and amend) claims he was “set up” to carry the bill

Assemblymember Reginald Jones-Sawyer (carrying on assembly side) under pressure of Speaker to maintain support for his re-election

Speaker Anthony Rendón - Member of the area, his attorney Alf Brandt former MWD board member Alf Brandt true author of SB 625

Assemblymember Cristina Garcia

Member over the area, wrote AB1794 that put the private water companies on the board to shut down the Central Basin

Assemblymember Wendy Carillo Co-Sponsor of the bill <https://www.loscerritosnews.net/2019/12/21/was-asm-cristina-garcias-water-bill-a-scheme-to-bankrupt-central-basin/>

Assemblymember Ian Calderon

Co-Sponsor of the Bill

Supervisor Janice Hahn -

Rumored Family ownership in Suburban Water Systems

Local Agency Formation Commission of Los Angeles County (Hilda Solis, Donald Dear, Gerard McCallum, Kathryn Barger, David Ryu)

WRD - Water Replenishment District Wants to annex Central Basin

Olivarez Madruga Lemieux O'Neill, LLP - recently resigned as general counsel for Central Basin after confronted by the board for instructing staff to wire \$30,000 payment to Nossoman, LLP without board approval among many other unlawful unilateral directives to staff they did not have authority to make. They are also currently providing counsel to Metropolitan Water District.

Nossoman, LLP was the counsel hired by WRD and are the same attorney's representing Cristina Garcia and Wendy Carillo in their sexual harassment cases in Sacramento

Sebastian Ridley-Thomas - heads the government relations firm hired to lobby for WRD in Sacramento

Anthony Willoughby - Counsel for Central Basin (may have conflict w WRD and/or Board Members past present)

WHY:

POWER GRAB FOR WRD, Rendón, and Garcia plan to stop Central Basin who applied to receive the Sativa Water District which went into receivership and was cleaned with public funds and yet handed over to a private water company called Suburban Water Systems. Central Basin constituents see this as the blueprint for privatization of their water.

Cristina Garcia authored AB1794 which is a water bill specifically for Central Basin and according to her, her law overrides constitutional law, federal, state laws water codes, and the Brown Act by stipulating that a simple majority of 4 votes on a 7 member board can not move forward with any action.

SB625 is being rapidly advanced under the false premise that it is COVID-19 related to circumvent a court hearing set for July 23, 2020 determining what constitutes a simple majority vote of the Central Basin Board of Directors.

HOW:

2 million people represented by the Central Basin Water District will be disenfranchised and no longer represented by the officials they elected. The public ownership/local control of their water will go to another board (WRD) that they did NOT elect until the Local Agency Formation Commission decides who the final manager will be which the concern is that it will go to a private entity to control like Sativa went to Suburban Water Systems.

The bill makes numerous mis-representations about Central Basin. The following are some important FACTS about Central Basin:

- ✓ Central Basin has a General Manager
- ✓ Central Basin is delivering clean and affordable water
- ✓ Central Basin has a General Council
- ✓ Central Basin is fiscally solvent
- ✓ Central Basin has a Chair and Vice Chair
- ✓ Central Basin is financially stable (8 million in reserves and approx. 100 million in assets)
- ✓ Central Basin enacted all 33 recommendation by the Ca State auditor in 2015
- ✓ 5 elections have occurred since the 2015 audit and this is a completely different board.
- ✓ Central Basin Board never authorized an illegal trust fund. It was created by former Central Basin lawyers without the knowledge of the Board. Central Basin Board sued and recovered \$2.35 million.

QUOTES

“There are a number of problems with this bill...removing elected representation, presenting problems the board (central basin) had in the past that are not issues today. More importantly, it sets a precedence. This is wrong and if it can happen here it can happen anywhere. We need our communities to speak up and use your rights to support the opposition of SB625.”

Senator Bob Archuleta
California 32nd Senate District

“As we have experienced first hand in our poor and working class communities across the country, water and access to it has increasingly becoming a civil rights issue. This is happening in Flint Michigan and Compton, lack of affordability, lack of public investment in our system and an attack on our governing structures that give our communities a voice and a seat at the table on these issues. SB 625 was introduced in Ca Legislature 10 days ago in a time when no one is watching. This bill and its intent is to
This bill is a violation of our civil rights, a violation of our due process rights, a violation of our voting right act. SB 625 is unconstitutional”

Leticia Vasquez-Wilson
President of the Board
Central Basin Water District Board Director Division IV

“The agenda of the author/coauthors should be sanctioned and viewed as a terrorist act upon my community of color. This is a classist and racist move to inflict harm against the most vulnerable and prevent the process of the human right to water. This power grab is a pattern

set by these authors, to privatize water. Your motives and agenda are as bad as our 300 contaminated wells that are worse than Flint, Michigan's water."

