1	STEPHANIE OSLER HASTINGS (State Bar No. 186716) MACKENZIE W. CARLSON (State Bar No. 323850)	
2	BROWNSTEIN HYATT FARBER SCHRECK, LI 1021 Anacapa Street, 2nd Floor	LP
3	Santa Barbara, CA 93101-2711 Telephone: 805.963.7000	
4	Email: SHastings@bhfs.com	
5	Attorneys for Plaintiff GOLDEN STATE WATER COMPANY	
6	GOLDEN STATE WATER COMMANY	
7		
8	SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA	
9	FOR THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE	
10	Coordination Proceeding Special Title (Cal. Rules of Court, rule 3.550)	JCCP NO.: 5265 Lead Case No. CIV 208568
11	MOJAVE BASIN AREA WATER CASES	Hon. Craig G. Riemer, Retired Judge of
12		the Riverside Superior Court, sitting by Assignment of the Chief Justice
13 14	CITY OF BARSTOW, et al.,	GOLDEN STATE WATER
15	Plaintiff,	COMPANY'S: OPPOSITION TO MOJAVE WATER AGENCY'S MOTION (1) FOR APPROVAL OF
16	V.	PRODUCTION SAFE YIELD CALCULATIONS, AND (2) TO
17	CITY OF ADELANTO, et al.,	ADJUST FREE PRODUCTION ALLOWANCES FOR WATER YEAR
18	Defendant.	2025-2026; AND RESPONSES TO COURT'S QUESTIONS AND ISSUES
19		[Filed concurrently with Declaration of Stephanie Osler Hastings]
20		Date: August 4, 2025
21		Time: 1:30 pm Dept.: 1
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Golden State Water Company ("GSWC") hereby:

- Opposes to the Mojave Basin Area Watermaster's ("Watermaster") Motion (1) for 1. Approval of Production Safe Yield Calculations; and (2) to Adjust Free Production Allowances for Water Year 2025-2026 ("Motion"), and
- 2. Responds to the Court's questions and issues posed in its October 23, 2024 Order (1) Granting the Motion of [GSWC] to Enforce the Judgment; (2) Establishing a Procedure for Motions to Approve Re-Calculated Production Safe Yield; (3) Posing Questions to Be Answered by the Watermaster in the Next Motion for Adjustments to Free Production Allowance ("Order").²

INTRODUCTION³ I.

The Order stems from GSWC's ongoing efforts to better understand and ultimately address the cause of declining water levels in the Centro Subarea and the associated adverse impacts on Centro Subarea Producers' groundwater production under the Judgment. Since entry of the Judgment, water levels in the Centro Subarea near Barstow have experienced chronic decline, except in extremely wet years—increasing the water supply and treatment costs for GSWC's customers. The Judgment's Physical Solution sought to mitigate declining water levels, but it has not done so. GSWC brought its 2024 Motion to Enforce the Judgment ("GSWC Motion") to require Watermaster to critically evaluate and update Watermaster's analysis of a fundamental component of the Physical Solution—the Production Safe Yield ("PSY")—based on the best available science, as required by the Judgment. In granting GSWC's Motion, the Court found that GSWC had presented sufficient evidence to establish probable cause to require Watermaster to conduct further investigation of the calculations required by the Judgment. (Mot., Ex. 2 [Order, p. 2].). In reaching this decision, the Court emphasized that Watermaster must "rely upon and use the best available records and data to support implementation of the Judgment. Where actual records of data are not available, Watermaster shall rely on and use sound scientific and engineering estimates." (Order, p.

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The Mojave Water Agency is the Watermaster. (Judgment, ¶ 23.c.)

As permitted by the Order, additional pages are required to respond to both the Motion and the Court's questions. (See Order, p. 4 [Mot., p. 21[¶¶ 4-5].)

³ All defined terms have the same meaning as set forth in the Judgment. All capitalized terms, not otherwise defined, are the same as the terms used in the Judgment.

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2, citing Judgment, ¶ 24.w.) Only with this information and analysis can the Parties reasonably assess whether the Physical Solution is being implemented as intended, and if so, but water levels continue to decline, whether amendment of the Judgment may be required.

II. OPPOSITION TO MOTION TO APPROVE PSY CALCULATIONS

GSWC opposes Watermaster's Motion to the extent it seeks the Court's approval of Watermaster's 2025 PSY calculations without complying with the Order. GSWC does not oppose Watermaster's proposed adjustments to the Free Production Allowances ("FPA") for Water Year 2025-2026.

The Order ordered Watermaster to do all of the following in conjunction with making its Annual Report for Water Year 2023-24 ("31st Annual Report"):

- 1. Re-calculate the PSY for the Centro subarea and for the Alto subarea, including the Transition Zone.
- 2. Re-evaluate both (a) the sufficiency of any factual investigation conducted to quantify the factors to be used in those calculations, and (b) the reliability of any assumptions or estimates that the Watermaster relies upon when empirical data is not available to quantify factors.
- 3. To draft a report regarding the Watermaster's findings and to include that report in its 31st Annual Report.

(Order, p. 1.)

Watermaster's Motion fails to comply with the Order because it does not demonstrate that (1) Watermaster "re-calculated" PSY for the Centro Subarea and Alto Subarea, including the Transition Zone, or (2) "re-evaluated" both the sufficiency of Watermaster's factual investigations to quantify the factors used in the PSY calculations, or the reliability of its assumptions or estimates. Rather, Watermaster's Motion provides additional documentation of its 2024 PSY calculations (except with respect to Oeste), which the Court determined did not satisfy the Judgment. (Order, pp. 1-2.) Further, the record with respect to Watermaster's compliance with Paragraph 3 of the Court's Order is unclear and should be corrected.

Additionally, although not required for another year, GSWC is concerned that Watermaster's failure to fully evaluate the sufficiency of factual investigation and the reliability of underlying assumptions and estimates supporting the PSY calculations leaves Watermaster unprepared to

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address the Order's additional requirements in the 32nd Annual Report due May 1, 2026.

Approval of Watermaster's PSY Calculations Should Be Deferred Until A. Re-Calculates **Re-Evaluates Investigations And Assumptions**

Watermaster has not re-calculated PSY and re-evaluated its factual investigations and assumptions as required by the Order. Accordingly, approval of the 2025 PSY calculations should be deferred and Watermaster should be directed to perform the PSY re-calculation and re-evaluation and report the results—no later than in the 32nd Annual Report.

1. The Motion Does Not Show that Watermaster Re-Calculated or Re-Evaluated PSY; Instead It Documents Watermaster's 2024 PSY

The Declaration of Robert C. Wagner ("Wagner Declaration") (Mot., Ex. 3, [Mot. pp. 26-77]⁴) documents the Watermaster Engineer's calculation of the <u>2024</u> PSY for the Centro Subarea and Alto Subarea, including the Transition Zone, but it does not demonstrate that the Watermaster "re-calculated" and "re-evaluated" PSY, as required by the Order. (Mot., pp. 26:1-59:15.) In fact, the Watermaster Engineer states that it "does not have significant new information to warrant reevaluation" (Mot., p. 40:12 [re Alto Subarea]) and arrives at the exact same numeric values for the PSY in each Subarea as it did in 2024 (except for Oeste). (Compare Mot., p. 9 to 58:11-17.) Although the Motion does not include a "Table 5-1," which is the usual location of the Watermaster Engineer's PSY calculations, the information presented confirms that none of the many assumptions, estimates, and calculations used to calculate the PSY for the Alto and Centro Subareas have changed. (See, e.g., Mot. pp. 34-41; see also Motion, pp. 68-69 [presenting hydrologic inventory tables similar to Table 5-1].)

During various Watermaster meetings and workshops, GSWC raised concerns about Watermaster's progress in meeting the Order's requirements and provided written comments. (Mot., pp. 143-171.) The Motion does not address GSWC's comments specifically, so it is somewhat unclear whether Watermaster responded to GSWC concerns. First, GSWC raised concerns with the sufficiency of the Watermaster Engineer's manual analysis of water levels in the Transition Zone

⁴ References to the Motion refer to the sequential page numbers. (Order, p. 4 [¶ 4].)

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and Centro Subarea near the Transition Zone. Contrary to Watermaster Engineer's analysis aquilogic, Inc. ("aquilogic") found that many of the wells in this area have not experienced a statistically significant increase in water levels since implementation of the Judgment. (See Mot., pp. 147, 151-158.) This concern was echoed by other parties as well. (See Mot., pp. 96-102, 152-159.)

Watermaster Engineer partially addressed this concern and updated its analysis of water levels in the Transition Zone-concluding that 70 to 80% of wells had increasing trends or no change in water levels over various periods. (Mot., pp. 66:27-67:7, 372-389, 392-394.) But the Watermaster Engineer still has not addressed the fact that 20 to 30% of wells within the Transition Zone have statistically significant decreasing trends or how these decreasing trends may affect the PSY analysis. (Mot., pp. 66:27-67:7, 372-389, 392-394.) Further analysis of statistically significant declining water level trends in the Transition Zone is required to support Watermaster's assumption that the Transition Zone serves as a "water bridge" between the Alto and Centro Subareas. (Mot., pp. 66:1-5, 195.)

Second, GSWC raised concerns that the Watermaster Engineer continues to defer a meaningful re-calculation of the Centro PSY until it finalizes the Regional Mojave Basin Model ("RMBM"). (Mot., p. 146.) Watermaster had previously "committed to revise the model by the end of [2024] by extending it to include the Transition Zone, the Centro subarea, and the Baja subarea." (Order, p. 2.) Yet, at the March 12, 2025 Watermaster Workshop, staff stated that the model would not be released until next year—i.e., 2026. (Motion, p. 146; 31st Annual Report, p. 16 [RMBM] "work will continue through 2024-25."].) As discussed below in Sections II.A.2 and II.B.2, GSWC strongly supports Watermaster's expansion and use of the RMBM, but has significant concerns that re-calculation of the PSY continues to be deferred to the future.

Further, the Order also directs Watermaster to evaluate the "sufficiency of any factual investigations" and the "reliability of any assumptions or estimates" in the factors supporting the PSY calculations. (Order, p. 1 [¶ 2].) This re-evaluation is necessary; otherwise, the Court has "no basis for determining that the Watermaster's PSY recommendations were based on the best data reasonably available and the estimates that best reflect current science, as the Judgment requires."

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(Order, p. 3.) Yet, after review of various technical studies, some of which arrive at different values for various PSY factors, the Watermaster Engineer arrived at the exact same 2024 PSY values.

For example, Watermaster Engineer's use of satellite-based remote sensing tools to update consumptive use values for Phreatophytes changed Watermaster's estimates of Transition Zone phreatophyte uses by 178 acre feet ("AF"), yet the overall PSY value for the Transition Zone remains unchanged. (Order, p. 7; compare Mot., p. 183 [the 2024 Watermaster PSY estimates table with the Transition Zone phreatophyte uses as 6,000 AF] to Mot., pp. 68:16-23, 69:16-23 [using 6,178 AF as the estimated use by riparian habitat in the Transition Zone].) Watermaster Engineer's position appears to be that the 178 AF change is nominal—effectively no change (Mot., p. 37:19-26)—but given that the Watermaster Engineer's water budget is perfectly balanced, one would expect that any change would result in a change in the PSY, even a nominal one. 5 (Mot., p. 39:2-10; see also Mot., pp. 68:5-23, 69:1-19, 183 [various water budget calculations].) GSWC reasonably anticipated that the Order contemplated that the Watermaster perform a sensitivity analysis of the final PSY amounts given the range of values identified in the factual investigations and assumed or estimated values for the various PSY factors.

Absent a meaningful new analysis of the underlying studies and the reliability of the several assumptions and estimates that make up the PSY calculation for each subarea, Watermaster's analysis fails to comply with the Order.

2. Watermaster Should Re-Calculate and Re-Evaluation PSY Upon **Completion of the RMBM**

Contrary to Watermaster's commitments and the Court's expectations (see Order, p. 2 [expressing expectation that the PSY will be updated when the model is updated prior to the next annual report]), Watermaster Engineer's update of the RMBM model expansion efforts remain unfinished. As a result, Watermaster continues to defer re-calculation of the PSY for the Centro and Alto Subareas. (See Mot., p. 38:17-19 [Alto Subarea]; Mot., p. 57:22 ["The Centro Subarea PSY . .

⁵ GSWC agrees that PSY should be set at a specific number, but it remains befuddling that Watermaster's analysis arrives at perfectly balanced water budgets, the same PSY numbers, and provides no estimate of the margin of errors or its confidence in the calculations. (Compare Mot., p. 9 to 58:11-17; see, e.g., Mot., pp. 183, 68:16-23, 69:16-23.)

. will be updated with new information provided by the RMBM."].)

The Watermaster Engineer appears to commit to re-calculating the PSY when the model update is complete. For example:

> While calculation of outflow from Alto (TZ) to Centro is reliable, it is expected that the RMBM will provide an improved calculation of outflow, both surface and subsurface at the Helendale Fault.

(Mot., p. 38:17-19.)

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The UMRBM is being expanded and is expected to be used for the next Watermaster cycle for determining PSY in Alto, Centro, Oeste and Baja. The RMBM will include the TZ and will calculate directly the outflow at the Helendale Fault. The calculated flow at the Helendale Fault will be used as the surface and subsurface inflow to Centro through the Transition Zone. The modeled flow at the Helendale Fault will be an important factor in determining the PSY for both Alto and Centro.

(Mot., p. 57:2-8 [emphasis added].)

But it is not entirely clear when and how the Watermaster Engineer plans to re-calculate PSY when the RMBM model is released. Accordingly, to ensure that the RMBM's PSY calculations comply with the Order and Paragraph 24.w of the Judgment, GSWC respectfully requests that the Court order Watermaster to provide for an open, public review process for the model, its underlying data, and calibration results, including simulated and observed hydrographs (native files), residual plots, and calibration statistics, to allow for a clear understanding of the sufficiency of the factual data and underlying assumptions used to develop the model and calculate PSY under the Judgment.

