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9	SUPERIOR COURT OF T	HE STATE OF CALIFORNIA		
10	IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE			
11 12	Coordination Proceeding Special Title (Cal. Rules of Court, rule 3.550)	JCCP NO.: 5265 Lead Case No: CIV 208568		
13	MOJAVE BASIN WATER CASES	Dept. 1, Riverside Superior Court Hon Harold W Hopp Judge Presiding		
14 15 16 17	CITY OF BARSTOW, Plaintiff, vs. CITY OF ADELANTO, et al.,	WATERMASTER'S AMENDED OPPOSITION TO GOLDEN STATE WATER COMPANY'S MOTION TO ENFORCE JUDGMENT; DECLARATION OF ROBERT C.		
18 19	Defendant.	Date: October 22, 2024 Time: 1:30 p.m.		
20	AND RELATED CROSS ACTIONS	Dept.: M302, Menifee Justice Center Reservation ID: 562595011427		
21		Hon. Craig G. Riemer, Judge Presiding By Assignment		
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	WATERMASTER'S OPPOSITION TO GOLDEN STATE	WATER COMPANY'S MOTION TO ENFORCE JUDGMENT		

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Watermaster submits this Amended Opposition to the motion of Golden State Water Company ("GSWC") purportedly to enforce the judgment.

I. Introduction

Watermaster and GSWC have conducted a series of meetings that were interrupted by 5 the COVID pandemic. One such meeting occurred on February 10, 2022, which included a field 6 7 meeting to address GSWC's specific concerns and questions which are again raised in GSWC's pending motion. Among the issues raised during the February 10, 2022 meeting were (a) the 8 possible installation of an additional stream gaging station, and (b) additional geophysical 9 investigations. Subsequent to the February 10, 2022 field meeting, MWA installed a new stream 10 gage at Hinkley Road near Hodge, upstream of the GSWC wells. MWA also conducted 11 extensive geophysical investigations at a cost of approximately \$150,000.00. In 2022, MWA 12 also imported to the Centro Subarea 1,994 acre-feet of water to address impacts to GSWC wells 13 due to drought conditions; the imported water was delivered to the Lenwood recharge site that 14 15 benefits the area where the GSWC wells are located. (See Technical Memorandum, p. 11, Exhibit 1 to Wagner declaration, attached as Exhibit A hereto.) 16

In December of this year, Watermaster will complete the expansion of its current Upper
Mojave River Basin Model ("UMRBM"), to include the Transition Zone ("TZ"), the Centro
Subarea, and the Baja Subarea. The model expansion will inform the estimates of flow into the
Centro subarea, the water balance in the TZ, and provide tools for evaluating recharge and
pumping scenarios for optimal basin management. (See Technical Memorandum, p. 11, Exhibit
1 to Wagner declaration, attached as Exhibit A hereto.)

As demonstrated herein, GSWC's motion and the Aquilogic reports upon which it is based contain fundamental errors as to: what the Judgment requires; the cause of declining groundwater levels in Golden State's well fields; whether the Alto Producers are meeting their Subarea Obligation; whether there are any unaccounted for water losses in the Transition Zone; and whether Watermaster has over-estimated the average long-term inflows to Centro.

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Declining groundwater levels were caused by severe drought conditions.

3 Golden State argues "Production wells operated by Golden State in Centro are experiencing chronic water level declines." After concluding its groundwater extractions are not 4 5 the sole cause of the declining water levels, Golden State jumps to the conclusion that Alto Producers may not be meeting their Subarea Obligation, or water losses may be occurring in the 6 7 Transition Zone that are unaccounted for. Golden State is mistaken on both points. As 8 demonstrated below, the cause of the groundwater decline is quite simple and is not the reason 9 suggested by Golden State; the Alto Subarea Producers have met their Subarea Obligation; and 10 there is no unaccounted for water losses in the Transition Zone.

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A. Prolonged and severe drought caused by declining water levels.

Watermaster agrees the declining groundwater levels in Golden State's well fields have not been caused solely by Golden State's groundwater extractions. Which raises the question: If the 'long-term' average recharge to Centro is about 36,000 acre-feet annually – as estimated by Watermaster -- why have the groundwater levels in Golden State's well fields shown significant declines during the last 10 years?

The answer is quite simple: During the eleven-year period from 2012 to 2022, the Mojave
Basin Area – a desert environment -- experienced severe and prolonged drought conditions.
During that period of prolonged drought, the entire basin area including the Centro Subarea did
not receive recharge or inflows equal to the long-term average recharge. The simple reason:
there was little or no rain during that period of severe drought. Mr. Wagner's declaration
attached hereto explains that:

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Importantly, the flow across Helendale Fault, which represents the long-term average supply to Centro, will not occur every year. The Mojave River system is episodic, meaning there are long periods of well below average flow followed by occasional periods of well above average flow. The Judgment is predicated on long term average flow.

26 (Wagner Declaration, Exhibit A hereto, p. 2.)

The Upper Mojave Basin Model is an adequate tool for estimating flow into the TZ from the upstream portion of Alto. The Model is currently being expanded to include the TZ and the Centro and Baja subareas and when complete (December 2024) will provide another tool for basin management.

