

ROOSEVELT IRRIGATION DISTRICT

DIRECTORS
W. BRUCE HEIDEN, PRESIDENT
DWIGHT B. LEISTER
K.C. GINGG

103 WEST BASELINE ROAD
BUCKEYE, ARIZONA 85326
TELEPHONE (623) 386-2046
FAX (623) 386-4360

SUPERINTENDENT
DONOVAN L. NEESE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Lawrence Moore
Lawrence Moore & Associates
(480) 980-1933

GALLAGHER & KENNEDY WITHDRAWS AS LAWSUIT COUNSEL IN ROOSEVELT IRRIGATION DISTRICT VS SALT RIVER PROJECT; BONNETT, FAIRBOURN, FRIEDMAN AND BALINT TO BE SUBSTITUTE COUNSEL

PHOENIX, ARIZONA (June 10, 2013)—Officials at the Roosevelt Irrigation District (RID) today confirmed that the federal district court has granted an Application for Substitution of Counsel with Client Consent, filed by the law firms of Bonnett, Fairbourn, Friedman and Balint, P.C. (BFFB) and Gallagher & Kennedy, P.A. (G&K).

By granting this application, the Court allows G&K to withdraw completely as counsel for this lawsuit; to be replaced by BFFB. “This action simplifies some of the legal issues surrounding the litigation,” explained Roosevelt Irrigation District Superintendent Donovan Neese. “Now, we will be able to bring more focus to the key issues,” he said.

Roosevelt Irrigation District vs Salt River Project is a civil action brought against a number of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs), identified as possible contributors to groundwater pollution in South Phoenix. A suit was filed under the federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) of 1980; more commonly referenced as Superfund. The suit seeks recovery of costs incurred by RID in responding to the Defendants' release or threatened release of hazardous substances that impact, or threaten to impact, wells owned and operated by RID. The suit also includes other claims under state law for environmental nuisance and trespass.

“Gallagher & Kennedy will continue to assist RID as we move forward with our efforts to protect and restore RID’s wells and water supply,” said Neese.

The Roosevelt Irrigation District has been serving customers in the West Metropolitan Phoenix area, since 1928. The District uses 50 miles of main canals and 185 miles of lateral canals to deliver water to the West Valley for beneficial use. As part of its efforts to promote responsible groundwater stewardship, RID is leading a cooperative effort called the West Valley Groundwater Cleanup Coalition. More about the Coalition and its activities can be learned by visiting www.wvgroundwater.org.

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