



MEDIA ADVISORY

Arizona House of Representatives

Representative Neal Carter (R-8)

1700 West Washington • Phoenix, Arizona • 85007

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Representative Neal Carter & Pinal Supervisor Mike Goodman Hosting Town Hall on CAGRDR Fee Increase

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – State Representative Neal Carter and Pinal County Supervisor Mike Goodman will host a town hall to address the recent increase in water-related CAGRDR fees affecting water utility customers in the Queen Creek-San Tan Valley-Florence area. It will be held on **Tuesday, May 17, 2022**, starting at **6:00 p.m.** in the auditorium of the **American Leadership Academy, Ironwood 7-12**, located at **850 West Combs Road in San Tan Valley**. Arizona Corporation Commissioner Justin Olson, and representatives of CAGRDR, Central Arizona Project, and Epcor are also expected to attend.

Members of the public with concerns or questions are encouraged to attend.

Local area residents served by Epcor as their water utility company have seen a dramatic increase in their bills, mostly as a result of a several-fold increase in the CAGRDR fee. CAGRDR, which stands for Central Arizona Groundwater Replenishment District, is a special function of the Central Arizona Project, the 336-mile canal network that brings Colorado River water to Central Arizona. Authorized by the legislature in 1993, CAGRDR assesses fees for groundwater pumping which water utilities are authorized to pass on to customers.

“Local residents are seeing dramatic increases in their monthly water bills and are calling to demand explanations” Representative Carter said. **“My goal with this Town Hall is to get state regulators, the water utility, and the customers together so that the public’s concerns can be brought forward and we can either rectify the current billing increase or avoid dramatic water bill changes in the future, or both.”**

Pinal County Supervisor Mike Goodman, whose office has hosted water utility meetings over the years said, **“We know from experience that in situations like this it’s best to have all interested parties in the same room. It’s difficult for residents to get answers when multiple agencies are involved, and with this forum we aim to solve that problem. Our community members deserve transparency and resolution.”**

Neal Carter is a Republican member of the Arizona House of Representatives serving Legislative District 8, which includes areas of Pinal and Gila Counties. Follow him on Twitter at @NealCarterAZ.

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