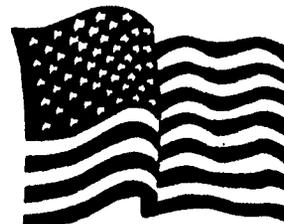


SAN  
GABRIEL  
VALLEY

SUNDAY, JULY 27, 1997

# TRIBUNE



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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER COMPANY

## An Open Letter To Our Customers

In the past several days, plaintiffs seeking millions of dollars from the Southern California Water Company have launched an irresponsible campaign that suggests the drinking water supply in the San Gabriel Valley poses an imminent public health threat.

This misleading and inflammatory claim seems designed primarily to solicit additional plaintiffs in a lawsuit against the company. It is false and irresponsible, not unlike yelling "Fire!" in a crowded theater.

The Southern California Water Company is a responsible member of the San Gabriel Valley community. Our employees live here, work here and drink the water here. In the face of this campaign to scare the public, we want you to have as much factual information as possible about your water.

**TRUTH:** Southern California Water Company provides safe, reliable drinking water to its customers and has, since our incorporation in 1929, always maintained this commitment to service and quality. The company has—and has had for years—a comprehensive water quality assurance program. Independent, state-certified laboratories conduct numerous tests to help ensure water quality and safety, as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act.

**TRUTH:** There is contamination in the underground aquifer known as the Main San Gabriel Water Basin. But it was not caused by the Southern California Water Company, nor by any other water provider. It is the result of industries that grew up in the San Gabriel Valley during and after World War II.

**TRUTH:** The Main San Gabriel Water Basin is highly regulated. All 34 of the water providers that pump from the basin work closely with regional, state and federal regulatory officials responsible for ensuring that all water delivered to customers is safe and in conformance with state and federal standards.

We want our customers—our friends and neighbors—to have as much information as possible about the water we provide. The company produces an annual Water Quality Report that provides details of testing for more than 90 potential contaminants. This report is mailed each year to every Southern California Water Company customer, and copies are available by calling Denise Kruger, our quality assurance manager, at 909-394-3600, extension 653.

Sincerely,

*Floyd G. Wicks*