



For Immediate Release

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PADRE DAM MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT FILES LAWSUIT AGAINST GROSSMONT-CUYAMACA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT OVER REQUIRED WATER SYSTEM UPGRADES

SANTEE (December 12, 2023) – Padre Dam Municipal Water District (Padre Dam) has filed a lawsuit against Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District (Grossmont) in California Superior Court – San Diego aimed at resolving a dispute over necessary water system upgrades on the Grossmont college campus and transferring ownership of the water system to Grossmont.

Over the years, Grossmont failed to inform Padre Dam of development and expansion of campus facilities that ultimately put a strain on the water system. Furthermore, Grossmont pursued multiple construction projects without Padre Dam's review, which built over existing water mains and infrastructure and caused access and maintenance challenges.

To resolve this matter, both parties entered into a Repair and Maintenance Agreement of Water System and Facilities in 2015. The Agreement aimed to transfer ownership of water facilities on the campus to Grossmont and outlined key provisions for the transfer. Unfortunately, Grossmont has refused to make the essential infrastructure improvements needed to operate its own water system and fulfill its obligations under the agreement. Furthermore, in 2022 Padre Dam discovered an unmetered, unauthorized connection on campus resulting in the illegal use of water which remains unpaid.

In 2019, the Fire Marshall informed Grossmont that it needed to either make upgrades to campus buildings by adding fire sprinkler systems or meet higher fire flow requirements. Grossmont has demanded that Padre Dam make these upgrades at the expense of ratepayers that are not served by these improvements. The cost of the needed improvements is estimated to be \$15 million. Padre Dam cannot subsidize facilities which only serve the campus and unfairly overcharges other ratepayers in violation Article XIII D of the California Constitution (Proposition 218). It is Grossmont's obligation to pay for water facilities which only serve its campus.

"I am deeply disappointed that it has come to the point of litigation against Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District. Our intention has always been to find a fair and equitable resolution to the water system transfer and system upgrades," said Bill Pommering, President of the Board of Directors for Padre Dam Municipal Water District. "It is unacceptable that Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District wants to make Padre Dam customers pay the bill for improvements needed to support its own campus water system. It is our sincere desire that through this process, we can still achieve a mutually

agreeable resolution that serves the best interests of both Padre Dam customers and the Grossmont College community.”

Padre Dam’s goal remains to achieve a resolution that ensures both safety and fairness in line with its shared commitment to the well-being of its customers, including the college community.

About Padre Dam

Padre Dam provides water, sewer, recycled water and recreation services to approximately 102,000 residents in East San Diego County including Santee, El Cajon, Lakeside, Flinn Springs, Harbison Canyon, Blossom Valley, Alpine, Dehesa and Crest. The District is a public agency with policies and procedures directed by an elected five-member Board of Directors. Padre Dam imports 100% of our treated water supply and treats two million gallons per day (MGD) of wastewater at our Water Recycling Facility. Please visit www.padredam.org for more information.

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