1 (Wagner Declaration, p. 5.)

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B.

Water supplied to Centro during periods of severe drought.

3 During periods of severe drought, Centro receives inflows across the Helendale Fault and other deliveries directly to Centro equal to: (a) total stream flow to the Transition Zone at Lower 4 5 Narrows which is measured by USGS; (b) discharge of treated wastewater measured by VVWRA; (c) subsurface flow entering the TZ; (d) local runoff and precipitation; (e) less 6 7 consumptive uses in the TZ of pumping and riparian habitat water use (Wagner Dec., Exhibit 8 A hereto, p. 1). Water in excess of the total consumptive uses in the TZ passes the Helendale 9 Fault into Centro. The amount of water reaching the Helendale Fault in any given period is 10 dependent on climate and precipitation, and runoff from snowmelt in the San Bernardino 11 Mountains.

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C. During severe drought, groundwater levels decline because Centro's total discharges exceed its inflows.

As shown in Exhibit 5 to the Wagner declaration (Exhibit A hereto), during the extended 14 15 drought period from 2012 to 2022, the total water supply to Centro averaged 16,861 acre-feet annually, i.e., average inflow of 12,238 acre-feet from the Transition Zone through the 16 Helendale Fault, plus 4,623 acre-feet of estimated return flow in Centro; however, total outflow 17 during that same time period averaged 24,527 acre-feet annually. Accordingly, during this 18 eleven-year period of severe drought, Centro's total outflow, on average, exceeded its average 19 inflows by 7,666 acre-feet annually (Wagner Dec., Ex. A hereto, p. 2). This demonstrates that 20 the severe drought conditions from 2012 to 2022, in this very arid environment, caused the 21 decreased groundwater levels observed in Golden State's wells. 22

Exhibit 6 to Mr. Wagner's declaration includes two hydrographs from monitoring wells, both of which are located in the Centro Subarea – one near Hodge, and the other near Lenwood. The hydrographs starkly illustrate the effects of severe drought conditions in this desert environment. The hydrographs vividly illustrate the severe drought conditions that existed from 2012 to 2022, resulting in dramatic and immediate declines in groundwater levels in the Centro Subarea. Likewise, the significant storm event that occurred in 2023 resulted in a similarly

dramatic and immediate increase in groundwater levels in the Centro Subarea. These
 hydrographs demonstrate quite clearly that groundwater levels in this desert environment,
 including the Centro and Baja subareas, are entirely driven by the presence or absence of
 significant storm events.

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D.

Average Discharges from the Centro Subarea.

As noted, from 2012 to 2022, the average total of all discharges from the Centro subarea
is 24,527 acre-feet annually. This includes: average groundwater pumping (including minimal
producers) of 20,046 acre-feet; plus subsurface outflow Baja, 1,462 acre-feet; 3,000 acre-feet
for Riparian habitat use; and 19 acre-feet of flow at Barstow (Wagner Dec., Exhibit A hereto,
p. 2, and Exhibit 3 thereto).

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The cause of the declining water levels in Golden State's wells is the severe drought conditions that existed from 2012 to 2022.

Rocket science is not required to understand why groundwater levels in GSWC's well
fields have declined during the eleven year period of pronounced drought from 2012 to 2022,
during which time the inflow, surface and subsurface, to Centro has averaged only 16,861 acrefeet annually, while the total discharge from Centro has averaged of 24,527 acre-feet annually.

Therefore, **the principal cause of declining groundwater levels** in the aquifers underlying the Golden State well fields is clear, i.e., during the eleven year period of severe drought from 2012 to 2022, total discharge from the Centro Subarea, on average, has exceeded recharge by at least 7,666 acre-feet annually (i.e., 24,527 - 16,861). This explains the observed declining groundwater levels in Golden State's well fields due to the combination of the severe drought conditions and groundwater pumping.

Golden State's motion and its experts' supporting declarations do not demonstrate
otherwise.

Infact, the Golden State motion does not even consider, much less address the question
as to whether prolonged and severe drought conditions are the reason for the declining
groundwater levels observed in Golden State's well fields.

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F.

Golden State's expert report makes an unwarranted leap of logic.