3. Watermaster's Report Regarding Its PSY Findings Is Not Properly Included In The 31st Annual Report, As Required

Finally, it does not appear that Watermaster's report documenting its compliance with Paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Court's Order is included in the Watermaster's 31st Annual Report, as required. (See Order, ¶ 3.) The Watermaster's April 23, 2025 public hearings on setting FPA for Water Year 2025-26 and adopting the 31st Annual Report did not contain a proposed PSY for any of the subareas.⁶ On June 11, 2025, Watermaster held a "Workshop" at which the Watermaster

⁶ See Watermaster, Agenda (Apr. 23, 2025) available https://mojavewater.granicus.com/Generated AgendaViewer.php?view id=2&clip id=1435 (accessed on July 22, 2025); Watermaster, Public Hearing to receive comments and adopt proposed recommendation of [FPA] for Water Year 2025-26, Presentation, p. 40 https://mojavewater.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view id= 2&clip id=1435&meta id=118093 (listing "Proposed PSY" as "TBD" for all Subareas) (accessed

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Engineer's May 30, 2025 Memorandum from the Watermaster Engineer to the Mojave Basin Area
Watermaster re. Production Safe Yield Re-calculation Per Court Order ("May 30, 2025 Tech
Memo") ⁷ was discussed but not acted on, ⁸ and a Special Meeting to "receive comments and adopted to the comments are comments and adopted to the comments and adopted t
Free Production Allowance for the Este Subarea of 45% of BAP for Water Year 2025-26."5
Watermaster filed a Notice of Lodging of the Thirty-First Annual Report of the Mojave Basin Area
Watermaster, Water Year 2023-2024, but a copy of the 31st Annual Report is not included in copy
served on the Parties by Watermaster. The Watermaster's website includes a copy of the May 30
2025 Tech Memo, but none of the identified 10 exhibits. 10 If not already, a complete copy of the 31s
Annual Report and the report required by Paragraph 3 of the Court's Order should be lodged with
the Court and served on all parties.

В. Watermaster Remains Obligated to Prepare a Plan to Improve Hydrologic Data Collection for PSY Calculations For the 2024-25 Annual Report

The Order also requires that Watermaster:

- 4. To recommend a plan to improve the collection of hydrologic data that would be relevant to calculations of PSY in the future. In doing so, to consider the recommendations contained in Section 6. 0 of the report of Anthony Brown which marked Exhibit 1 to Golden State's motion filed 9-5-24, except that paragraph 4 on page 32 GSWC 34) is modified to read: "Based on results from the above, Watermaster should determine whether Producers in Alto have met, are currently meeting, and in the future are likely to continue to meet their obligations under the Judgment."
- 5. To recommend a timeline by which the recommended plan could reasonably be implemented.
- 6. To include both the plan and the timeline in the Watermaster's [2024-25] Annual Report].

(Order, pp. 1-2; see also Judgment, ¶ 24.e [requiring Watermaster to collect data as may be necessary to carry out the Judgment].) GSWC recognizes that Watermaster's hydrologic data collection plan is not due until the 2024-25 Annual Report. However, in light of GSWC's concerns about deferral

on July 22, 2025).

²⁵ ⁷ The May 30, 2025 Tech Memo appears to be nearly identical to the Wagner Declaration.

⁸ The Watermaster Engineer is not the Watermaster. (Judgment, ¶ 23.c.)

⁹ See Watermaster, Agency Calendar, available at https://www.mojavewater.org/about- mwa/agency-calendar/meetings/ (accessed on July 21, 2025).

¹⁰ See Watermaster, Watermaster Annual Report for Water Year 2023-24,

https://www.mojavewater.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/31AR2324.pdf (accessed on July 21, 2025).

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of the PSY re-calculation and re-evaluation, Watermaster Engineer should address all of the following items in the plan required by Paragraph 4 of the Order. (See Order, p.1.)

The Plan Should Include Release of the RMBM and a Schedule to 1. Improve the Use of the Model.

As discussed above in Section II.A.2, GSWC agrees that the RMBM update should be completed as expeditiously and accurately as possible.

GSWC respectfully asks that the Court request a plan and timeline for the development and public release of the RMBM, no later than the 32nd Annual Report. The Court-ordered plan should detail the schedule for public release of the RMBM, including allowing sufficient time for public review, a schedule for use of the RMBM to update PSY for all Subareas, and a plan to improve data collection to support model development.

2. The Plan Should Further New Evaluate Geophysical Data.

Watermaster's recent geophysical investigations revealed that there "might be subsurface groundwater flow gradients from the Helendale Fault area into Centro, to the northwest side of Iron Mountain in the direction of Harper Dry Lake." (Mot., p. 41:16.) Despite the fact that Watermaster staff acknowledged the information was "eye opening" and that there were almost no monitoring wells or analysis of water levels in Iron Mountain area (Mot., pp. 147-148), the Watermaster Engineer dismisses the potential importance of this new information by concluding that the information does not represent a "changed condition"—e.g., the conditions below the surface always existed. He goes on to conclude that this information "does not change the PSY for the Centro Subarea because Harper Lake is part of Centro." (Mot., p. 41:16-17, 41:23-25.)

Given that the majority of Centro Subarea Producers are located in the Barstow area, away from the hydrologically isolated Harper Lake Basin, a material change in the Judgement's assumptions about the physical mechanism of replenishment of the Centro Subarea may have a significant effect on Centro Subarea Producers and implementation of the Judgment. (See also Judgment, Ex. F, ¶ 5, 8 [barring transfers between Harper Lake Basin and other Centro Subarea Producers].) Although Watermaster Engineer has better documented historical estimates of subsurface inflow into the Centro Subarea from the Transition Zone (see Mot. pp. 49:3-10, 234-

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246), more should be done with this new information. For example, Watermaster Engineer does not evaluate the relative portions of subsurface inflow toward Harper Lake Basin and Barstow area. If Watermaster's prior hydrogeologic conceptual model had 80% of subsurface inflows (1,600 AF) flowing toward Barstow and 20% of inflows (400 AF) flowing toward the Harper Lake Basin, when in fact those numbers are reversed, it calls into question the validity of a fundamental assumption about the flows within the Centro Subarea and availability of inflows for the majority of Centro Subarea Producers (Mot., p. 27:15-16 ["For the Centro Subarea, PSY was determined according to the practice of Watermaster since before entry of Judgment and as part of the development of the Judgment. . . " [emphasis added]), which in turn may require changes to management under the Judgment, including the Centro Subarea PSY calculations. (Lemoge Electric v. County of San Mateo (1956) 46 Cal.2d 659, 663 [holding doctrine of mutual mistake authorizes revisions of a contract to reflect the true intention of the parties]; Renshaw v. Happy Valley Water Co. (1952) 114 Cal.App.2d 521, 524 [allowing reformation of a judgment or decree when the instrument fails to express the parties' true intentions].)

Absent further analysis, the Parties cannot fully understand the implications of the new geophysical investigation for management under the Judgment, including whether the calculation of inflows to the Centro Subarea reflects the "best available records and data to support the implementation of this Judgment" or "sound scientific and engineering estimates." (Judgment, ¶ 24.w.) As a result, the Court-ordered plan should include further technical analysis of this data to ensure that the Judgment remains protective of Centro Subarea Producers.

3. The Plan Should Consider Direct Measurement of Centro Subarea Inflows and Alternative Scientific and Engineering Estimates.

In the Order, the Court summarized Watermaster's positions as follows:

Similarly, the Watermaster said that it will study the possibility of using remote sensing to measure surface flow and the Watermaster is not opposed to using remote sensing technologies to measure consumptive agricultural use. At some unspecified date after February of 2022, the Watermaster installed a new stream flow gage at Hinkley Road, apparently at the urging of Golden State. The Watermaster may be able to recommend other ways in which the hydrologic data can be enhanced at a reasonable cost. Certainly, nowhere in the Watermaster's opposition does the Watermaster contend that it is impossible to enhance the collection of relevant data at a reasonable cost.

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(Order, p. 3 [citations omitted and emphasis added].) Yet, Watermaster's response to the Court's questions about whether measurements of surface water flows at the Helendale Fault is infeasible dismisses options to measure surface water. (See Mot., pp. 71:11-72:2.) The Watermaster also expresses skepticism over the re-establishment of gages, while simultaneously relying on the data collected by the U.S. Geological Survey gage near Hodge to support its 2024 PSY calculations. (Compare Mot., pp. 71:14-15 to 70:16-25, 396.) GSWC questions why a Helendale Fault gage is unnecessary and infeasible while the Watermaster finds the Hodge gage useful for its PSY analyses.

Further, the Watermaster Engineer fails to acknowledge that alternate scientific and engineering estimates are available. (See Mot., pp. 71:11-72:2.)

Building on the evidence GSWC had produced in support of the GSWC Motion, following the Court's Order to Re-Calculate, GSWC proactively investigated opportunities to generate sound scientific and engineering estimates of surface water flows in the Mojave River using remote sensing technologies and artificial intelligence ("AI") and shared that information with the Watermaster. (Declaration of Stephanie Hastings, ¶ 4, Ex, 1 [Ltr. from S. Hastings to A. Anabtawi and R. Wagner re Introduction to Upstream Tech and HydroForecast (Dec. 13, 2024) ("Hastings Letter")].) The Hastings Letter introduced Watermaster to Upstream Tech, a company that produces "AI hydrology models" that "have been deployed widely in data sparse and ungauged watersheds in California and beyond to help reduce hydro-blind zones." (See Hastings Letter; see also Mot., pp. 150-151 [aquilogic explaining potential benefits of Upstream Tech's tools], 160-161.) Notably, Upstream Tech's tools can be calibrated to existing stream gages and create input data to independently validate other groundwater models, like the proposed RMBM. (Mot., p. 161.)

Watermaster committed to study the possibility of using remote sensing to determine surface water flow estimates (Order, p. 3), and hosted a presentation by Upstream Tech at its workshop on February 5, 2025 (Mot., p. 26:11-12), but the Motion does not include any discussion of the feasibility of using Upstream Tech's quantitative surface water flow determination technologies (or any other remote sensing or AI technology) to estimate surface flows in the absence of measured data to support a better understanding the hydrology of the Mojave River or to verify the parameters of the RMBM. Even if Watermaster investigated the use of remote sensing and AI technologies for

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these purposes, and dismissed it as infeasible, Watermaster's report in response to Paragraph 3 of the Court's Order to Re-Calculate should include an explanation of why.

The plan required by Paragraph 4 of the Court's Order should fully explore opportunities to measure or employ remote sensing and AI technologies to estimate surface water flows across the Helendale Fault.

C. CONCLUSION

The Motion seeks approval of the Watermaster Engineer's 2025 PSY calculations. (Mot., p. 6.) For all of the reasons stated herein, that approval is premature and should be deferred, again, until Watermaster recalculates the PSY, re-evaluates the sufficiency of its factual investigations and the reliability of its assumptions and estimates, and produces its plan for improving the collection of hydrologic data that is relevant to calculation of PSY for each of the Subareas—all as required by the Court's Order. Specifically, in response to GSWC's concerns and objections, Watermaster should:

- 1. re-calculate and re-evaluate PSY for the Centro Subarea and Alto Subarea, including the Transition Zone consistent with the Order and the Judgment;
- 2. clarify its expectations regarding the Court-ordered hydrologic data collection plan, including that the RMBM and underlying data should be made publicly available with sufficient time and documentation for the Parties and Court to understand its accuracy and limitations, and
- 3. undertake further evaluation of (a) the recent geophysical data suggesting flaws in fundamental assumptions in the Judgment and (b) the technical merits of remote sensing and AI technologies for determining stream flow, along with the feasibility of surface water gages, and provide explicit reasons why these technologies can or cannot be used to determine stream flow at the Helendale Fault.

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GSWC'S RESPONSES TO THE COURT'S QUESTIONS AND ISSUES IDENTIFIED III. IN THE ORDER

GSWC's responses to the Court's questions and issues to be addressed in the context of considering Watermaster's Motion are included in this section. Where GSWC objects to or otherwise disagrees with the Watermaster Engineer's responses, as set forth in the Wagner Declaration, those objections or disagreements are noted.

The Judgment declares and adjudicates the "rights to reasonable and beneficial use of water by Parties in the Mojave Basin Area pursuant to Article X, Section 2 of the California Constitution." (Judgment, ¶ 1.) To that end, the Judgment's Physical Solution is "based upon a declaration of water rights and a formula for Intra- and Inter-Subarea allocation of rights and responsibilities" and will "allow the public water supply agencies and individual water users within each hydrologic Subarea to proceed with orderly water resource planning and development." (Judgment, ¶ 3.) The Parties agreed:

> It is essential that this Physical Solution provide maximum flexibility and adaptability in order that the Court may be free to use existing and future technological, social, institutional and economic options in order to maximize reasonable beneficial use of the waters of the Basin Area. To that end, the Court's retained jurisdiction may be utilized where appropriate, to supplement the Physical Solution.

(Judgment, ¶ 21 [emphasis added].) Accordingly, the Court is empowered to conduct a de novo review of all determinations by the Watermaster and to provide further direction to the Watermaster as may be necessary to implement the Judgment's physical solution. (Judgment, ¶¶ 19, 36.d.) The following section restates the Court's questions and issues in the headings followed by GSWC's responses.11

¹¹ In some cases, the headers have been cleaned up for readability.

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Α. **GSWC Responses to Court's Questions**

1. If the motion describes the production of nonparties: a. What is the significance of that production to the Court's consideration of proposed changes to the FPA of parties? b. Does "Producer" as defined in the judgment include nonparty pumpers? c. Does "Free Production Allowance," as defined in the judgment, include water pumped by nonparty pumpers? d. Does the judgment require the Court to consider nonparty production when determining whether, and to what extent, the FPA of the parties to the judgment should be reduced? If not, does it allow the Court to do so?

GSWC does not dispute Watermaster Engineer's response and lacks the requisite information to evaluate Watermaster Engineer's assumptions related to Minimal Producers. (Mot., p. 59:20-61:18.)

> 2. Exhibit G, paragraph 1, refers to "average Annual and minimum Annual Subsurface Flows and/or Base Flows per Year." Does the Judgment set a minimum annual subsurface flow that must be met each year, or only establish the requisite average annual flows?

The Judgment sets both a minimum annual subsurface flow that must be met each year and establishes the requisite average annual flows. The Judgment defines "Base Flow" to mean surface flows at the Lower Narrows less Storm Flows. (Judgment, ¶ 4.h.) The Judgment contains various provisions that show Subareas must receive both "average annual water supplies" and minimal Annual Subsurface Flow. (See Judgment, ¶¶ 4.r, 13, Ex. G, ¶ 1; see also Mot., pp. 89-90 [Fennemore Comment Letter].) Specifically, for the Centro Subarea, Alto Subarea Producers have "an average Annual combined Subsurface Flow and Base Flow of 23,000 [AF] per year [obligation] to the Transition Zone . . . In any Year Alto Subarea Producers shall have an obligation to provide the Transition Zone a minimum combined Subsurface Flow and Base Flow" based on certain conditions. (Judgment, Ex. G, ¶ 1.e [emphasis added].)