Martha Camacho Rodriguez
Central Basin Municipal Water District
Director, Division I

"Senate Bill 625 is a bad bill. SB625 is for the private water companies and not for the community. Why are you trying to privatize? How many of our elected officials have received money from these private entities? Do the job that we elected you to do 'for the people by the people.' Central Basin passed their audit with flying colors. Dissolving a solvent and elected body is a violation of the people's basic rights to representation and water."

Barbara Calhoun
Compton Community College Board of Trustees and Former Compton City Councilwoman

"Our main concern is that the community has not had the opportunity to buy into their own water rights before they have been sold or licensed off to private entities that we have not elected which is a violation of our basic human rights to water and representation. "

Paulette Simpson-Gipson
President, Compton NAACP

SAMPLE E-BLAST

I think a one-paragraph plea/CTA could go something like this:

The Central Basin Water District is about to be gutted & handed over to private business. Taxpayers have put money for decades into improving the district, improving its water recycling, & funding improvements for their own water. SB 625 would dissolve the last remaining democratic aspects of the district & hand it over to private interests, just like the Sativa Water District. Should they get to line their pockets with your tax dollars? The CA Senate is voting on this on [DATE].

Call your State Senator today & let them know you don't support handing more of California's resources over for private profit. Tell them: your water should be yours!

Dear Friends and Familia,

I hope this message finds you well and your loved ones safe and healthy. 💖 I'm reaching out for help and support. Recently, there has been an aggressive effort to privatize our community water systems for the sole purpose of profiteering on the back of our community. We cannot allow this to happen. It happened in Bellflower, Montebello, Sativa Water District in Compton and now Central Basin is the target.

On Monday at our State Capital there is a public hearing to attempt to pass a law to do this to Central Basin. We need you to speak out against this.

Monday, June 1, 2020 @ 11am

You can access the meeting here. The public phone number will be posted on our website Monday morning. Our website is: <https://alcl.assembly.ca.gov/>

Monday you can access the hearing through the following link: <https://www.assembly.ca.gov/todaysevents>

#waterislife

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR COMMENT MUST BE SHORT AND NO MORE THAN 2-3 SENTENCES.

My name is — — —

I live in the city of — — - which is in the Central Basin Water District.

I oppose SB 625 because

1. In this Covid-19 pandemic the legislature should focus on fixing California's economy not giving way our community water systems. SB 625 is not an urgency bill. Say no to SB 625

2158 South West View Street
Los Angeles, CA 90016

DALLAS FOWLER

INVOICE NO. 2006

Issued on June 10, 2020

DESCRIPTION	RATE	HOUR	PRICE
PUBLIC RELATIONS	N/A	120	\$4,900.00
COMMUNITY OUTREACH	-		\$4,900.00
COALITION DEVELOPMENT			
EARNED MEDIA			
SEARCH ENGINE OPTIMIZATION			
TOTAL AMOUNT			\$ 9,800.00

AMOUNT DUE 6-10-2020 \$4,900.00

AMOUNT DUE 7-1-2020 \$4,900.00

TOTAL AMOUNT NOW DUE \$9,800.00

Central Basin Municipal Water District
6252 Telegraph Road
Commerce, CA 90040-2512
Tel: 323.201.5500 | FAX: 323.201.5550

PAYMENT DETAILS

**MAKE CHECK AVAILABLE
FOR PICK UP**

2158 South West View Street
Los Angeles, CA 90016

DALLAS FOWLER

INVOICE NO. 2009

Issued on July 10, 2020

DESCRIPTION	RATE	HOUR	PRICE
PUBLIC RELATIONS	N/A	120	\$4,900.00
COMMUNITY OUTREACH	-		\$4,900.00
COALITION DEVELOPMENT			
EARNED MEDIA			
SEARCH ENGINE OPTIMIZATION			
TOTAL AMOUNT			\$9,800.00

AMOUNT DUE 7-10-2020 \$4,900.00

AMOUNT DUE 8-1-2020 \$4,900.00

TOTAL AMOUNT NOW DUE \$9,800.00

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6252 Telegraph Road
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PAYMENT DETAILS

**MAKE CHECK AVAILABLE
FOR PICK UP**

2158 South West View Street
Los Angeles, CA 90016

DALLAS FOWLER

INVOICE NO. 2011

Issued on September 10, 2020

DESCRIPTION	RATE	HOUR	PRICE
COMMUNITY OUTREACH	N/A	5	\$00.00
COALITION DEVELOPMENT	-		\$00.00
TOTAL AMOUNT			00.00

AMOUNT DUE 7-1-2020	\$9,800.00
AMOUNT DUE 8-1-2020	\$9,800.00
TOTAL AMOUNT PASTDUE	\$19,600.00

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PAYMENT DETAILS

**MAKE CHECK AVAILABLE
FOR PICK UP**