- The Expert Report of Anthony Brown (GSWC 0002-0086) makes a wholly unwarranted
- 3 leap of logic. It first states:
- 4 In simple terms, declining groundwater levels (i.e., loss of storage) result from excess discharge (e.g., over pumping) and/or insufficient recharge (e.g., stream bed seepage) in a hydrologic system. (GS 0032.)
 - That is correct. The report then concludes that groundwater extractions from Golden
- 7 State's wells are not the sole reason for the declining water levels. That also is correct. However,
- 8 Golden State's expert report then asserts:
- Given this, the declining water levels call into question whether groundwater Producers in Alto are meeting their obligation to deliver defined volumes of annual recharge to Centro as specified in the Judgment. (GS 0032, emphasis added).
- 11 There are many flaws in Golden State's last statement:
- 12 It misstates the Judgment, which provides that the Alto Producers' Subarea Obligation
- 13 **is to the Transition Zone**, not the Centro Subarea. Exhibits G of the Judgment provides:
- 14 1. <u>Subarea Obligations</u>. Producers in the respective Subareas shall have the obligation to provide the following average annual and minimum Annual Subsurface
 15 Flows and/or Base Flows per Year:
- e. Alto subarea Producers an average Annual combined Subsurface Flow and Base Flow of 23,000 acre-feet per Year to the Transition Zone. . . .
- Therefore, the Subarea Obligation owed by the Alto Subarea Producers is to the Transition Zone, not to the Centro Subarea.
- As noted, the expert report completely overlooks the impacts of the severe drought
 conditions during the eleven year period from 2012 to 2022.
- Golden State expert's report also overlooks the fact that the Alto Producers' compliance
 with their Subarea Obligation to deliver 23,000 acre-feet annually to the Transition Zone is
 based only on two components: 1) measured discharges of treated effluent to the TZ by VVWR;
 and, 2) Base Flow at Lower Narrows derived from the USGS measured flow at Lower Narrows.
 Notably, satisfaction of the obligation does not include Storm Flow, which is intended to pass
 the TZ as a result of maintaining stable water levels in the TZ. That is one reason the area is
 referred to as the "Transition Zone."
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The Judgment defines "Base Flow" as "That portion of the total surface flow measured Annually at Lower Narrows which remains after subtracting Storm Flow" (paragraph 4, subd. "h"). Inflows to the TZ from the Alto Subarea are determined by actual measurement through the gage located at the Lower Narrows near Victorville; those measurements are taken each week by USGS staff (see Technical Memorandum, p. 3, attached as Exhibit 1 to Wagner declaration, Exhibit A hereto).

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As to the Alto Producers' obligation to provide subsurface flow, paragraph 1, subd. (e)
of Exhibit G of the Judgment, in pertinent part states: 'For the purposes of Paragraph 6 of this
Exhibit G, the Subsurface Flow shall be deemed to be 2,000 acre-feet per year" (emphasis
added). Later studies confirmed the accuracy of that estimate (Exhibits 8-10 of Wagner
Declaration, Exhibit A hereto). Paragraph 6 of Exhibit G to the Judgment, in pertinent part,
provides:

<u>Subsurface Flow Assumptions</u>. Some Subarea Obligations are expressed as average Annual or minimum Annual Subsurface Flow. In all cases the Subsurface Flow obligations have been established initially at amounts equal to the estimated historical average Subsurface Flow across Subarea boundaries. Not later than two years following entry of this Judgment MWA shall begin to install monitoring wells to be used to obtain data to enable improved estimates of Subsurface Flow at each Subarea boundary where there is a Subsurface Flow obligation and to develop methodology for future determination of actual Subsurface Flow. Not later than ten years following entry of this Judgment Watermaster shall prepare a report setting forth the results of the monitoring program and the future methodology. Following opportunity for review of Watermaster's report by all Parties, Watermaster shall prepare a recommendation to the Court as to the likely accuracy of the estimated historical Subsurface Flows and any revision of Subarea Obligations that may be indicated.

20In compliance with that requirement of the Judgment, on February 22, 2006, during 21 Watermaster's public meeting at which three representatives from Golden State Water Company were in attendance, the Watermaster Engineer's detailed "Summary Report Subsurface Flows" 22 Between Subareas" was submitted for review and was explained (see Exhibits 8 and 9 to 23 24 Wagner declaration, Exhibit A hereto). At Watermaster's March 22, 2006 meeting (during 25 which two Golden State Water Company representatives were in attendance), the Watermaster adopted the "Summary Report Subsurface Flows Between Subareas," which confirms "there is 26 27 not a reason to recommend a change in the estimated subsurface flow from Alto to Centro" (see 28 Exhibit 10, pp. 2-3, attached to Wagner Dec., Exhibit A hereto).

1	In its Motion to Adjust Free Production Allowance filed April 3, 2006, Watermaste				
2	reported:				
3	Watermaster considered and adopted a recommendation to establish subsurface				
4	that an investigation was conducted and a report was prepared to determine changes to the subsurface flow amounts specified in the Judgment. No requests were received for				
5	copies of the report or for inspection and no comments were received. Watermaster he a detailed workshop on February 22, 2006 and took formal action on March 22, 2006 adopt the recommended subsurface flow obligations				
0	adopt the recommended subsurface flow obligations.				
7 8	(2,000 acre feet) and Centro to Baja (1200 acre feet) are recommended to remai unchanged.				
9	Accordingly, the Alto Subarea's estimated Subsurface Flow to the TZ remains at 2,000				
10	acre-feet annually.				
11	Therefore, Golden State expert's questioning as to whether the Alto Producers have met				
12	their Subarea Obligation under the Judgment is nothing more than an unwarranted leap of logic,				
13	which among other things ignores (a) the impacts of the severe drought conditions from 2012				
14	to 2022, and (b) Watermaster's verification of the Alto Producers' compliance, by actual				
15	measurement of Base Flow to the Transition Zone and studies confirming the quantity of				
16	Subsurface Flow at the TZ. Accordingly, if GSWC does not receive sufficient water to meet its				
17	needs, or experiences declining water levels in its well fields, it is not because the Alto Subarea				
18	Producers have failed to meet their obligation under the Judgment to provide defined quantities				
19	of water to the TZ.				
20	G. Golden State expert's repeated misdirection in this matter.				
21	Golden State expert's report states,				
22	Watermaster should address the following recommendations:				
23	4. Based on results from the above [declining water levels that are not caused solely				
24	have met, are currently meeting, and will meet in the future their obligation to deliver defined volumes of water to Centro as specified in the Judgment.				
25	6 If Watermaster determines the obligation has been is being and will be met				
26	Watermaster should recommend and implement additional analyses that would evaluate why chronic water levels [sic] declines are being observed at Golden State's production				
27	wells in Centro.				

28 (Emphasis added.)

1	Once again, the Alto Subarea Obligation (Base Flow and Subsurface Flow) is to the			
2	Transition Zone, not to the Centro Subarea; the evidence is quite clear that the Alto Producers			
3	have met their Base Flow and Subsurface Flow obligations to the Transition Zone; and the			
4	groundwater level declines observed from 2012 to 2022 are clearly the result of severe drought			
5	conditions. Moreover, as demonstrated in Mr. Wagner's declaration and exhibits attached			
6	thereto, the Watermaster's water budget for the Transition Zone is supported by evidence that			
7	is both substantial and persuasive (Wagner Dec., Exhibit A hereto, pp. 3-4); in response, Golden			
8	State merely speculates the Alto Producers may not have been meeting their Subarea Obligation			
9	to the TZ, and there may be water losses in the TZ that are unaccounted for.			
10	H. Production Safe Yield for the Centro Subarea.			
11	The question remains: Is the Wastermaster Engineer's conclusion as to the Production			
12	Safe Yield for Centro correct? If we were to look only at the inflows to Centro from 2012 to			
13	2022, the answer would clearly be "no." However, the Judgment requires that PSY be calculated			
14	based a representative "long-term average." It provides:			
15	The highest average Annual Amount of water that can be produced from a Subarea: (1) over a sequence of years that is representative of long-term average annual natural			
16 17	water supply to the Subarea net of long-term average annual natural outflow from the Subarea, (2) under given patterns of Production, applied water, return flows and Consumptive Use, and (3) without resulting in a long-term net reduction of groundwater in storage in the Subarea. (Emphasis added.)			
18	Several factors are important to the PSY calculation including long-term average			
19 20	inflow, and the current environment of water use and disposal (pumping and outflow).			
20	Inflow to Centro is one part of that calculation. Watermaster's estimate of flow across the			
21	HF on a long-term average basis is consistent with various investigations for different time			
22	periods (Technical Memorandum, page 3, line 4). In this instance, looking only at inflow to			
23 24	the TZ, at Lower Narrows, and VVWRA discharges, for two different periods, 1951-1990,			
24 25	and 1991-2023, the total surface flow is essentially the same, about 49,000 acre-feet annually			
25 26	(Exhibit 7 to Mr. Wagner's Declaration, Exhibit A hereto). If the current pumping and land			
20	use within the TZ is similar in the future to current uses, the long-term calculated flow			
∠1 28	crossing the HF will be 36,700 acre-feet annually (Exhibit 3), consistent with Watermaster's			
20	current estimated inflow to Centro for the 2024-25 PSY calculation. WATERMASTER'S OPPOSITION TO GOLDEN STATE WATER COMPANY'S MOTION TO ENFORCE JUDGMENT 8			

Golden State apparently believes Watermaster should utilize only the recent period of
severe drought, i.e., from 2012 to 2022, as the controlling 'long-term average." That would
not be truly representative, however, because the Mojave Basin Area also has experienced
many wet years from 1931 to the present (see Exhibit 2). In fact, a significantly wet year was
experienced in 2023 and, as demonstrated in the hydrographs attached as Exhibit 6 to Mr.
Wagner's declaration (Exhibit A hereto), the 2023 storm events succeeded in significantly
replenishing depleted groundwater storage in the Centro subarea near Golden State's wells.

Based upon the Watermaster's foregoing explanations and responses, the only
disagreement Golden State may have with the Watermaster that has any merit at all, relates
to the appropriate time period or time periods to be utilized to determine PSY for the Alto,
Centro and Baja subareas. Watermaster will continue to utilize the most representative longterm averages, as mandated by the Judgment and as directed by the Court.

13 14 I.

When completed later this year, the UMRBM will provide the data and information needed to adequately estimate PSY.

To accurately calculate PSY for the Centro Subarea, the "average" water supply from
all sources must be determined. After the UMRBM is completed later this year (to include
the Transition Zone and the Centro and Baja subareas), it will provide data and information
needed to estimate PSY for all Subareas, including the Alto, Centro and Baja subareas.

GSWC's experts agree the UMRBM needs to be completed; the Watermaster
engineer has committed to completing the UMRBM by the end of this calendar year.
Therefore, GSWC's motion actually is premature. Watermaster should be allowed to
continue its work to complete the UMRBM to include the TZ and the Centro and Baja
subareas; Watermaster need not be ordered to do so.

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Request for additional stream gage near the Helendale fault.

GSWC asks the Court to Order Watermaster to establish a stream gage at or near the Helendale Fault to directly measure surface water inflows into the Centro Subarea and additional monitoring wells in the TZ. Mr. Wagner's declaration notes that installation of a

- WATERMASTER'S OPPOSITION TO GOLDEN STATE WATER COMPANY'S MOTION TO ENFORCE JUDGMENT
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1	stream gauge at or near the Helendale Fault would 'be subject to the same conditions that	
2	resulted in [the Wild Crossing gage's] abandonment, as noted by USGS, Similarly,	
3	installing a stream gage at or near the Helendale Fault as suggested by GSWC would	
4	encounter the same conditions, resulting in an unreliable record" (Wagner Declaration,	
5	Exhibit A hereto, p. 5).	
6	Moreover, the Court envisioned that after flows enter the Transition Zone, water	
7	levels are to be determined by monitoring wells, not by gages. As outlined in the Court's	
8	Statement of Decision, the TZ is intended to function as described below:	
9 10 11 12	2. The flow requirements between subareas are as follows: c) Alto to Centro 21,000 acre-feet average annual surface flow <i>as measured at the lower narrows</i> (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; f) these estimates and other subsurface estimates will need to be up-dated <i>by the use of monitoring wells</i> which will determine the water table slope at the boundaries. [RT 128:27-130:14]	
13 14 15	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 <i>measured</i> using monitoring wells to insure that water levels are maintained within the transition zone.	
16 17	(Court's Amended Statement of Decision, excerpts from which are attached as Exhibit B hereto, page 15 of 30.)	
18	Therefore, based upon the Transition Zone's intended use as a "water bridge down to	
19	the Helendale Fault," monitoring of water levels in the Transition Zone is to be performed by	
20	"monitoring wells to insure that water levels are maintained within the transition zone"	
21	not by stream gages. Performing this essential function, there are now 30 monitoring wells in	
22	the Transition Zone confirming that water levels are maintained within the Transition	
23	Zone as intended by the Judgment and the Court's Amended Statement of Decision (see	
24	Wagner Dec., Exhibit A hereto, pp. 1-4; and Exhibit A [Alto Subarea Transition Zone	
25	Hydrographs 2024] to the Technical Memorandum, which is Exhibit 1 to Mr. Wagner's	
26	Declaration, Exhibit A hereto). Data from the monitoring wells located at or near the	
27	Helendale Fault are used by the Watermaster and the Watermaster Engineer annually. Such	
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	WATERMASTER'S OPPOSITION TO COLDEN STATE WATER COMPANY'S MOTION TO ENFORCE HIDCMENT	l

1	data is published in the Watermaster's Report every year. ¹			
2	For the reasons set forth in Mr. Wagner's declaration, GSWC's request that			
3	Watermaster be "ordered" to install a stream gauge or additional monitoring wells at or near			
4	the Helendale Fault is without merit and should be denied.			
5	IV.			
6	Request for annual water budget for the TZ.			
7	GSWC also argues Watermaster should be required to prepare an annual water budget			
8	for the Transition Zone "as recommended by Aquilogic." For the following reasons, this			
9	suggestion also is without merit and unwarranted. As Mr. Wagner explains in his			
10	declaration:			
11	In response to GSWC's suggestion that Watermaster prepare a water budget for the TZ as recommended by Aquilogic, there are three significant elements of the			
12	water balance to the TZ that are measured/metered. The waste stream from the Victor Valley Wastewater Treatment Plant is discharged within the TZ and is measured. The			
13	flow at Lower Narrows is measured directly by USGS weekly to estimate the mean daily discharge. Pumping as noted above is metered/measured. These measured data			
14	are the basis for the water balance in the TZ and calculating outflow across the Helendale Fault			
15	(Wagner Dec. Exhibit A hereto, p. 4.)			
16	Mr. Wagner's declaration describes further the methodologies used to calculate the			
17	water budget (Exhibit A hereto nn 3-4). For the foregoing reasons. Watermaster should not			
18	be required to install an additional stream gage near the Helendale fault and Watermaster			
19	should not be ordered to comply with Aquilogic's recommendations for a water budget			
20	should not be ordered to compry with Aquitogic's recommendations for a water budget.			
21	v. Golden State has not considered other possible causes of declining water levels in its			
22	well fields.			
23	GSWC starts by assuming there are only two possible causes for decreasing water			
24	levels in the area of its well field, i.e., groundwater extractions through its pumping			
25	operations or decreased flows into the Centro Subarea from the TZ. GSWC then proffers the			
26	Aquilogic report to prove, counter-intuitively, that GSWC's water extractions are not a			
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28	¹ The Amended Statement of Decision also makes clear that the Alto Producer's 21,000 acre- feet Base Flow obligation is to be " <i>measured at the lower narrows</i> ." WATERMAS TER'S OPPOSITION TO GOLDEN STATE WATER COMPANY'S MOTION TO ENFORCE JUDGMENT			

significant cause of the decreasing water levels observed in GSWC's well fields. As noted,
 GSWC has not considered the impacts of severe drought conditions from 2012 to 2022.

For numerous reasons, Aquilogic's analysis is unpersuasive, to wit: (1) there are more possible reasons for decreasing water levels in GSWC's wells; (2) GSWC has not proven its groundwater pumping does not contribute significantly to the decreasing water levels in its wells; (3) GSWC's analysis does not take into consideration groundwater extractions in the same localized area by large agricultural operations and others.

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A.

More than two possible reasons exist for the decreasing water levels observed in GSWC's well field.

Other possible reasons for decreased water levels in the GSWC well field (besides 10 pumping and decreased flows because of severe drought) include flow-impeding faults, 11 frequency and intensity of storms, groundwater flow patterns and transmissivity distribution 12 (ability of the sediments to transmit water to the wells), flow migrating to the Harper Valley 13 or Iron Mountain areas, and significant groundwater recharge between the HF and GSWC's 14 15 well field (i.e., the normally dry channel between the HF and Barstow induce more recharge in that area). (See Technical Memorandum, pp. 9-10, attached as Exhibit 1 to Wagner 16 declaration, Exhibit A hereto.) 17

GSWC has not demonstrated that the complex set of processes described above,
together with groundwater extraction in and around the GSWC well field, are not additional
contributing causes of the declining water levels observed in the GSWC well field. GSWC
makes no such demonstration. In fact, GSWC's motion does not address or consider any of
the above-described other complex processes and possible contributing causes of declining
water levels within the GSWC well field.

24 25 **B**.

GSWC has not proven its groundwater pumping does not cause decreased water levels in its well fields.

The Aquilogic statistical analysis of depth to water versus pumping is based on the hypothesis that if chronic water level decline is due to over-pumping alone, there should be a correlation between pumping and depth to water. Similarly to the explanation given in point

"A" above, this approach overlooks the complexity of the aquifer system and the other
 processes that also determine water levels in the GSWC well fields.

3 Also, the correlation presented by Aquilogic is calculated using pumping rate from the well where the water level is measured. Such an approach overlooks the fact that a well 4 5 can be influenced by pumping from other wells in the basin or even in the same well field. 6 Moreover, even with this approach, the results are not conclusive. This is illustrated by the 7 fact that 5 out of 17 wells are indicated to have statistically significant correlations/trends 8 that show depth to water decreasing (water level rising) as pumping magnitude increases – 9 which clearly demonstrates that the aquifer system underlying GSWC well fields has more 10 complexity than GSWC's simplified statistical analysis can capture. (See Technical Memorandum, p. 9, attached as Exhibit 1 to Wagner declaration, Exhibit A hereto.) 11 12 In short, GSWC's purported showing that concentrated pumping in the segmented 13 aquifers feeding GSWC's wells is not a significant contributing factor to declining water 14 levels in its well fields, is not persuasive. GSWC's analysis also does not take into consideration groundwater extractions 15 **C**. in the same localized area by large agricultural operations and others. 16 Mr. Wagner's Technical Memorandum (p. 9 of Exhibit 1 to Wagner Dec., Exhibit A 17 hereto) also notes other factors that may affect the water levels in GSWC's well field, 18 including pumping by other wells in the area of influence of GSWC water level 19 measurements; and pumping by nearby agricultural interests that purchased thousands of 20 acre-feet of excess FPA from GSWC (see Exhibit 6 to Wagner declaration). Yet, Aquilogic's 21 analysis fails to consider the effects of such additional pumping on water levels in GSWC's 22 23 wells. The Watermaster's analysis demonstrates that the Centro Subarea receives, on D. 24 average, 36,338 acre-feet of flow annually. 25 The long-term average flows to the TZ total approximate 48,899 acre-feet annually. 26 The calculated consumptive losses in the TZ (based on 2023 land use and climate) are as 27 follows: (a) average pumping of 6,859 acre-feet annually (i.e., approximately 10,039 acre-28

WATERMASTER'S OPPOSITION TO GOLDEN STATE WATER COMPANY'S MOTION TO ENFORCE JUDGMENT

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feet pumping in the TZ, less return flows); and (b) average riparian habitat use of 5,702
acre-feet annually (see Figure 2 and p. 5 of Technical Memorandum, attached as Exhibit 1 to
Wagner declaration, attached as Exhibit A hereto). Therefore, the calculated flow out of the
TZ to the Centro Subarea is, on average, 36,338 acre-feet annually (i.e., 48,899 acre-feet
delivered to the TZ, minus 6,859 acre-feet lost through consumptive use from groundwater
extractions, and 5,702 acre-feet lost through phreatophyte use).

7 GSWC claims a portion of the flow into the TZ recharges the TZ in an amount equal 8 to the groundwater extractions less return flows in the TZ. That is true. However, as noted above, the Watermaster engineer's calculation of the volume of flows received, on average, 9 by the Centro Subarea includes the amount of water lost in the TZ by consumptive uses 10 (including groundwater extractions and phreatophyte use). Therefore, the fact that a portion 11 12 of the 48,899 acre-feet that flows to the TZ is lost to the calculated consumptive uses in the TZ is fully accounted for in the Watermaster's calculations – which, as noted, demonstrate 13 14 that, on a long-term average basis, the Centro Subarea receives 36,338 acre-feet of flow 15 annually from the TZ.²

What then caused the declining water levels in GSWC's well field? The decrease is
primarily the result of lack of stormflow to Centro because of the severe drought conditions
from 2012 to 2022, significant groundwater recharge between the HF and the GSWC well
fields (following the meandering river, a distance of 15.5 to 21 miles), groundwater
extractions in an around GSWC's well fields, and other factors.

VI. GSWC's motion is premature

GSWC's motion correctly states that the flow dynamics between the TZ and the
Centro Subarea are not yet included in the Watermaster's Upper Mojave River Basin Model.
Although that will soon be remedied, GSWC has argued erroneously that, "Watermaster

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²⁷ That a portion of the 48,899 acre-feet delivered to the TZ recharges TZ ground water levels
 (to replace losses from the consumptive uses described above), also confirms the Watermaster
 Engineer's conclusion of Zero change in groundwater storage in the TZ.

does not intend to further update the ... modeled calculations contained in the water budget
 that comprises its PSY calculations" (Mot., 9:25-27). That claim is patently false and made
 without any supporting evidence.

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The Watermaster Engineer has represented to the Court and stakeholders that Watermaster is continuing to develop the model to include data and estimates for all Subareas within the Basin, including the TZ and the Centro and Baja subareas, and that the updated model is expected to be completed before the end of this calendar year. GSWC simply needs to be a bit more patient. It will soon be able to evaluate the updated model; if it then believes the model can or should be improved, it will be free to make suggestions at that time.

Moreover, the declarations supporting GSWC's motion and the Aquilogic report fail
to demonstrate that Aquilogic's recommendations, if implemented, would yield better or
more reliable results than those from the soon-to-be-completed Upper Mojave River Basin
Model (to be renamed the Mojave Regional Groundwater Model, when completed). Until the
updated model is completed, it is premature to "order" the Watermaster to "consider" other
steps and methodologies for developing water budgets and PSY estimates.

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VII.

Conclusion

Golden State's motion fails to demonstrate that the declining water levels observed in
its wells are the result of anything other than the combined effects of the severe drought
conditions that existed from 2012 to 2022, together with groundwater extractions by Golden
State and other Centro Subareas Producers.

The primary driver of water levels in the Centro Subarea are the frequency, or
infrequency, of storm events, together with groundwater extractions through pumping. That
groundwater extractions during periods of prolonged drought conditions result in declining
groundwater levels, is both intuitive and self-evident. Golden State's motion fails to
consider the impacts of the severe drought conditions that existed from 2012 to 2022 -during which time there were, for that reason alone, significantly reduced flows across the
wATERMASTER'S OPPOSITION TO GOLDEN STATE WATER COMPANY'S MOTION TO ENFORCE JUDGMENT

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1	Helendale	Fault and	into the	Centro	Subarea.
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Golden State's speculation to the contrary, the evidence demonstrates the Alto
Producers have met their Subarea Obligation to the Transition Zone.

The Court's Amended Statement of Decision makes clear that the key for the
Transition Zone, is to maintain stable groundwater levels so the TZ may continue to act as a
"water bridge" to the Centro Subarea, and that condition is to be confirmed and measured by
monitoring wells, not by stream gages.

8 Watermaster's annual water budget for the Transition Zone is accurate and based 9 upon the best available data. Golden State has not demonstrated that better or more reliable 10 results would be obtained by implementing Aquilogic's recommendations.

When completed later this year, the UMRBM will provide the data and information
needed to adequately estimate PSY for each subarea within the Mojave Basin Area. Golden
State will have ample opportunity to comment on the updated UMRBM.

For all of the reasons stated, Watermaster respectfully submits the Court should deny
GSWC's motion, in its entirety.

By:

16 Dated: October 9, 2024

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BRUNICK, MCELHANEY & KENNEDY PLC

William J. Brunick Leland P. McElhaney Attorneys for Defendant/Cross-complainant, MOJAVE WATER AGENCY

EXHIBIT A

DECLARATION OF ROBERT C. WAGNER

I, Robert C. Wagner, declare as follows:

I serve in the capacity of Engineer for the Mojave Basin Area Watermaster. I have served as Watermaster Engineer for approximately 27 years; I have been studying the hydrology of the Mojave Basin Area for approximately 33 years. I have personal knowledge of the matters set forth herein and, if called as a witness, I could and would testify competently thereto.

The Technical Memorandum (TM, October 9, 2024), prepared by me and under my supervision and attached hereto as Exhibit 1, evaluates the Expert Report dated September 2024, prepared by Aquilogic and submitted by Golden State Water Company with its motion to enforce the Judgment.

At the hearing on October 2, 2024, Golden State Water Company (GSWC) stated that GSWC well fields have been experiencing water level declines during the recent five years. During the eleven years 2012 to 2022, the Mojave Basin Area experienced well below average water supply. Exhibit 2, prepared under my supervision, from USGS stream gage records, shows the historical inflow to Mojave River reckoned at the Forks. As shown on Exhibit 2, the Mojave River flow at the Forks during the period of 2012 to 2022 was 27,614 acre-feet per year, which is only 42 percent of the long-term average flow.