The Watermaster's Engineer's responses to this question are mixed and inconsistent. Specifically in response to this question, Watermaster Engineer states that "Producers are required to meet one of the two options, but not both." (Mot., p. 61:25.) However, elsewhere, the Motion states: "In addition, Producers within certain Subareas have rights as against those in adjoining upstream Subareas to receive average annual water supplies and in any one year to receive minimum annual water supplies equal to the amounts set forth in Exhibit G of the Judgment

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in addition to any storm flows." (Mot., p. 4:21-22 [emphasis added].)

Additionally, in his response, Watermaster Engineer also makes assertions that the Judgment does not require any ongoing study or evaluation of Subsurface Flow across Subareas. (Mot., p. 64:13-18.) Not so. The Judgment requires Watermaster to "rely upon and use the best available records and data to support the implementation of this Judgment. Where actual records of data are not available, Watermaster shall rely on and use sound scientific and engineering estimates." (Judgment, ¶24(w), see also id. at ¶24(e) [requiring Watermaster to collect data as may be necessary to carry out the Judgment].) Claiming that the Judgment does not require any further study of Subsurface Flows—beyond what occurred nearly three decades ago—ignores Watermaster's obligations under the Judgment. (See, e.g., Judgment, ¶¶ 19, 21.)

> 3. The Watermaster has stated that, except for consumptive uses in the TZ, all the water that flows into the TZ passes the Helendale Fault into the Centro subarea. a. Is that conclusion true for both surface and subsurface flows? b. Are there measurements that supports that conclusion? c. What other evidence supports that conclusion?

For the reasons articulated in the GSWC Motion, and in this Opposition (Section II.A.1), GSWC disputes that Watermaster has presented sufficient evidence (see Mot., pp. 65:6-66:25) to conclude that all surface and subsurface flows that enter the Transition Zone more likely than not flow into the Centro Subarea. (See also Order, p. 2 [finding probable cause for further investigation regarding Watermaster's PSY calculations].) While it may be true that a substantial portion of the surface and subsurface flow into the Transition Zone flows into the Centro Subarea, GSWC disputes that the Watermaster Engineer's continued reliance of stable water levels in the Transition Zone (Mot., p. 65:6-28) are dispositive of this issue, as he alludes to in his response to question 3.a. Such a conclusion also conflicts with Watermaster Engineer's findings that up to 20-30% of the wells in the Transition Zone may have and may still be experiencing falling water levels (Mot., pp. 66:27-67:7, 372-389, 392-394) and instead show a potentially more complex hydrologic system that belies Watermaster Engineer's simple water budget methodology.

The Watermaster Engineer's response to question 3.a includes nonresponsive information about assumptions and interpretations of the Judgment. (See Mot., pp. 66:1-25.) Whether all surface and subsurface flows pass through the Transition Zone is a factual matter. Extraneous interpretations

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of the Judgment, such as the Watermaster Engineer's argument about Subarea Obligations, and Replacement and Makeup Obligations (see ibid.), are not responsive to the Court's question and outside the Watermaster Engineer's expertise. (Downer v. Bramet (1984) 152 Cal. App. 3d 837, 841 ["An expert is not allowed to testify to legal conclusions in the guise of expert opinion. Such legal conclusions do not constitute substantial evidence." (quotations omitted)]; see also *Tri-State Mfg*. Co. v. Superior Court (1964) 224 Cal.App.2d 442, 445; Ware v. Stafford (1962) 206 Cal.App.2d 232, 237-38 [stating declarations must state evidentiary facts rather than ultimate facts or legal conclusions].)

As noted above, Watermaster Engineer's response to 3.b (see Mot., pp. 66:26-70:28) also fails to analyze objectively whether the water level evidence cited above, fully supports his conclusion.

With respect to the Watermaster Engineer's discussion of the Lower Narrows and Hodge gage data, GSWC agrees that the Water Years 2022-23 and 2023-24 data may support the Watermaster Engineer's position with respect to surface flows. (Mot., pp. 67:20-70:28.) However, Watermaster Engineer's explanation of why stream flow at the Hodge gage may be higher or lower than adjusted stream flow at the Lower Narrows gage is conjecture without sufficient gage data at the Helendale Fault or equivalent stream flow determinations via the use of remote sensing and/or AI technologies. (See *ibid*.) As discussed above in Section II.B.3, GSWC supports the establishment of surface water gages and the use of remotes sensing and/or AI technologies, especially across the Helendale Fault to better evaluate the surface flows along the Centro Subarea and Transition Zone boundary.

Consistent with the Court's 1996 Amended Statement of Decision ("Statement of Decision") (Mot., p. 195-196), additional monitoring wells likely would have similar benefits for understanding the surface and subsurface flows between the Centro Subarea and Transition Zone. Currently, monitoring wells are located within the lower portion of the Transition Zone. (see Mot., pp. 246, 373-389.) The density of the monitoring well network likely would help refine the water levels and cross-sectional area of the aquifer, thereby improving Watermaster's method to measure flow gradient across the area and estimate Subsurface Inflows into the Centro Subarea. (Mot., p. 237238.)

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Watermaster's response to question 3.c lacks sufficient detail to confirm whether the measurements support the Watermaster Engineer's conclusion and GSWC lacks the resources to independently verify these data. (Mot., p. 71:1-10.)

> 4. If one wanted to measure surface flow from the TZ into Centro, could that be done? If so, how? To what extent, if any, does the Watermaster currently do so?

Watermaster Engineer's response does not fully respond to the Court's questions. (Mot., pp. 71:13-72:2.) The Watermaster Engineer's responds that "Hypothetically, if one wanted to measure flows at this location, a stream flow gage could be installed to record flow at this location. However, the reliability of the data would be subject to the same historical problems experienced by previously installed gages at Wild Crossing and Hodge." (Mot., p. 71:13-15.) As noted above in Sections II.B.3 and III.A.3, Watermaster Engineer provides conflicting statements with respect to the viability and use of the re-established Hodge gage to support implementation of the Judgment.

The response further fails to answer "how" a stream gage could be installed in the vicinity of the Helendale Fault, such as whether a viable site for a gage exist. Also, the response fails to consider alternative methods to assess surface flow across the Helendale Fault, such as remote sensing or AI technologies. (See Section II.B.3.)

> The Watermaster has said that the Wild Crossing stream gage was 5. discontinued because it was unreliable. What was the reason for the unreliability?

GSWC does not have any additional information for the Court.

6. If one wanted to measure subsurface flow from the TZ into Centro, could that be done? If so, how? To what extent, if any, does the Watermaster currently do so?

GSWC agrees that measurement of surface inflows from the Transition Zone into the Centro Subarea may be infeasible. (Mot., p. 72:13-16.) However, GSWC responds that the Watermaster Engineer's response ignores that a sufficient monitoring well network is required to evaluate the groundwater gradient across the fault zone to estimate or model surface flow. Identifying allocation monitoring well locations as part of the Court-order hydrologic data collection plan likely would improve estimates of subsurface flow into the Centro Subarea.

7.	Other than precipitation, does all inflow into Centro come from the TZ
GSWC does	not have any additional information for the Court.

8. a. Is the 1931-1990 timeframe representative of the climate in the basin today? b. How long is "long term?" 20 years? 30 years? 40 years? Longer? c. Should the Court establish a different base period to be used when adjusting PSY and FPA and when questioning the accuracy of the Watermaster's model or recommendations? If so, when should that period begin and end?¹²

GSWC generally agrees with the Watermaster Engineer that the Department of Water Resources Bulletin 84 provides an appropriate framework for selecting a hydrologic base period, with the understanding that it may be appropriate to change the base period over time on a case by case basis based on new information and changing cultural conditions. (Mot., pp. 74:4-76:2.) Watermaster should evaluate the hydrologic base period on a regular basis and recommend changes in accordance with its obligations under the Judgment. (See, e.g., Judgment, ¶ 24,w.)

B. GSWC's Response to Issues Relevant to the Motion

GSWC provides the following brief responses to the additional issues posed by the Court in its Order. (Mot., pp. 23-24.)

1. The Watermaster has stated that "the Alto Subarea Producers have met their Subarea Obligations." What are those obligations? In particular: A. What obligations if any does the Alto subarea as a whole owe to Centro? B. Water obligations if any does the Transition Zone owe to Centro?

The Judgment sets forth rights and obligations between Subareas:

In the aggregate, Producers within certain Subareas have rights, as against those in adjoining upstream Subareas, to receive average Annual water supplies and, in any one Year, to receive minimum Annual water supplies equal to the amounts set forth in Exhibit "G", in addition to any Storm Flows. In turn, in the aggregate, Producers within certain Subareas have an obligation to provide to adjoining downstream Subareas such average Annual water supplies in the amounts and in the manner set forth in Exhibit "G". [...] Producers in each of the Subareas have rights in the aggregate, as against each adjoining downstream [...] to divert, pump, extract, conserve, and use all surface water and Groundwater supplies originating therein or accruing thereto, and so long as the adjoining downstream Subarea Obligations are satisfied under this Judgment and there is compliance with all of its provisions.

(Judgment, ¶ 13 (emphasis added).) "Subarea Obligation" means "[t]he average Annual amount of

¹² Prefatory comments omitted.

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water that a Subarea is obligated to provide to an adjoining downstream Subarea or the Transition Zone . . . "(Judgment, ¶ 4.jj.) The Judgment also defines a "Minimum Subarea Obligation" as: "[t]he minimum Annual amount of water a Subarea is obligated to provide to an adjoining downstream Subarea or the Transition Zone. . . as set forth in Exhibit "G." (Judgment, ¶ 4.r.) The Transition Zone is defined as a "portion of the Alto Subarea, shown on Exhibit "A," that lies generally between the Lower Narrows and Helendale Fault." (Judgment, ¶ 4.mm.) The boundary between the Centro Subarea and the Alto Subarea, which includes the Transition Zone, is the Helendale Fault. (See Judgment, Ex. A.)

For the Alto Subarea's obligation to the Centro Subarea, Paragraph 1 provides:

Producers in the respective Subareas shall have the obligation to provide the following average Annual and minimum Annual Subsurface Flows and/or Base Flows per Year: [...]

Alto Subarea Producers--an average Annual combined Subsurface Flow and Base Flow of 23,000 acre-feet per Year to the Transition Zone. For the purposes of Paragraph 6 of this Exhibit G [Subsurface Flow Assumptions], the Subsurface Flow component shall be deemed to be 2,000 acre-feet per Year.

(Judgment, Exh. G, ¶ 1, 1.e.) Exhibit G establishes an initial estimate of 2,000 AF per Year for Subsurface Flow, thereby establishing a Base Flow of 21,000 AF per Year to the Transition Zone boundary. ¹³ (See Judgment, Exh. G, ¶¶ 1.e, 6; see also Judgment, Ex. C, ¶ A.) The Subsurface Flow and Base Flow amounts serve as the Alto Subarea's obligation to the Centro Subarea via the Transition Zone. (Judgment, Exh. G, ¶ 1.e.)

As noted in the Wagner Declaration (e.g., Mot., p. 62:16-21), the Statement of Decision explains that the Alto Subarea Obligation presupposes that all inflows into the Transition Zone reach the Centro Subarea and is available to Centro Subarea Producers. The Statement of Decision states "[i]t is fair and equitable to maintain certain flow requirements between subareas as part of the physical solution. Flows to downstream subareas will be maintained either by supplemental water through the river and conveyance facilities, by purchase of transferred water by the watermaster, or

²⁷ ¹³ Exhibit C to the Judgment further explains the process to establish the Base Flow and Storm

Flow in the Mojave River at the Lower Narrows (Transition Zone boundary with the Alto Subarea) to estimate inflows into the Centro Subarea. (See Judgment, Ex. C, ¶ B.1.)

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by reductions in consumptive use." (Mot., p. 195.) It also specifies the flow requirements between "Alto to Centro 21,000 acre-feet average annual surface flow [i.e., Base Flow] as measured at the lower narrows (and maintained by an immediate replacement water obligation in the transition zone to form a water bridge down to the Helendale Fault) plus a 2,000 acre-feet average annual subsurface flow as estimated in Bulletin 84." (*Ibid.*) The Statement of Decision notes "these estimates and other subsurface estimates will need to be up-dated [sic] by the use of monitoring wells which will determine the water table slope at the boundaries." (*Ibid.*) It concludes:

> The transition zone has a fairly stable water level. It is necessary to maintain that water level so that the surface flows passing the Lower Narrows and the subsurface inflow into the transition zone will reach the Helendale Fault, and hence downstream subareas: the flows at the Helendale Fault will in the future be measured using monitoring wells to insure that water levels are maintained within the transition zone.

(*Ibid.* [emphasis added].) Therefore, the Judgment expresses the Parties' intention that the Alto Subarea Obligation to the Transition Zone was for the purpose of replenishing the Centro Subarea.

> 2. Is Exhibit G to the Judgment properly interpreted to mean that neither the Alto subarea as a whole nor the Transition Zone in particular have any obligation to provide Centro a particular average annual or minimum annual subsurface flow? To provide Centro as particular average annual Base Flow? If so, why is that the most reasonable interpretation?

No. As explained above in Section III.B.1, the Judgment's Physical Solution is predicated on the interconnectivity of the Basin and the need to manage each Subarea to protect downstream producers. (See, e.g., Judgment, ¶¶ A, D, 3, 6, 10.h, 13, 20, 22.) As specified in Paragraph 13 of the Judgment, Centro Subarea Producers have the right "to receive" average Annual water supplies and minimum Annual water supplies and Alto Subarea Producers have an obligation "to provide" those supplies to the adjoining Centro Subarea. (Judgment, ¶ 13; see also Judgment, Exh. C, Tab. C-1 [showing assumed outflows from the Alto Subarea equal inflows into the Centro Subarea].) To find that the Alto Subarea Obligation is satisfied by delivery of water to the Transition Zone—even if that water never reaches the Centro Subarea—is contrary to the Parties' intentions and would frustrate and implementation of the Judgment.

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3. To what extent, if any, can the magnitude of those obligations be modified? In other words, are they set by the judgment for all time, or only initially?

