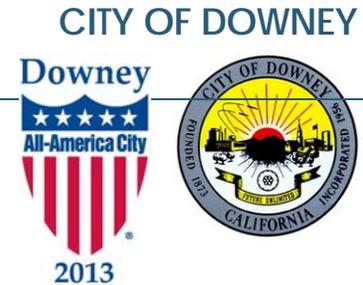


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PRESS RELEASE

Court Approves Water Storage Compromise, Providing Long-Term Benefits to the City of Downey

Downey, CA, December 20, 2013: After 14 years of negotiations, litigation, and legislative efforts, a court has approved a storage framework for the Central Basin, a subterranean basin underlying the Southeast Los Angeles County area. While the court had declared in 1965 through the Central Basin Judgment that the City of Downey, along with other cities, public agencies, private water companies, businesses and individuals, have pumping rights in the Central Basin, the Judgment did not address the use of the underground storage space for supplemental water. On December 18th, the Honorable Abraham Khan, judge of the Los Angeles Superior Court, approved a Motion to Amend the Central Basin Judgment to add a storage framework.

The underground storage space in the Central Basin is an important water supply resource, which experts have estimated could yield over \$500 million in water supply benefits to the Central Basin area. The State and regional water agencies have stressed for decades the importance of storage in groundwater basins for overall water reliability. Although the Central Basin parties began discussions in 1999, they had been unable to reach an agreement acceptable to the multiple stakeholders. As a result, the parties were involved in several rounds of litigation, including three appeals, over the last 14 years.

In 2013, as a result of the leadership of several cities, all major stakeholders agreed to a compromise that best serves the interests of the public (the 2013 Storage Compromise). In addition to containing the most representative governance structure ever proposed and ensuring accessibility for all the parties, the 2013 Storage Compromise also contains a term allowing cities and other public agencies without pumping rights to participate in storage plans.

“The City of Downey recognized early on that ensuring access to Central Basin storage is important to its residents’ long-term water supply,” said Mayor Fernando Vasquez. The City, along with the Cities of Cerritos and Signal Hill made significant investments in the storage efforts to ensure their residents continue to enjoy the benefits of their groundwater, which costs the city approximately half than the cost of imported water.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE