



Dear Clackamas River Water (CRW) Customers:

CRW is committed to providing high quality, safe and affordable drinking water for our customers as a top priority.

It has been difficult for us to achieve the above mission over the past few years, as CRW has been forced to expend significant amounts money and staff time defending a potentially damaging series of frivolous lawsuits and accusations.

As ratepayers, many of you know that numerous complaints have been filed against CRW with the Agency's auditors, the Clackamas County Sheriff, the District Attorney, the US Attorney and even the FBI. All of these claims and accusations were investigated completely, and none were ever found to have merit. We have been patient while these accusations and false claims were made, investigated and disproven, and are gratified that as officials and employees of your local water agency we have been exonerated of any wrong doing.

In striking contrast, in a complaint filed by CRW against a former CRW commissioner, the DA found that our case had merit but the case was not ultimately pursued by Him due to the passage of time.

Now that we have been cleared, these same allegations are being raised again as the basis for lawsuits that are being brought by the same individuals and thus far the Courts have dismissed them all for lack of merit. This means we have to continue to spend ratepayer dollars on legal fees in order to defend the organization. Some of the unfounded allegations (and the facts that belie them) are:

- Alleged: CRW is giving away assets via the ORS 190 agreement with Sunrise Water Authority (SWA).
  - Fact: **No assets are being transferred via the ORS 190 agreement.**
- Alleged: CRW is hooking up to Portland's water system.
  - Fact: **An emergency water tie is the only agreement being discussed with Portland.**
- Alleged: Happy Valley water lines are being or will be paid for by CRW.
  - Fact: **CRW will continue to spend funds on additional water connections within the Districts service area that reside within Happy Valley as we would with any other new customer**
- Alleged: Oregon City and South Fork Water Board have made statements regarding expensive litigation with respect to CRW's ORS 190 agreement with SWA.
  - Fact: **CRW cannot control the actions of other agencies; however we continue to provide information to educate those entities of our intentions relative to the ORS 190 in order to avoid litigation.**
- Alleged: CRW ratepayers will have less input on water sales and rates via the ORS 190 agreement with SWA.
  - Fact: **The CRW and SWA Boards policies and procedures for considering water sales and rates will remain unchanged.**
- Alleged: CRW Board would lose authority and hand control over to the ORS 190 Commission.
  - Fact: **Neither the CRW Board or SWA Board are transferring authority away from the current Boards by this agreement.**
- Alleged: CRW and SWA's General Managers will both secure long term \$200,000 annual salaries.
  - Fact: **Neither the CRW or SWA General Managers are receiving any additional compensation or change in employment status as a result of the ORS 190 agreement.**

It is clear that the time has come to put all of the allegations, lawsuits and negativity behind us. The ORS 190 agreement with Sunrise Water Authority helps all of us by sharing in the cost of running the CRW district. We are not giving away water or system assets, any water or assets used by SWA will be paid or reimbursed to CRW. This will allow us to continue to keep operating costs down and rates low for all customers. We look forward to continuing to steward our water resources and providing you with high quality, safe and affordable drinking water, today and far into the future. For additional information please go to our website at [crwater.com](http://crwater.com).

Sincerely,

Clackamas River Water Board