The Judgment provides wide latitude for the Court to modify the Judgment under its continuing jurisdiction. Specifically, Paragraph 19 of the Judgment provides:

> Jurisdiction Reserved. Full jurisdiction, power and authority are retained by and reserved to the Court for purposes of enabling the Court upon the application of any Party, by a motion noticed in accordance with the notice procedures of Paragraph 36 hereof, to make such further or supplemental order or directions as may be necessary or appropriate for interim operation before the Physical Solution is fully operative, or for interpretation, enforcement or carrying out of this Judgement, and to modify, amend or amplify any of the provisions of this Judgment or to add to the provisions thereof consistent with the rights herein decreed; provided, that nothing in this paragraph shall authorize either a reduction of the Base Annual Production Right of any Party, except in accordance with the rules set forth in Exhibit "F", **or** a reduction of the Base Flow portion of any Subarea Obligation. 14

(Emphasis added.) "Base Annual Production Right" means the "relative Annual right of each Producer to the [FPA] within a given Subarea, expressed as a percentage of the aggregate of all Producers' Base Annual Production in the Subarea." (Judgment, ¶ 4.g.)

Therefore, the Court has authority to increase Subarea Obligations provided that the increase does not reduce another the Base Annual Production Right of a Party. Such adjustments may provide the Court with "maximum flexibility and adaptability in order that the Court may be free to use existing and future technological, social, institutional and economic options in order to maximize reasonable beneficial use of the waters of the Basin Area." (Judgment, ¶ 21.)

The Judgment further incorporates obligations on the Watermaster to validate the "initial[]" Subsurface Flow obligations across Subarea Boundaries. (Judgment, Ex. G ¶ 2.b, 6 [requiring installation of monitoring wells in the Transition Zone and at Subarea boundaries].) It also requires Watermaster to "install, operate and maintain wells, measuring devices and/or meters necessary to monitor stream flow . . . and to obtain such other data as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Judgment. . ." (Judgment, ¶ 24.e.) Recognizing the need for continuous improvement, the Judgment establishes the Exhibits as initial estimates or calculation frameworks that must evolve in

¹⁴ Amendments adding Paragraphs 19.a and b are not relevant here.

response to improved data collections and scientific and engineering principles. Paragraph 24.w of the Judgment provides "Exhibit "C" sets forth methods and procedures for determining surface flow components. Watermaster shall use either the same procedures or procedures that will yield results of equal or greater accuracy." (Judgment, ¶ 24.w [emphasis added]; see Judgment, at Exh. C, ¶ A [requiring Watermaster to use "all available pertinent hydrologic data and estimates, including at least the factors, or changes in the factors, shown in the attached Table C-1"].) The Judgment further supports that numeric values, like the Subarea Obligations, were set initially and subject to further refinement.

4. Page 7 of the Amended Opposition says that Alto owes 2,000 AFY of subsurface flow to Centro, but in the next sentence says that Alto owes that 2,000 AFY to the TZ. Which is correct?

Both. As discussed in Sections III.B.1 and III.B.2, the Alto Subarea Obligation is to the Centro Subarea. That Judgment assumed that that obligation would be satisfied physically–e.g., the water would flow into the Centro Subarea—when the water (2,000 AFY of Subsurface Flow) is delivered to the Transition Zone.

5. The 2,000 AFY obligation was confirmed in 2006. Is it ever subject to adjustment? If so, how often should it be reevaluated?

Yes, as discussed in Section III.B.3, the Judgment provides flexibility for the Court to adjust the 2,000 AFY Subsurface Flow obligation among other components of the Judgment. (Judgment, ¶¶ 19, 21, 24.w.) Paragraph 6 of Exhibit G proposes that within two Years of the Judgment, Watermaster will "develop methodology for future determinations of actual Subsurface Flow" and within ten Years of the Judgment, "prepare a report settling forth the results of the monitoring program and future methodology." Following public review, "Watermaster shall prepare a recommendation to the Court as to the likely accuracy of the estimate historical Subsurface Flows and any revisions of the Subarea Obligations that may be indicated." (*Ibid.*) Nothing in Paragraph 6 of Exhibit G contemplates that these determinations are binding in perpetuity. If the Parties desired that these determinations to be binding and never subject to adjustment, they would have said so. (See, e.g., *People v. Shelton* (2006) 37 Cal.4th 759, 767.)

Re-evaluation of Subarea Obligations may be warranted to arrest declining water levels and

implement the Physical Solution or otherwise to respond to new or changed circumstances. (See Judgment, ¶¶ 19, 21, 24.e, w.) Accordingly, Watermaster's continued refinement of the data and its technical analysis, including better scientific or engineering estimates that may yield a more accurate estimate of Subsurface Flows, is vital. Dated: July 22, 2025 BROWNSTEIN HYATT FARBER SCHRECK, LLP By: STEPHANIE OSLER HASTINGS MACKENZIE W. CARLSON Attorneys for Plaintiff
GOLDEN STATE WATER COMPANY

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PROOF OF SERVICE

I am over the age of eighteen years and not a party to the within-entitled action. I am employed in Santa Barbara County, California. My business address is Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP, 1021 Anacapa Street, 2nd Floor, Santa Barbara, California 93101-2711. My electronic service address is Meldridge@bhfs.com. On July 22, 2025, I served a copy of the following document(s):

GOLDEN STATE WATER COMPANY'S: OPPOSITION TO MOJAVE WATER AGENCY'S MOTION (1) FOR APPROVAL OF PRODUCTION SAFE YIELD CALCULATIONS, AND (2) TO ADJUST FREE PRODUCTION ALLOWANCES FOR WATER YEAR 2025-2026; AND RESPONSES TO COURT'S QUESTIONS AND **ISSUES**

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BY E-MAIL OR ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION: I caused a copy of the document(s) listed above to be sent to the persons at the e-mail addresses listed below

William J. Brunick, Esq. Leland P. McElhaney, Esq. Brunick, McElhaney & Kennedy, PLC P. O. Box 13130 San Bernardino, CA 92423-3130 Email: bbrunick@bmklawplc.com lmcelhaney@bmklawplc.com

Attorneys for Defendant/Cross-Complainant Mojave Water Agency

Valerie Wiegenstein Jeffrey D. Ruesch Watermaster Services Managers Mojave Basin Area Watermaster Mojave Water Agency 13846 Conference Center Drive Apple Valley, CA 92307 Email: vwiegenstein@MojaveWater.org jruesch@mojavewater.org

Mojave Basin Area Watermaster

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the above is true and correct. Executed on July 22, 2025, at Santa Barbara, California.

PROOF OF SERVICE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA } COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO}

I am employed in the County of the San Bernardino, State of California. I am over the age of 18 and not a party to the within action; my business address is 13846 Conference Center Drive, Apple Valley, California 92307.

On July 23, 2025, the document(s) described below were served pursuant to the Mojave Basin Area Watermaster's Rules and Regulations paragraph 8.B.2 which provides for service by electronic mail upon election by the Party or paragraph 10.D, which provides that Watermaster shall mail a postcard describing each document being served, to each Party or its designee according to the official service list, a copy of which is attached hereto, and which shall be maintained by the Mojave Basin Area Watermaster pursuant to Paragraph 37 of the Judgment. Served documents will be posted to and maintained on the Mojave Water Agency's internet website for printing and/or download by Parties wishing to do so.

Document(s) filed with the court and served herein are described as follows:

GOLDEN STATE WATER COMPANY'S: OPPOSITION TO MOJAVE WATER AGENCY'S MOTION (1) FOR APPROVAL OF PRODUCTION SAFE YIELD CALCULATIONS, AND (2) TO ADJUST FREE PRODUCTION ALLOWANCES FOR WATER YEAR 2025-2026; AND RESPONSES TO COURT'S QUESTIONS AND ISSUES

X (STATE) I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the above is true and correct.

Executed on July 23, 2025 at Apple Valley, California.

Jeffrey D. Ruesch

Attn: Roberto Munoz 35250 Yermo, LLC 11273 Palms Blvd., Ste. D. Los Angeles, CA 90066-2122 Attn: John McCallum Abshire, David V. PO Box # 2059 Lucerne Valley, CA 92356-2059 Attn: Jessie Florez Adelanto, City Of 11600 Air Expressway Adelanto, CA 92301-1914

(adesdevon@gmail.com)

Ades, John and Devon (via email)

Attn: Pedro Dumaua (pdumaua@ducommun.com) Aerochem, Inc. (via email) 23301 S. Wilmington Ave Carson, CA 90744-

Murrieta, CA 92563-6710

Attn: Lori Clifton (lclifton@robar.com) Agcon, Inc. (via email) 17671 Bear Valley Road Hesperia, CA 92345-4902

Attn: Chun Soo and Wha Ja Ahn (chunsooahn@naver.com)

Ahn Revocable Living Trust (via email)

P. O. Box 45

Apple Valley, CA 92307-0001

Attn: Simon Ahn (ssahn58@gmail.com)

Attn: Chun Soo Ahn
(davidahnmd@gmail.com,
chunsooahn@naver.com;

davidahn0511@gmail.com)
Ahn, Chun Soo and David (via email)

P. O. Box 45

Apple Valley, CA 92307-0001

Attn: Chun Soo Ahn (chunsooahn@naver.com)

Ahn, Chun Soo and Wha Ja (via email)

P. O. Box 45

Apple Valley, CA 92307-0001

Ake, Charles J. and Marjorie M. 2301 Muriel Drive, Apt. 67 Barstow, CA 92311-6757 Attn: Paul Tsai (paul@ezzlife.com) America United Development, LLC (via

email)

19625 Shelyn Drive

Rowland Heights, CA 91748-3246

Attn: Ana Chavez

American States Water Company 160 Via Verde, Ste. 100 San Dimas, CA 91773-5121 Anderson, Ross C. and Betty J. 13853 Oakmont Dr.

Victorville, CA 92395-4832

Attn: Daniel B. Smith (avfcwd@gmail.com)
Apple Valley Foothill County Water District

(via email)

22545 Del Oro Road

Apple Valley, CA 92308-8206

Attn: Matthew Patterson

Apple Valley Heights County Water District

P. O. Box 938

Apple Valley, CA 92308-0938

Attn: Parks and Recreation Town of Apple

Valley

Apple Valley Unified School District

14955 Dale Evans Parkway Apple Valley, CA 92307-3061 Attn: Emely and Joe Saltmeris

Apple Valley View Mutual Water Company

P. O. Box 3680

Apple Valley, CA 92307-0072

Attn: Tina Kuhns Apple Valley, Town Of 14955 Dale Evans Parkway Apple Valley, CA 92307-3061 (ArchibekFarms@gmail.com; Sandi.Archibek@gmail.com) Archibek, Eric (via email) 41717 Silver Valley Road Newberry Springs, CA 92365-9517 Avila, Angel and Evalia 1523 S. Visalia Compton, CA 90220-3946

Attn: Sheré R. Bailey

(LegalPeopleService@gmail.com)

Bailey 2007 Living Revocable Trust, Sheré R.

(via email)

10428 National Blvd

Los Angeles, CA 90034-4664

Attn: Daniel Shaw (barhwater@gmail.com) Bar H Mutual Water Company (via email)

PO Box 1592

Lucerne Valley, CA 92356-0844

Attn: John Munoz

(barlenwater@hotmail.com;)

Bar-Len Mutual Water Company (via email)

P. O. Box 77

Barstow, CA 92312-0077

Attn: Curtis Palmer

Baron, Susan and Palmer, Curtis

141 Road 2390

Aztec, NM 87410-9322

Attn: Jennifer Riley (hriley@barstowca.org)

Barstow, City of (via email)

220 East Mountain View Street -Suite A

Barstow, CA 92311

Bartels, Gwendolyn J. 156 W 100 N

Jerome, ID 83338-5256

Attn: Angelyn Bass (angelynbass@yahoo.com) Bass Trust, Newton T. (via email) 14924 Chamber Lane

Beinschroth Trust, Andy 6719 Deep Creek Road Apple Valley, CA 92308-8711

Apple Valley, CA 92307-4912

Attn: Deborah Stephenson

(stephenson@dmsnaturalresources.com;

Jason.Murray@bnsf.com; Blaine.Bilderback@bnsf.com) BNSF Railway Company (via email) 602 S. Ferguson Avenue, Suite 2 Bozeman, MT 59718-

Box, Geary S. and Laura P. O. Box 402564 Hesperia, CA 92340-2564

Brown, Jennifer 10001 Choiceana Ave. Hesperia, CA 92345

(bubierbear@msn.com) Bubier, Diane Gail (via email) 46263 Bedford Rd.

Newberry Springs, CA 92365-9819

(kjbco@yahoo.com) Bush, Kevin (via email) 7768 Sterling Ave.

San Bernardino, CA 92410-4741

Attn: Robert W. Bowcock CalMat Company 405 N. Indian Hill Blvd. Claremont, CA 91711-4614

Attn: Tony Camanga Camanga, Tony and Marietta 2309 Highland Heights Lane Carrollton, TX 75007-2033 Attn: Remo E. Bastianon Bastianon Revocable Trust 9484 Iroquois Rd.

Apple Valley, CA 92308-9151

Attn: Chuck Bell (Chuckb193@outlook.com; Chuckb193@outlook.com)

Bell, Charles H. Trust dated March 7, 2014

(via email) P. O. Box 193

Lucerne Valley, CA 92356-0193

Attn: Deborah Stephenson

(stephenson@dmsnaturalresources.com) BNSF Railway Company (via email) 602 S. Ferguson Avenue, Suite 2 Bozeman, MT 59718-6483

Attn: Marvin Brommer Brommer House Trust 9435 Strathmore Lane Riverside, CA 92509-0941

Bruneau, Karen 19575 Bear Valley Rd. Apple Valley, CA 92308-5104

Attn: Noah Furie Budget Finance Company PO BOX 641339 Los Angeles, CA 90064-6339

Attn: Kirstie Wright (Kirstie.Wright@associa.us) Calico Lakes Homeowners Association (via

11860 Pierce Street, Suite 100 Riverside, CA 92505-5178

Attn: Catalina Elias (celias@calportland.com) CalPortland Company - Agriculture (via email)

P. O. Box 146

email)

Oro Grande, CA 92368-0146

Attn: Myron Campbell II Campbell, M. A. and Dianne 19327 Cliveden Ave Carson, CA 90746-2716 Attn: Mike Beinschroth
(Beinschroth@gmail.com)

Reinschroth Family Trust (via et

Beinschroth Family Trust (via email)

18794 Sentenac Road

Apple Valley, CA 92307-5342

Best, Byron L. 21461 Camino Trebol Lake Forest, CA 92630-2011

Borja, Leonil T. and Tital L. 20784 Iris Canyon Road Riverside, CA 92508-

Attn: Paul Johnson

Brown Family Trust Dated August 11, 1999

26776 Vista Road

Helendale, CA 92342-9789

Attn: Ian Bryant (irim@aol.com)

Bryant Family Trust dated May 9, 2007 (via

email)

15434 Sequoia Avenue - Office Hesperia, CA 92345-1667

Bunnell, Dick 8589 Volga River Circle Fountain Valley, CA 92708-5536

Attn: Donald Larson (michael.lemke@dot.ca.gov; Donald.Larson@dot.ca.gov)

California Department Of Transportation (via

email)

175 W. Cluster

San Bernardino, CA 92408-1310

Attn: Catalina Elias

(cfernandez@calportland.com)
CalPortland Company - Oro Grande Plant (via

email)

P. O. Box 146

Oro Grande, CA 92368-0146

Carlton, Susan 445 Via Colusa Torrance, CA 90505-

Attn: Denise Parra Casa Colina Foundation P.O. Box 1760

Lucerne Valley, CA 92356

Attn: Paco Cabral (paco.cabral@wildlife.ca.gov; askregion6@wildlife.ca.gov; aaron.johnson@wildlife.ca.gov)

CDFW - Mojave River Fish Hatchery (via

email)

12550 Jacaranda Avenue Victorville, CA 92395-5183

Attn: Nancy Ryman

Chamisal Mutual Water Company

P. O. Box 1444

Adelanto, CA 92301-2779

Attn: Micahel Chisram Chisram, et al. 414 S. Lincoln Ave.

Monterey Park, CA 91775-3323

Christison, Joel P. O. Box 2635

Big River, CA 92242-2635

Attn: Manoucher Sarbaz Club View Partners

9903 Santa Monica Blvd., PMB #541 Beverly Hills, CA 90212-1671

Contratto, Ersula 13504 Choco Road

Apple Valley, CA 92308-4550

Attn: Jay Hooper (jayho123@gmail.com) Crown Cambria, LLC (via email)

9860 Gidley St.

El Monte, CA 91731-1110

Attn: Steve and Dana Rivett Daggett Ranch, LLC P. O. Box 112 Daggett, CA 92327-0112 Attn: Danielle Stewart

(danielle.stewart@wildlife.ca.gov; Richard.Kim@wildlife.ca.gov; Alisa.Ellsworth@wildlife.ca.gov) CDFW - Camp Cady (via email)

4775 Bird Farm Road Chino Hills, CA 91709-3175

Attn: Environmental (valorie.moore@cemex.com) Cemex, Inc. (via email) 16888 North E. Street Victorville, CA 92394-2999

Attn: Carl Pugh (talk2betty@aol.com;

cpugh3@aol.com)

Cheyenne Lake, Inc. (via email) 44658 Valley Center Rd. Newberry Springs, CA 92365-

Choi, Yong Il and Joung Ae 34424 Mountain View Road Hinkley, CA 92347-9412

Attn: Hwa-Yong Chung

Chung, et al. 11446 Midway Ave.

Lucerne Valley, CA 92356-8792

Attn: Jaehwan Lee Come Mission, Inc. 9965 Baker Road

Lucerne Valley, CA 92365-8490

Attn: George Starke Corbridge, Linda S. 8743 Vivero St

Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730-

Attn: Alessia Morris

Crystal Lakes Property Owners Association

P. O. Box 351

Yermo, CA 92398-0351

Attn: WeWork c/o Aileen Yeung (aileen.yeung@clearwayenergy.com) Daggett Solar Power 3 LLC (via email) 1550 Wewatta St., Suite 200

Denver, CO 80202-6305

Attn: San Bernardino Co Regional Parks CDFW - Mojave Narrows Regional Park 268 W. Hospitality Lane, Suite 303 San Bernardino, CA 92408-3241

Attn: Jennifer Cutler Center Water Company

P. O. Box 616

Lucerne Valley, CA 92356-0616

(JohnChinm3@gmail.com)

Chin Family Life Estate Trust (via email)

15648 Meridian Road

Lucerne Valley, CA 92356-9008

(joan.chong7@gmail.com; joancksp@hotmail.com) Chong, Joan (via email) 1054 N. Antonio Circle Orange, CA 92869-1966

Clark, Arthur P. O. Box 4513

Blue Jay, CA 92317-4513

Conner, William H. 11535 Mint Canyon Rd. Agua Dulce, CA 91390-4577

Cross, Sharon I. P. O. Box 922

Lucerne Valley, CA 92356

Attn: Shanna Mitchell (daggettcsd@aol.com;

daggettcsd@outlook.com; daggettwater427@gmail.com)

Daggett Community Services District (via

email)

P. O. Box 308

Daggett, CA 92327-0308

Darr, James S. 40716 Highway 395 Boron, CA 93516

Attn: Alan L. De Jong De Jong Family Trust 46561 Fairview Road

Newberry Springs, CA 92365-9230

Attn: Penny Zaritsky

(pennyzaritsky2000@yahoo.com) Desert Girlz LLC (via email)

P. O. Box 709

Lucerne Valley, CA 92356-0709

Attn: Judith Dolch-Partridge, Trustee Dolch Living Trust Robert and Judith

4181 Kramer Lane

Bellingham, WA 98226-7145

Attn: David Dorrance

Dorrance, David W. and Tamela L.

118 River Road Circle Wimberley, TX 78676-5060

Evenson, Edwin H. and Joycelaine C.

P. O. Box 66

Oro Grande, CA 92368-0066

Fejfar, Monica Kay 34080 Ord Street

Newberry Springs, CA 92365-9791

Ferro, Dennis and Norma 1311 1st Ave. N

Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250-3512

Attn: Carl Fischer (carlsfischer@hotmail.com;

fischer@fischercompanies.com)

Fischer Revocable Living Trust (via email)

1372 West 26th St.

San Bernardino, CA 92405-3029

(cfrates@renewablegroup.com)
Frates, D. Cole (via email)

RRG CM, 926 N Sycamore Ave Ste 725

Los Angeles, CA 90038-2382

Gabrych Family Trust dated October 9, 2007

2006 Old Highway 395 Fallbrook, CA 92028 Attn: Randy Wagner

Dennison, Quentin D. - Clegg, Frizell and Joke

44579 Temescal Street Newberry Springs, CA 92365

Attn: Denise Courtney

Desert Springs Mutual Water Company

P. O. Box 396

Lucerne Valley, CA 92356-0396

Donaldson, Jerry and Beverly

16736 B Road Delta, CO 81416-8501

Attn: David Looper Douglass, Tina P.O. Box 1730

Lucerne Valley, CA 92356-

Attn: Stephanie L. Evert

(severt2166@aol.com) Evert Family Trust (via email)

19201 Parker Circle Villa Park, CA 92861-1302

(wwcc0626@gmail.com) Feng, Jinbao (via email) 33979 Fremont Road

Newberry Springs, CA 92365-9136

(ropingmom3@yahoo.com) Finch, Jenifer (via email)

9797 Lewis Lane

Apple Valley, CA 92308-8357

Attn: Paul Johnson

Fisher Trust, Jerome R. 7603 Hazeltine Ave Van Nuys, CA 91405-1423

Attn: Deborah A. Friend Friend, Joseph and Deborah

P. O. Box 253

Barstow, CA 92312-0253

Gabrych Family Trust dated Octobner 9, 2007

2006 Old Highway 395 Fallbrook, CA 92028-8816 Attn: Marie McDaniel

Desert Dawn Mutual Water Company

P. O. Box 392

Lucerne Valley, CA 92356-0392

Attn: Debby Wyatt DLW Revocable Trust 13830 Choco Rd.

Apple Valley, CA 92307-5525

Attn: Virginia Shaw Dora Land, Inc. P. O. Box 1405

Apple Valley, CA 92307-0026

Dowell, Leonard 345 E Carson St. Carson, CA 90745-2709

Attn: David Dittenmore

(d2dittemore@bop.gov; rslayman@bop.gov) Federal Bureau of Prisons, Victorville (via

email)

P. O. Box 5400

Adelanto, CA 92301-5400

(afc30@yahoo.com) Fernandez, Arturo (via email)

28 Calle Fortuna

Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688-2627

Attn: Alex and Jerrica Liu (alexliu1950@gmail.com; alexroseanneliu@yahoo.com) First CPA LLC (via email) 46669 Valley Center Rd Newberry Springs, CA 92365-

Attn: Daisy Cruz Foothill Estates MHP, LLC

9454 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 920 Beverly Hills, CA 90212-2925

Attn: Mark Asay (bettybrock@ironwood.org;

waltbrock@ironwood.org)

Fundamental Christian Endeavors, Inc. (via

email)

49191 Cherokee Road Newberry Springs, CA 92365

Gaeta, Miguel and Maria 9366 Joshua Avenue

Lucerne Valley, CA 92356-8273

Attn: Jay Storer Gaeta, Trinidad 10551 Dallas Avenue Lucerne Valley, CA 92356 Garcia, Daniel 223 Rabbit Trail Lake Jackson, TX 77566-3728

Attn: Sang Hwal Kim Gardena Mission Church, Inc. P. O. Box 304

Lucerne Valley, CA 92356-0304

Garg, Om P.

530 Technology Drive, Suite 100 Irvine, CA 92618-1350

Attn: Brent Peterson Gayjikian, Samuel and Hazel 34534 Granite Road Lucerne Valley, CA 92356-

Attn: Jeffrey Edwards (jedwards@fbremediation.com.) GenOn California South, LP (via email) P. O. Box 337 Daggett, CA 92327-0337

(Nereida.Gonzalez@gswater.com, ana.chavez@gswater.com)

Golden State Water Company (via email)

160 Via Verde, Ste. 100 San Dimas, CA 91773-5121 Attn: Nereida Gonzalez (ana.chavez@gswater.com, Nereida.Gonzalez@gswater.com) Golden State Water Company (via email) 160 Via Verde, Ste. 100

Attn: Manoucher Sarbaz Golf Investments LLC 9903 Santa Monica Blvd., #541 Beverly Hills, CA 90212-1606

Attn: Scot Gasper

Gordon Acres Water Company

P. O. Box 1035

Lucerne Valley, CA 92356-1035

Gray, George F. and Betty E.

San Dimas, CA 91773-5121

975 Bryant

Calimesa, CA 92320-1301

Attn: Brian E. Bolin Green Acres Estates P. O. Box 29

Apple Valley, CA 92307-0001

Attn: Eric Archibek Green Hay Packers LLC 41717 Silver Valley Road

Newberry Springs, CA 92365-9517

Attn: Nick Grill (Nick.terawatt@gmail.com) Grill, Nicholas P. and Millie D. (via email)

35350 Mountain View Rd Hinkley, CA 92347-9613

Gubler, Hans P. O. Box 3100 Landers, CA 92285

Attn: Tamara J Skoglund (TamaraMcKenzie@aol.com) Gulbranson, Merlin (via email) 511 Minnesota Ave W Gilbert, MN 55741Gutierrez, Jose and Gloria 24116 Santa Fe Hinkley, CA 92347

Attn: Bryan C. Haas and Mary H. Hinkle

(resrvc4you@aol.com)

Haas, Bryan C. and Hinkle, Mary H. (via

email)

14730 Tigertail Road

Apple Valley, CA 92307-5249

Attn: Edward E. Hackbarth (hackbarthoffice@gmail.com) Hackbarth, Edward E. (via email) 13312 Ranchero Rd STE 241 Oak Hills, CA 92344-4812

Attn: Doug and Cheryl Hamilton Hamilton Family Trust 19945 Round Up Way Apple Valley, CA 92308-8338

Attn: William Handrinos Handrinos, Nicole A. 1140 Parkdale Rd. Adelanto, CA 92301-9308

Hang, Phu Quang 645 S. Shasta Street

West Covina, CA 91791-2818

Attn: Donald F. Hanify

Hanify, Michael D., dba - White Bear Ranch

PO BOX 1021

Yermo, CA 92398-1021

Attn: Matt Wood

(Matthew.wood@martinmarietta.com) Hanson Aggregates WRP, Inc. (via email)

P. O. Box 1115

Corona, CA 92878-1115

Attn: Mary Jane Hareson Hareson, Nicholas and Mary 1737 Anza Avenue Vista, CA 92084-3236

Attn: Kenny Harmsen (harmsencow@aol.com) Harmsen Family Trust (via email)

23920 Community Blvd. Hinkley, CA 92347-9721 Harter, Joe and Sue 10902 Swan Lake Road Klamath Falls, OR 97603-9676

(harveyl.92356@gmail.com) Harvey, Lisa M. (via email) P. O. Box 1187

Lucerne Valley, CA 92356-

Haskins, James J. 11352 Hesperia Road, #2 Hesperia, CA 92345-2165 Hass, Pauline L. P. O. Box 273

Newberry Springs, CA 92365-

Attn: Craig Carlson (kcox@helendalecsd.org; ccarlson@helendalecsd.org)

Helendale Community Services District (via

email)

P. O. Box 359

Helendale, CA 92342-0359

Attn: Joshua Maze Helendale School District P. O. Box 249 Helendale, CA 92342-0249

Attn: Jeff Gallistel Hendley, Rick and Barbara P. O. Box 972

Yermo, CA 92398-0972

Attn: Janie Martines

Hensley, Mark P. 35523 Mountain View Rd

Hinkley, CA 92347-9613

Attn: Jeremy McDonald (jmcdonald@cityofhesperia.us) Hesperia - Golf Course, City of (via email) 9700 Seventh Avenue Hesperia, CA 92345-3493

(janiemartines@gmail.com) Hesperia Venture I, LLC (via email) 10 Western Road Wheatland, WY 82201-8936

Attn: Jeremy McDonald (jmcdonald@cityofhesperia.us) Hesperia Water District (via email)

9700 7th Avenue Hesperia, CA 92345-3493 Attn: Jeremy McDonald (tsouza@cityofhesperia.us) Hesperia, City of (via email) 9700 Seventh Avenue Hesperia, CA 92345-3493

Attn: Carabeth Carter () Hettinga Revocable Trust (via email) P. O. Box 455 Ehrenberg, AZ 85334-0455

Attn: Lisset Sardeson

Hi Desert Mutual Water Company 23667 Gazana Street Barstow, CA 92311

(leehiett@hotmail.com) Hiett, Harry L. (via email) P. O. Box 272

Daggett, CA 92327-0272

Attn: Robert W. Bowcock High Desert Associates, Inc. 405 North Indian Hill Blvd. Claremont, CA 91711-4614

Attn: Lori Clifton (lclifton@robar.com) Hi-Grade Materials Company (via email)

17671 Bear Valley Rd Hesperia, CA 92345-4902 Attn: Lori Clifton (lclifton@robar.com) Hi-Grade Materials Company (via email)

17671 Bear Valley Road Hesperia, CA 92345-4902 Attn: Frank Hilarides

Hilarides 1998 Revocable Family Trust

37404 Harvard Road Newberry Springs, CA 92365

Attn: Katherine Hill (Khill9@comcast.net) Hill Family Trust and Hill's Ranch, Inc. (via

84 Dewey Street Ashland, OR 97520Attn: Anne Roark Hitchin Lucerne, Inc. PO Box 965

Lucerne Valley, CA 92356-0749

Ho, Ting-Seng and Ah-Git P.O. Box 20001 Bakersfield, CA 93390-0001

Attn: Joan Rohrer

Hollister, Robert H. and Ruth M.

22832 Buendia

Mission Viejo, CA 92691-

Holway, Jeffrey R 1401 Wewatta St. #1105 Denver, CO 80202-1348 Attn: Katherine K. Hsu Holy Heavenly Lake, LLC 1261 S. Lincoln Ave. Monterey Park, CA 91755-5017

Attn: Paul Hong Hong, Paul B. and May P. O. Box #1432 Covina, CA 91722-0432 Attn: Sandra D. Hood Hood Family Trust 2142 W Paseo Del Mar San Pedro, CA 90732-4557 Attn: Barry Horton Horton Family Trust 47716 Fairview Road Newberry Springs, CA 92365-9258

Attn: Ester Hubbard

Hubbard, Ester and Mizuno, Arlean

47722 Kiloran St.

Newberry Springs, CA 92365-9529

Attn: Paul Johnson Huerta, Hector 25684 Community Blvd Barstow, CA 92311-

(hconnie630@gmail.com) Hunt, Connie (via email) 39392 Burnside Loop Astoria, OR 97103-8248

Attn: Ralph Hunt

Hunt, Ralph M. and Lillian F.

P. O. Box 603

Yermo, CA 92398-0603

Attn: Brenda Hyatt (calivolunteer@verizon.net) Hyatt, James and Brenda (via email) 31726 Fremont Road

Newberry Springs, CA 92365

(econorx@yahoo.com) Im, Nicholas Nak-Kyun (via email) 300 W Valley Blvd Alhambra, CA 91803-3338

Irvin, Bertrand W. 3224 West 111th Street Inglewood, CA 90303Attn: James Jackson Jr. Jackson, James N. Jr Revocable Living Trust 1245 S. Arlington Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90019-3517

Attn: Lawrence Dean Jackson, Ray Revocable Trust No. 45801 P.O. Box 8250 Redlands, CA 92375-1450

Attn: Audrey Goller (audrey.goller@newportpacific.com) Jamboree Housing Corporation (via email)

15940 Stoddard Wells Rd - Office Victorville, CA 92395-2800

Attn: Tomas Janovsky (tomjanovsky@yahoo.com) Janovsky Revocable Trust No. 1 (via email) 17241 Bullock Street Encino, CA 91316-1437

Attn: Gary A. Ledford (gleddream@gmail.com) Jess Ranch Water Company (via email) 906 Old Ranch Road Florissant, CO 80816-

Attn: Cynthia Mahoney (cyndisue87@yahoo.com)

Johnson, Carlean F. Trust Dated 10/29/2004 (via email)

8626 Deep Creek Road

Apple Valley, CA 92308-8769

Attn: Paul Johnson (johnsonfarming@gmail.com) Johnson, Paul - Industrial (via email)

1156 Clovis Circle Dammeron Valley, UT 84783-5211 10456 Deep Creek Road

Attn: Lawrence W. Johnston Johnston, Harriet and Johnston, Lawrence W.

P. O. Box 401472 Hesperia, CA 92340-1472 Attn: Magdalena Jones (mygoldenbiz9@gmail.com)

Apple Valley, CA 92308-8330

Jones Trust dated March 16, 2002 (via email)

35424 Old Woman Springs Road Lucerne Valley, CA 92356-7237

Attn: Paul Jordan Jordan Family Trust 1650 Silver Saddle Drive Barstow, CA 92311-2057

Johnson, Ronald

Attn: Ray Gagné Jubilee Mutual Water Company

P. O. Box 1016 Lucerne Valley, CA 92356 Jujube Valley Farm, Inc. 19 Pemberly Irvine, CA 92603-3452

Attn: Jilin Xiao

Attn: Daniel Smith (dsmith@jrcwd.org) Juniper Riviera County Water District (via email)

P.O. Box 618

Lucerne Valley, CA 92356-0618

Attn: Ash Karimi Karimi, Hooshang 1254 Holmby Ave Los Angeles, CA 90024Attn: Robert R. Kasner (Robertkasner@aol.com)

Kasner Family Limited Partnership (via email)

11584 East End Avenue Chino, CA 91710-

(Robertkasner@aol.com) Kasner, Robert (via email) 11584 East End Avenue Chino, CA 91710-1555

Attn: Martin A and Mercedes Katcher Katcher, August M. and Marceline 12928 Hyperion Lane

Apple Valley, CA 92308-4565

Kemp, Robert and Rose 48441 National Trails Highway Newberry Springs, CA 92365

Kemper Campbell Ranch 10 Kemper Campbell Ranch Road - Office

Victorville, CA 92395-3357

Attn: Peggy Shaughnessy

Kim, Jin S. and Hyun H. 419 Sara Jane Ln Placentia, CA 92870-5137 Attn: Alan and Annette De Jong Kim, Joon Ho and Mal Boon Revocable Trust

46561 Fairview Road

Newberry Springs, CA 92365-9230

(juskim67@yahoo.com) Kim, Ju Sang (via email) 1225 Crestview Dr Fullerton, CA 92833-2206

Kim, Seon Ja 34981 Piute Road

Newberry Springs, CA 92365-9548

Attn: Richard Koering Koering, Richard and Koering, Donna 40909 Mountain View Road Newberry Springs, CA 92365-9414

(ccerri@lakearrowheadcsd.com) Lake Arrowhead Community Services District (via email)

P. O. Box 700

Attn: Catherine Cerri

Lake Arrowhead, CA 92352-0700

Attn: Claire Cabrey (HandleWithClaire@aol.com;

mike@jaynes.net)

Lake Jodie Property Owners Association (via

email)

8581 Santa Monica Blvd., #18 West Hollywood, CA 90069-4120

(PhillipLam99@Yahoo.com) Lam, Phillip (via email) 864 Sapphire Court Pomona, CA 91766-5171

Attn: Robert Lawrence Jr. Lawrence, William W. P. O. Box 98

Newberry Springs, CA 92365

Lee, Doo Hwan P. O. Box 556

Lucerne Valley, CA 92356-0556

Lenhert, Ronald and Toni 4474 W. Cheyenne Drive Eloy, AZ 85131-3410

Attn: Michael Reese

(Michael.Reese@libertyutilities.com) Liberty Utilities (Apple Valley Ranchos

Water) Corp. (via email)

P. O. Box 7005

Apple Valley, CA 92307

Attn: Neal Davies (ndavies@terra-gen.com;

dkelly@terra-gen.com)

Lockhart Land Holding, LLC (via email)

43880 Harper Lake Road Hinkley, CA 92347-

Lua, Michael T. and Donna S. 18838 Aldridge Place

Rowland Heights, CA 91748-4890

Attn: Manoucher Sarbaz Lucerne Valley Partners

9903 Santa Monica Blvd., PMB #541 Beverly Hills, CA 90212-1671 Attn: Nancy Lan Lake Waikiki 230 Hillcrest Drive La Puente, CA 91744-4816

(jlangley@kurschgroup.com) Langley, James (via email) 12277 Apple Valley Road, Ste. #120 Apple Valley, CA 92308-1701

Lawson, Ernest and Barbara 20277 Rock Springs Road Apple Valley, CA 92308-8740

Attn: Sepoong & Woo Poong Lee Lee, et al., Sepoong and Woo Poong

#6 Ensueno East Irvine, CA 92620-

Attn: Brad Francke LHC Alligator, LLC P. O. Box 670

Upland, CA 91785-0670

Attn: James Lin

Lin, Kuan Jung and Chung, Der-Bing

2026 Turnball Canyon Hacienda Heights, CA 91745-

Attn: Patricia Miranda Lopez, Baltazar 12318 Post Office Rd Lucerne Valley, CA 92356-

Attn: Parviz Omidvar (pomidvar@roadrunner.com) Lucerne Valley 26, LLC (via email) 8383 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 943 Beverly Hills, CA 90211-2411

Attn: Marian Walent (LVVMC677@gmail.com)
Lucerne Vista Mutual Water Company (via

email) P. O. Box 677

Lucerne Valley, CA 92356-0677

Attn: Timothy Rohm (ljm9252@aol.com;

timrohmbuilding@gmail.com)

Lake Wainani Owners Association (via email)

2812 Walnut Avenue, Suite A Tustin, CA 92780-7053

Attn: Vanessa Laosy Lavanh, et al. 18203 Yucca St. Hesperia, CA 92345-

Attn: Anna K. Lee (aklee219@gmail.com) Lee, Anna K. and Eshban K. (via email)

10979 Satsuma St

Loma Linda, CA 92354-6113

Lee, Vin Jang T. 42727 Holcomb Trl

Newberry Springs, CA 92365

Attn: Billy Liang

Liang, Yuan - I and Tzu - Mei Chen

4192 Biscayne St Chino, CA 91710-3196

Attn: Manshan Gan

Lo, et al.

5535 N Muscatel Ave San Gabriel, CA 91776-1724

Attn: Dean Low (lowgo.dean@gmail.com)

Low, Dean (via email) 3 Panther Creek Ct. Henderson, NV 89052-

Attn: Gwen L. Bedics

Lucerne Valley Mutual Water Company

P. O. Box 1311

Lucerne Valley, CA 92356

Attn: Eugene R. & Vickie R. Bird

M Bird Construction 1613 State Street, Ste. 10 Barstow, CA 92311-4162

Attn: James M. Hansen, Jr. (gm@mrcwd.org;

Attn: Maria Martinez

M.B. Landscaping and Nursery, Inc.

6831 Lime Avenue

Long Beach, CA 90805-1423

Attn: Robert Saidi Mahjoubi, Afsar S. 46622 Fairview Road

Newberry Springs, CA 92365

Manning, Sharon S. 19332 Balan Road

Rowland Heights, CA 91748-4017

Markley, Carmen and Price, Aric

Attn: Allen Marcroft Marcroft, James A. and Joan

P. O. Box 519

Newberry Springs, CA 92365

gmmrcwd@gmail.com) Mariana Ranchos County Water District (via email)

9600 Manzanita Street Apple Valley, CA 92308-8605 Barstow, CA 92312-1407

PO Box 1407

Marshall, Charles 32455 Lakeview Road

Newberry Springs, CA 92365-9482

Martin, Michael D. and Arlene D. 32942 Paseo Mira Flores

San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675

Attn: Rod Sexton McCollum, Charles L. 15074 Spruce St

Hesperia, CA 92345-2950

McKinney, Paula 144 East 72nd

Tacoma, WA 98404-1060

Attn: Olivia L. Mead Mead Family Trust 31314 Clay River Road Barstow, CA 92311-2057 Attn: David I. Milbrat Milbrat, Irving H. P. O. Box 487

Newberry Springs, CA 92365-0487

Attn: Donna Miller Miller Living Trust 6124 Parsonage Circle Milton, FL 32570-8930

Attn: Philip Mizrahie Mizrahie, et al. 4105 W. Jefferson Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90016-4124

Attn: Mahnaz Ghamati (mahnaz.ghamati@atlantica.com) Mojave Solar, LLC (via email) 42134 Harper Lake Road Hinkley, CA 92347-9305

Attn: Manoucher Sarbaz Monaco Investment Company 9903 Santa Monica Blvd., PMB #541 Beverly Hills, CA 90212-1671

Attn: Bradford Ray Most Most Family Trust 39 Sundance Circle Durango, CO 81303-8131

(z.music5909@gmail.com; zajomusic@gmail.com) Music, Zajo (via email) 43830 Cottonwood Rd Newberry Springs, CA 92365-8510 Attn: Freddy Garmo (freddy@garmolaw.com)

Minn15 LLC (via email)

 $5464\ Grossmont\ Center\ Drive, \#300$

La Mesa, CA 91942-3035

Attn: Thomas A. Hrubik (tahgolf@aol.com)

MLH, LLC (via email) P. O. Box 2611

Apple Valley, CA 92307-0049

Attn: Doug Kerns

(aanabtawi@mojavewater.org) Mojave Water Agency (via email) 13846 Conference Center Drive Apple Valley, CA 92307-4377

Attn: Ken Elliot (Billie@ElliotsPlace.com)

Morris Trust, Julia V. (via email)

7649 Cypress Dr. Lanexa, VA 23089-9320

Attn: Dennis Hills Mulligan, Robert and Inez 35575 Jakobi Street Saint Helens, OR 97051-1194

Apple Valley, CA 92308-8490

Attn: James Hansen (gm@marianaranchoscwd.org) Navajo Mutual Water Company (via email) 21724 Hercules St.

Attn: David Riddle (driddle@mitsubishicement.com)

Mitsubishi Cement Corporation (via email)

5808 State Highway 18

Lucerne Valley, CA 92356-8179

Attn: Sarah Bliss Mojave Desert Land Trust 60124 29 Palms Highway Joshua Tree, CA 92252-4130

Attn: Doug Kerns

(tmccarthy@mojavewater.org) Mojave Water Agency (via email) 13846 Conference Center Drive Apple Valley, CA 92307-4377

Moss, Lawrence W. and Helen J.

38338 Old Woman Springs Road Spc# 56 Lucerne Valley, CA 92356-8116

Murphy, Jean

46126 Old National Trails Highway Newberry Springs, CA 92365-9025

Attn: Billy Liang (flossdaily@hotmail.com; asaliking@yahoo.com)

New Springs Limited Partnership (via email)

4192 Biscayne St. Chino, CA 91710-3196

Attn: Jodi Howard

Newberry Community Services District

P. O. Box 220

Newberry Springs, CA 92365-0220

Attn: Kenton Eatherton (keatherton@verizon.net) NSSLC, Inc. (via email) 9876 Moon River Circle

Fountain Valley, CA 92708-7312

Attn: Jeff Gaastra (jeffgaastra@gmail.com;

andy@seesmachine.com; bbswift4044@cox.net) O. F. D. L., Inc. (via email) 32935 Dune Road, #10

Newberry Springs, CA 92365-9175

Attn: Craig Maetzold (craig.maetzold@omya.com) Omya California, Inc. (via email) 7225 Crystal Creek Rd

Lucerne Valley, CA 92356-8646

Attn: Taghi Shoraka

P and H Engineering and Development

Corporation

1423 South Beverly Glen Blvd. Apt. A

Los Angeles, CA 90024-6171

Patino, José

3914 W. 105th Street Inglewood, CA 90303-1815

Perko, Bert K. P. O. Box 762

Yermo, CA 92398-0762

Attn: John Poland

Poland, John R. and Kathleen A.

778 23rd St SW

Loveland, CO 80537-7200

Pruett, Andrea P. O. Box 37

Newberry Springs, CA 92365

Attn: Elizabeth Murena

(waterboy7F8@msn.com; etminav@aol.com) Rancheritos Mutual Water Company (via

email)

P. O. Box 348

Apple Valley, CA 92307

Attn: Jeff Gaastra (jeffgaastra@gmail.com)

Newberry Springs Recreational Lakes

Association (via email) 32935 Dune Road, Space 10 Newberry Springs, CA 92365-

Nuñez, Luis Segundo 9154 Golden Seal Court Hesperia, CA 92345-0197

Attn: Chun Soo Ahn (chunsooahn@naver.com) Oasis World Mission (via email)

P. O. Box 45

Apple Valley, CA 92307-0001

Attn: John P. Oostdam

Oostdam Family Trust, John P. and Margie K.

24953 Three Springs Road Hemet, CA 92545-2246

Attn: Jessica Balders (J4Dx@pge.com)
Pacific Gas and Electric Company (via email)

22999 Community Blvd Hinkley, CA 92347-9592

(wndrvr@aol.com)

Paustell, Joan Beinschroth (via email)

10275 Mockingbird Ave. Apple Valley, CA 92308-8303

Pettigrew, Dan 285 N Old Hill Road

Fallbrook, CA 92028-2571

Porter, Timothy M. 34673 Little Dirt Road

Newberry Springs, CA 92365-9646

(s_quakenbush@yahoo.com)

Quakenbush, Samuel R. (via email)

236 Iris Drive

Martinsburg, WV 25404-1338

Attn: Michael A. Reed

Reed, Mike

105 R C Smith Lane

Barbourville, KY 40906-7119

Attn: Mary Ann Norris Norris Trust, Mary Ann 29611 Exeter Street

Lucerne Valley, CA 92356-8261

Attn: Pearl or Gail Nunn Nunn Family Trust P. O. Box 2651

Apple Valley, CA 92307-0010

Attn: Dorothy Ohai

Ohai, Reynolds and Dorothy

13450 Monte Vista

Chino, CA 91710-5149

Attn: Nick Higgs

Oro Grande School District

P. O. Box 386

Oro Grande, CA 92368-0386

Pak, Kae Soo and Myong Hui Kang

P. O. Box 1835

Lucerne Valley, CA 92356-1835

Pearce, Craig L. 127 Columbus Dr

Punxsutawney, PA 15767-1270

Attn: Sean Wright (swright@pphcsd.org; dbartz@pphcsd.org; llowrance@pphcsd.org)

Phelan Piñon Hills Community Services

District (via email) 4176 Warbler Road Phelan, CA 92371-8819

Attn: Carin McKay

Precision Investments Services, LLC

791 Price Street, #160

Pismo Beach, CA 93449-2529

Attn: Ron Herrmann

Quiros, Fransisco J. and Herrmann, Ronald

35969 Newberry Rd

Newberry Springs, CA 92365-9438

Attn: Brian C. Vail (bvail@river-west.com)

Reido Farms, LLC (via email) 2410 Fair Oaks Blvd., Suite 110 Sacramento, CA 95825-7666

(LucerneJujubeFarm@hotmail.com) Rhee, Andrew N. (via email) 11717 Fairlane Rd, #989 Lucerne Valley, CA 92356-8829

Rice, Henry C. and Diana 31823 Fort Cady Rd. Newberry Springs, CA 92365-

Attn: Kelly Rice

P. O. Box 1864 Barstow, CA 92312-1864

Attn: Josie Rios

Rios, Mariano V.

Rivero, Fidel V. 612 Wellesley Drive Corona, CA 92879-0825

(RayRizvi@Yahoo.com) Rizvi, S.R Ali (via email) 4054 Allyson Terrace Freemont, CA 94538-4186 Attn: Jackie McEvoy (billt@rrmca.com) Robertson's Ready Mix (via email) P.O. Box 3600

Attn: Jackie McEvoy (billt@rrmca.com) Robertson's Ready Mix (via email)

Attn: Susan Sommers (sommerssqz@aol.com) Rossi Family Trust, James Lawrence Rossi and Naomi (via email)

Attn: Robert Vega Royal Way

Corona, CA 92878-3600

PO Box 3600

Corona, CA 92878-3600

P. O. Box 120

2632 Wilshire Blvd., #480 Santa Monica, CA 90403-4623

Attn: Sam Marich Rue Ranch, Inc. 42704 Edelweiss Drive Templeton, CA 93465-0120

Attn: Dale W. Ruisch

Attn: Sherwin Shoraka S and B Brothers, LLC

Big Bear Lake, CA 92315-2074

Ruisch Trust, Dale W. and Nellie H. 10807 Green Valley Road Apple Valley, CA 92308-3690

1423 S. Beverly Glen Blvd., Ste. A Los Angeles, CA 90024-6171

Attn: Jafar Rashid (jr123realestate@gmail.com)

Attn: Kanoe Barker (kanoebarker@yahoo.com)

(BILLU711@Yahoo.com) Samra, Jagtar S. (via email) 10415 Edgebrook Way

S and E 786 Enterprises, LLC (via email) 3300 S. La Cienega Blvd.

email)

Attn: Jared Beyeler

Attn: Jared Beyeler

Northridge, CA 91326-3952

Los Angeles, CA 90016-3115

42224 Valley Center Rd Newberry Springs, CA 92365

(trevor.leja@sdd.sbcounty.gov)

San Bernardino Co Barstow - Daggett Airport 268 W. Hospitality Lane, Suite 302

(waterquality@sdd.sbcounty.gov) San Bernardino County - High Desert Detention Center (via email)

222 W. Hospitality Lane, 2nd Floor - SDW

Attn: Jared Beyeler

(ssamaras@sdd.sbcounty.gov;

waterquality@sdd.sbcounty.gov)

jbeyeler@sdd.sbcounty.gov;

San Bernardino, CA 92415-0831

San Bernardino, CA 92415-0415

Sagabean-Barker, Kanoeolokelani L. (via

222 W. Hospitality Lane, 2nd Floor (Spec San Bernardino, CA 92415-0450

San Bernardino County Service Area 29 (via

Attn: Jared Beyeler (ssamaras@sdd.sbcounty.gov; jbeyeler@sdd.sbcounty.gov; waterquality@sdd.sbcounty.gov)

(ssamaras@sdd.sbcounty.gov; jbeyeler@sdd.sbcounty.gov; waterquality@sdd.sbcounty.gov)

San Bernardino County Service Area 42 (via

San Bernardino County Service Area 64 (via

222 W. Hospitality Lane, 2nd Floor - SDW San Bernardino, CA 92415-0450

222 W. Hospitality Lane, 2nd Floor - SDW San Bernardino, CA 92415-0450

222 W. Hospitality Lane, 2nd Floor - SDW San Bernardino, CA 92415-0450

San Bernardino County Service Area 70J (via

Attn: Michelle Scray (mcscray@gmail.com) Scray, Michelle A. Trust (via email)

Attn: Rod Sexton Sexton, Rodney A. and Sexton, Derek R. P.O. Box 155

Sheep Creek Water Company

16869 State Highway 173 Hesperia, CA 92345-9381

Rim Forest, CA 92378-

P. O. Box 291820 Phelan, CA 92329-1820

Attn: Joseph Tapia

Sheng, Jen 5349 S Sir Richard Dr Las Vegas, NV 89110-0100 Attn: Dan Sheppard (gloriasheppard14@gmail.com) Sheppard, Thomas and Gloria (via email) 11806 Preston St. Grand Terrace, CA 92313-5231

Short, Jerome E. P. O. Box 1104 Barstow, CA 92312-1104

Attn: Carlos Banuelos (maint@silverlakesassociation.com; fibarra@silverlakesassociation.com) Silver Lakes Association (via email)

P. O. Box 179

Helendale, CA 92342-0179

Smith, Porter and Anita 8443 Torrell Way San Diego, CA 92126-1254

Attn: Erika Clement (Shannon.Oldenburg@SCE.com; erika.clement@sce.com) Southern California Edison Company (via

email)

2 Innovation Way, 2nd Floor Pomona, CA 91768-2560

Spillman, James R. and Nancy J.

12132 Wilshire

Lucerne Valley, CA 92356-8834

Attn: Father Sarapamon

St. Antony Coptic Orthodox Monastery

P. O. Box 100

Barstow, CA 92311-0100

Sudmeier, Glenn W. 14253 Highway 138 Hesperia, CA 92345-9422

Attn: Stephen H. Douglas (sdouglas@centaurusenergy.com; mdoublesin@centcap.net; cre.notices@clenera.com)

Sunray Land Company, LLC (via email) 1717 West Loop South, Suite 1800

Houston, TX 77027-3049

Attn: Bill and Elizabeth Tallakson (billtallakson@sbcglobal.net)

Tallakson Family Revocable Trust (via email)

11100 Alto Drive

Oak View, CA 93022-9535

(jerryteisan@gmail.com) Teisan, Jerry (via email) P. O. Box 2089

Befair, WA 98528-2089

Attn: Nepal Singh (NepalSingh@yahoo.com)

Singh, et al. (via email) 4972 Yearling Avenue Irvine, CA 92604-2956

Attn: Steve Kim (stevekim1026@gmail.com) Snowball Development, Inc. (via email)

P. O. Box 2926

Victorville, CA 92393-2926

Attn: Jose Garcia

(maria.delaracruz@mineralstech.com) Specialty Minerals, Inc. (via email)

P. O. Box 558

Lucerne Valley, CA 92356-0558

Attn: Eric Miller (emiller@svla.com;

alogan@svla.com;)

Spring Valley Lake Association (via email)

SVL Box 7001

Victorville, CA 92395-5107

(chiefgs@verizon.net)

Starke, George A. and Jayne E. (via email)

8743 Vivero Street

Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730-1152

Attn: Alexandra Lioanag (sandra@halannagroup.com)

Summit Valley Ranch, LLC (via email) 220 Montgomery Street, Suite PH-10 San Francisco, CA 94104-3433

Attn: Venny Vasquez (lbaroldi@synagro.com) Synagro-WWT, Inc. (dba Nursury Products,

LLC) (via email) P. O. Box 1439 Helendale, CA 92342-

Tapie, Raymond L. 73270 Desert Greens Dr N Palm Desert, CA 92260-1206

Attn: John Henry Tellez (JohnnyMelissaTellez@gmail.com)

Tellez, et al. (via email) 43774 Cottonwood Road

Newberry Springs, CA 92365-9277

Attn: Denise Smith (ddgogo72@yahoo.com) Smith, Denise dba Amerequine Beauty, Inc

(via email)

13313 Newmire Ave. Norwalk, CA 90650-2168

Attn: Chan Kyun Son Son's Ranch P. O. Box 1767

Lucerne Valley, CA 92356

Sperry, Wesley P. O. Box 303

Newberry Springs, CA 92365-0303

Attn: Joe Trombino

Spring Valley Lake Country Club

7070 SVL Box

Victorville, CA 92395-5152

Storm, Randall 51432 130th Street

Byars, OK 74831-7357

Attn: Alex Vienna Sundown Lakes, Inc. P. O. Box 364

Newberry Springs, CA 92365-0364

Attn: Russell Szynkowski Szynkowski, Ruth J. 46750 Riverside Rd.

Newberry Springs, CA 92365-9738

Taylor, Sharon L. 14141 State Hwy 138 Hesperia, CA 92345-9339

Attn: Daryl or Lucinda Lazenby

Thayer, Sharon P. O. Box 845

Lucerne Valley, CA 92356-

Attn: Stephen Thomas Thomas, Stephen and Lori 4890 Topanga Canyon Bl. Woodland Hills, CA 91364-4229

Thrasher, Gary 14024 Sunflower Lane Oro Grande, CA 92368-9617

Attn: Mike Troeger (mjtroeger@yahoo.com) Troeger Family Trust, Richard H. (via email)

P. O. Box 24

Wrightwood, CA 92397

(druppal@aicdent.com) Uppal, Gagan (via email) 220 S Owens Drive Anaheim, CA 92808-1327

Attn: Dean Van Bastelaar Van Bastelaar, Alphonse 45475 Martin Road Newberry Springs, CA 92365-9625

Attn: John Driscoll

Vernola Trust, Pat and Mary Ann

P. O. Box 2190

Temecula, CA 92593-2190

Attn: Arnold Villarreal (avillarreal@victorvilleca.gov; ccun@victorvilleca.gov)

Victorville Water District, ID#1 (via email)

P. O. Box 5001

Victorville, CA 92393-5001

Vogler, Albert H. 17612 Danbury Ave. Hesperia, CA 92345-7073

(Jlow3367@gmail.com) Wang, Steven (via email) 2551 Paljay Avenue Rosemead, CA 91770-3204 Attn: Lynnette L. Thompson

Thompson Living Trust, James A. and Sula B.

22815 Del Oro Road Apple Valley, CA 92308

Attn: Doug Heinrichs (gm@thunderbirdcwd.org; office@thunderbirdcwd.org)

Thunderbird County Water District (via email)

P. O. Box 1105

Apple Valley, CA 92307-1105

Turner, Terry 726 Arthur Lane

Santa Maria, CA, CA 93455-7403

(gagevaage23@gmail.com) Vaage, Gage V. (via email) 47150 Black Butte Road

Newberry Springs, CA 92365-9698

Attn: Glen and Jennifer Van Dam

(gvandam@verizon.net)

Van Dam Family Trust, Glen and Jennifer

(via email)

3190 Cottonwood Avenue San Jacinto, CA 92582-4741

Attn: Eric Vreeman

Victor Valley Community College District 18422 Bear Valley Road, Bldg 10 Victorville, CA 92395-5850

Attn: Arnold Villarreal (avillarreal@victorvilleca.gov; kmetzler@victorvilleca.gov; snawaz@victorvilleca.gov)

Victorville Water District, ID#1 (via email)

P. O. Box 5001

Victorville, CA 92393-5001

Attn: Joan Wagner Wagner Living Trust 22530 Calvert Street

Woodland Hills, CA 91367-1704

Ward, Raymond P. O. Box 358

Newberry Springs, CA 92365-0358

Attn: Rodger Thompson

Thompson Living Trust, R.L. and R.A.

9141 Deep Creek Road Apple Valley, CA 92308-8351

Attn: Jim Hoover Triple H Partnership 35870 Fir Ave

Yucaipa, CA 92399-9635

Attn: Aurelio Ibarra (aibarra@up.com;

powen@up.com)

Union Pacific Railroad Company (via email)

HC1 Box 33 Kelso, CA 92309-

Vaca, Andy and Teresita S. 5550 Avenue Juan Bautista Riverside, CA 92509-5613

Attn: Jacob Bootsma

Van Leeuwen Trust, John A. and Ietie

44128 Silver Valley Road

Newberry Springs, CA 92365-9588

Attn: Jade Kiphen

Victor Valley Memorial Park

17150 C Street

Victorville, CA 92395-3330

Attn: Arnold Villarreal (sashton@victorvilleca.gov; avillarreal@victorvilleca.gov; dmathews@victorvilleca.gov)

Victorville Water District, ID#2 (via email)

PO Box 5001

Victorville, CA 92393-5001

Attn: Christian Joseph Wakula Wakula Family Trust 11741 Ardis Drive

Garden Grove, CA 92841-2423

Weems, Lizzie 9157 Veranda Court Las Vegas, NV 89149-0480

Weeraisinghe, Maithri N. P. O. Box 487

Barstow, CA 92312-0487

(andrewwerner11@gmail.com) Werner, Andrew J. (via email) 1718 N Sierra Bonita Ave Los Angeles, CA 90046-2231

West End Mutual Water Company

P. O. Box 1732

Attn: Cindy Sacks

Lucerne Valley, CA 92356

West, Howard and Suzv 9185 Loma Vista Road Apple Valley, CA 92308-0557 West, Jimmie E. P. O. Box 98

Oro Grande, CA 92368-0098

Attn: Nick Gatti ()

Western Development and Storage, LLC (via

email)

5701 Truxtun Avenue, Ste. 201 Bakersfield, CA 93309-0402

Attn: Chung Cho Gong Western Horizon Associates, Inc.

P. O. Box 397

Five Points, CA 93624-0397

Attn: Genaro Zapata Westland Industries, Inc. 520 W. Willow St.

Long Beach, CA 90806-2800

Attn: Thomas G. Ferruzzo (tferruzzo@ferruzzo.com) Wet Set, Inc. (via email)

44505 Silver Valley Road, Lot #05 Newberry Springs, CA 92365-9565

Wiener, Melvin and Mariam S. 1626 N. Wilcox Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90028-6234

Attn: Manoucher Sarbaz Wilshire Road Partners

9903 Santa Monica Blvd., PMB #541 Beverly Hills, CA 90212-1671

Attn: Connie Tapie

(praisethelord77777@yahoo.com) Withey, Connie (via email)

P. O. Box 3513

Victorville, CA 92393-3513

Witte, E. Daniel and Marcia 31911 Martino Drive Daggett, CA 92327-9752

Attn: Mark J. Cluff WLSR, Inc. 3507 N 307th Drive Buckeye, AZ 85396-6746 Attn: David A. Worsey Worsey, Joseph A. and Revae

P. O. Box 422

Newberry Springs, CA 92365-0422

(thechelseaco@yahoo.com) Yang, Zilan (via email) 428 S. Atlantic Blvd #205 Monterey Park, CA 91754-3228 Attn: Christine M. Carson, Esq. (ccarson@awattorneys.com) Aleshire & Wynder, LLP (via email)

3880 Lemon Street

Suite 520

Riverside, CA 92501-

Attn: Robert Hensley, Esq. (rhensley@awattorneys.com) Aleshire & Wynder, LLP (via email)

3880 Lemon Street Suite 520

Riverside, CA 92501-

Attn: Pam Lee, Esq. (plee@awattorneys.com) Aleshire & Wynder, LLP (via email)

3880 Lemon Street

Suite 520

Riverside, CA 92501-

Attn: Alison Paap (apaap@agloan.com) American AgCredit (via email)

42429 Winchester Road Temecula, CA 92590-2504

Attn: Wesley A. Miliband, Esq. (wes.miliband@mwaterlaw.com)

Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo

(via email)

2151 River Plaza Drive

Suite 300

Sacramento, CA 95833-

Attn: W.W. Miller, Esq. (bmiller@aalrr.com) Atkinson, Andelson, Loya-Ruud & Romo (via email)

3612 Mission Inn Avenue, Upper Level

Riverside, CA 92501

Attn: Christopher L. Campbell, Esq. Baker, Manock & Jensen 5260 N. Palm Avenue, 4th Floor Fresno, CA 93704-2209

Attn: Aloson Toivola, Esq. (alison.toivola@bbklaw.com) Best, Best & Krieger LLP (via email)

300 South Grand Avenue

25th Floor

Los Angeles, CA 90071

Attn: Piero C. Dallarda, Esq. (piero.dallarda@bbklaw.com) Best, Best & Krieger LLP (via email)

P.O. Box 1028 Riverside, CA 92502Attn: Christopher Pisano, Esq. (christopher.pisano@bbklaw.com) Best, Best & Krieger LLP (via email)

300 South Grand Avenue

25th Floor

Los Angeles, CA 90071

Attn: Eric L. Garner, Esq. (eric.garner@bbklaw.com)

Best, Best & Krieger LLP (via email)

3750 University Avenue

3rd Floor

Riverside, CA 92502-1028

Attn: Stephanie Osler Hastings, Esq. (SHastings@bhfs.com; mcarlson@bhfs.com) Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP (via email)
1021 Anacapa Street, 2nd Floor

1021 Anacapa Street, 2nd Floor Santa Barbara, CA 93101-2102

Attn: Stephen Puccini (stephen.puccini@wildlife.ca.gov) California Department of Fish and Wildlife (via email)

Attn: Jeffery L. Caufield, Esq. (Jeff@caufieldjames.com) Caufield & James, LLP (via email) 2851 Camino Del Rio South, Suite 410 San Diego, CA 92108-

Attn: Maria Insixiengmay (Maria.Insixiengmay@cc.sbcounty.gov) County of San Bernardino, County Counsel (via email) 385 N. Arrowhead Avenue, 4th Floor San Bernardino, CA 92415-0140

Attn: Noah GoldenKrasner, Dep (Noah.GoldenKrasner@doj.ca.gov) Department of Justice (via email) 300 S. Spring Street, Suite 1700 Los Angeles, CA 90013

Attn: James S. Heiser, Esq. Ducommun, Inc. 23301 S. Wilmington Avenue Carson, CA 90745

Attn: Kelly Ridenour, Ms. (kridenour@fennemorelaw.com) Fennemore LLP (via email) 550 East Hospitality Lane Suite 350 San Bernardino, CA 92408-4206

Attn: Toby Moore, PhD, PG, CHG (TobyMoore@gswater.com) Golden State Water Company (via email) 160 W. Via Verde, Suite 100 San Dimas, CA 91773-

Attn: Calvin R. House, Esq. Gutierrez, Preciado & House 3020 E. Colorado BLVD Pasadena, CA 91107-3840 Attn: William J. Brunick, Esq. (bbrunick@bmklawplc.com)
Brunick, McElhaney & Kennedy PLC (via email)
1839 Commercenter West
P.O. Box 13130

Attn: Alexander Devorkin, Esq. California Department of Transportation 100 South Main Street, Suite 1300 Los Angeles, CA 90012-3702

San Bernardino, CA 92423-3130

Attn: Andrew L. Jared, Esq. (ajared@chwlaw.us)
Colantuono, Highsmith & Whatley, PC (via email)
790 E. Colorado Blvd., Suite 850
Pasadena, CA 91101-2109

Attn: Robert E. Dougherty, Esq. Covington & Crowe 1131 West 6th Street Suite 300 Ontario, CA 91762

Attn: Marilyn Levin, Dep (Marilyn.Levin@doj.ca.gov) Department of Justice (via email) 300 S. Spring Street, Suite 1702 Los Angeles, CA 90013

Attn: Marlene Allen Murray, Esq. (mallenmurray@fennemorelaw.com)
Fennemore LLP (via email)
550 East Hospitality Lane
Suite 350
San Bernardino, CA 92408-4206

Attn: Derek Hoffman, Esq. (dhoffman@fennemorelaw.com)
Fennemore LLP (via email)
550 East Hospitality Lane
Suite 350
San Bernardino, CA 92408-4206

Attn: Andre de Bortnowsky, Esq. (andre@gblawoffices.com)
Green de Bortnowsky, LLP (via email)
30077 Agoura Court, Suite 210
Agoura Hills, CA 91301-2713

Attn: Curtis Ballantyne, Esq. Hill, Farrer & Burrill 300 S. Grand Avenue, 37th Floor 1 California Plaza Los Angeles, CA 90071 Attn: Terry Caldwell, Esq. Caldwell & Kennedy 15476 West Sand Street Victorville, CA 92392

Attn: Nancy McDonough California Farm Bureau Federation 2300 River Plaza Drive Sacramento, CA 95833

Attn: Matthew T. Summers, Esq. (msummers@chwlaw.us)
Colantuono, Highsmith & Whatley, PC (via email)
790 E. Colorado Blvd., Suite 850
Pasadena, CA 91101-2109

Attn: Ed Dygert, Esq. Cox, Castle & Nicholson 3121 Michelson Drive, Ste. 200 Irvine, CA 92612-

Attn: Diana Carloni, Esq. (diana@carlonilaw.com)
Diana J. Carloni (via email)
21001 N. Tatum Blvd.
Suite 1630-455
Phoenix, AZ 85050-

Attn: Michele Hinton, Ms. (mhinton@fennemorelaw.com) Fennemore LLP (via email) 8080 N Palm Ave, Third Floor Fresno, CA 93711-

Attn: Thomas G. Ferruzzo, Esq. (tferruzzo@ferruzzo.com)
Ferruzzo & Ferruzzo, LLP (via email)
3737 Birch Street, Suite 400
Newport Beach, CA 92660

Attn: Michelle McCarron, Esq. (mmccarron@gdblawoffices.com; andre@gdblawoffices.com)
Green de Bortnowsky, LLP (via email) 30077 Agoura Court, Suite 210
Agoura Hills, CA 91301-2713

Attn: Michael Turner, Esq. (mturner@kasdancdlaw.com)
Kasdan, LippSmith Weber Turner, LLP (via email)
19900 MacArthur Blvd., Suite 850
Irvine, CA 92612-

Attn: Mitchell Kaufman, Esq. (mitch@kmcllp.com) Kaufman McAndrew LLP (via email)

16633 Ventura Blvd., Ste. 500 Encino, CA 91436-1835

Attn: Fred J. Knez, Esq. Law Offices of Fred J. Knez 6780 Indiana Ave, Ste 150 Riverside, CA 92506-4253

Attn: Jeffrey D Ruesch (watermaster@mojavewater.org) Mojave Basin Area Watermaster (via email) 13846 Conference Center Drive Apple Valley, CA 92307

Attn: Kieth Lemieux (KLemieux@omlolaw.com) Olivarez Madruga Lemieux O'Neill, LLP (via email) 500 South Grand Avenue, 12th Floor Los Angeles, CA 90071-2609

Attn: Steven B. Abbott, Esq. (sabbott@redwineandsherrill.com; fluna@redwineandsherrill.com)
Redwine and Sherrill (via email)
3890 Eleventh Street
Suite 207

Attn: James L. Markman, Esq. Richards, Watson & Gershon 1 Civic Center Circle P.O. Box 1059 Brea, CA 92822-1059

Riverside, CA 92501-

Attn: Shannon Oldenburg, Esq. (shannon.oldenburg@sce.com)
Southern California Edison Company
Legal Department (via email)
P.O. Box 800
Rosemead, CA 91770

Attn: Agnes Vander Dussen Koetsier (beppeauk@aol.com)
Vander Dussen Trust, Agnes & Edward (via email)
P.O. Box 5338
Blue Jay, CA 92317-

Attn: Thomas S. Bunn, Esq. (TomBunn@lagerlof.com)
Lagerlof, Senecal, Gosney & Kruse, LLP (via email)
301 N. Lake Avenue, 10th Floor
Pasadena, CA 91101-5123

Attn: Robert C. Hawkins, Esq. Law Offices of Robert C. Hawkins 14 Corporate Plaza, Suite 120 Newport, CA 92660

Attn: Adnan Anabtawi (aanabtawi@mojavewater.org) Mojave Water Agency (via email) 13846 Conference Center Drive Apple Valley, CA 92307

Attn: Betsy Brunswick (bmb7@pge.com)
Pacific Gas and Electric Company (via email)
77 Beale Street, B28P
San Francisco, CA 94105-1814

Attn: Stephanie D. Nguyen, Esq. (snguyen@reedsmith.com)
Reed Smith LLP (via email)
1901 Avenue of the Stars, Suite 700
Los Angeles, CA 90076-6078

Attn: Elizabeth Hanna, Esq. Rutan & Tucker P.O. Box 1950 Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Attn: ()
Southern California Gas Company
Transmission Environmental Consultant (via email)

Attn: Robert C. Wagner, P.E. (rcwagner@wbecorp.com)
Wagner & Bonsignore
Consulting Civil Engineers (via email)
2151 River Plaza Drive, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95833-4133

Attn: Peter J. Kiel, Esq. (pkiel@cawaterlaw.com)
Law Office of Peter Kiel PC (via email)
PO Box 422
Petaluma, CA 94953-0422

Attn: Arthur G. Kidman, Esq. McCormick, Kidman & Behrens 695 Town Center Drive, Suite 400 Costa Mesa, CA 92626-7187

Attn: Frederic A. Fudacz, Esq. (ffudacz@nossaman.com)
Nossaman LLP (via email)
777 South Figueroa Street, 34th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017-

Attn: Joesfina M. Luna, Esq. (fluna@redwineandsherrill.com)
Redwine and Sherrill (via email)
3890 Eleventh Street
Suite 207
Riverside, CA 92501-

Attn: Henry R. King, Esq. (hking@reedsmith.com)
Reed Smith LLP (via email)
506 Carnegie Center, Suite 300
Princeton, NJ 08540-

Attn: Randall R. Morrow, Esq. Sempra Energy Law Department Office of the General Counsel 555 West Fifth Street, Suite 1400 Los Angeles, CA 90013-1011

Attn: Rick Ewaniszyk, Esq. The Hegner Law Firm 14350 Civc Drive Suite 270 Victorville, CA 92392