Exhibit 3 shows the results of the Transition Zone Water Balance with the estimated flows across the Helendale Fault (HF) since 1991. The period 2012 – 2022 was well below the long-term average, similar to the observed behavior of the Mojave River at The Forks (Exhibit 2). The Transition Zone Water Balance provides the surface and subsurface outflows to Centro. In general, the Centro subarea receives inflows across the HF and other deliveries directly to Centro. Inflows to Centro are calculated as (a) total streamflow to the Transition Zone measured at the Lower Narrows by the USGS; (b) discharge of treated wastewater by Victor Valley Water Reclamation Authority (VVWRA); (c) subsurface inflow measured at the Lower Narrows; (d) precipitation; (e) minus consumptive uses of pumping and riparian habitat water use.

Consumptive uses of pumping are estimated, but 99% of water pumped is metered/measured and has been since at least 2012. Exhibit 4 is a table of information maintained by Watermaster showing the

methods to measure verified production in the TZ for the period of 2012 to 2023. This demonstrates that the amount of verified production is precisely determined.

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The TM presents an analysis of the conditions of the Mojave River near HF, presents estimates of flow across the HF over various time periods, documents the stability of water levels at and near the HF. According to the TM, the change in storage in the TZ over time has been relatively constant, meaning water levels show limited variability over time. The channel surface of the river will remain saturated, water cannot percolate into the sediments and is therefore rejected as streamflow allowing storms to pass through the TZ into Centro, as intended by the Judgment. The streamflow losses between Lower Narrows and Helendale Fault are due to consumptive uses as described later herein.

The TM explains that the flow that enters Centro from the Transition Zone has been declining over the recent years due to the severe drought conditions experienced from 2012 to 2022. This is the reason that GSWC wells are experiencing chronic water level declines during that time. Exhibit 5 shows an estimated water balance for Centro subarea during years 2012 to 2022. The average total inflow to Centro subarea at the HF during the 2012-2022 drought period was only about 16,861 acre-feet (including return flow or production) which is well below the long-term base period average inflow to Centro of 36,700 acre-feet (1931-1990) and the recent total average flow to Centro of 37,500 acre-feet during 1991-2023. During the same drought period of 2012-2022, the average total outflow from the Centro subarea was 24,527 acre-feet annually. This includes the average groundwater pumping of 20,046 (including minimal producers), subsurface flow to Baja subarea of 1,462 acre-feet, surface flow to Baja subarea of 19 acre-feet, and riparian vegetation consumptive use of 3,000 acre-feet. In other words, the total average discharge from Centro has exceeded total recharge by at about 7,666 acre-feet during the eleven-year drought period evaluated herein. This demonstrates that the severe drought conditions during the 2012 to 2022 period caused the observed chronic decline on groundwater levels within the area of the Golden State's well fields.

Importantly, the flow across Helendale Fault, which represents the long-term average supply to 25 Centro, will not occur every year. The Mojave River system is episodic, meaning there are long periods of well below average flow followed by occasional periods of well above average flow. The Judgment is predicated on long term average flow.

Exhibit 6 is a map showing some of the production wells in the area of the Hinkley and West Barstow. This exhibit includes water production for GSWC and other producers in the specific areas of focus. This exhibit also includes two hydrographs corresponding to observed water levels at monitoring wells 09N02W06L11-14 and 09N03W23F01,03 and 04. These wells are representative of water level responses to pumping and recharge within this area. The hydrographs show the continued decline in water levels during the period of 2012-2022 and other dry periods. The hydrographs also show the water level response to significant storm events, such as the event of 2023. This demonstrates that the Mojave Basin Area is a storm dependent system.

GSWC states that if the average flow to Helendale Fault is about 36,000 acre-feet per year, and the pumping is only 17,000 acre-feet per year, the water levels should not be declining. As explained above, the decline in water levels during the recent years is drought related. Furthermore, the Water Balance for Centro subarea for the years 2012 to 2022 shows that the average annual flow to Centro across the Helendale Fault was only 12,238 acre-feet per year (Exhibit 5) and not the long-term average of 36,000 acre-feet per year for the above-mentioned reasons. The calculated deficit during the drought period within Centro was 7,666 acre-feet, which means more water left the system through pumping and outflow (surface, subsurface, and consumptive uses) than was recharged. Hence water levels in wells would fall.

In regard to the Transition Zone Water Balance, GSWC complains that it is a simplified calculation that relies on several assumptions and estimates and therefore, it is inadequate to estimate inflows to Centro subarea. We disagree.

In response to GSWC's suggestion that Watermaster prepare a water budget for the TZ as recommended by Aquilogic, there are three significant elements of the water balance to the TZ, that are measured/metered. The waste stream from the Victor Valley Wastewater Treatment Plant is discharged within the TZ and is measured. The flow at Lower Narrows is measured directly by USGS weekly to estimate the mean daily discharge. Pumping as noted above is metered/measured. These measured data are the basis for the water balance in the TZ and calculating outflow across the Helendale Fault. The return flows from domestic and municipal consumptive uses are calculated based on population to estimate indoor water use and disposal. Outdoor water use for domestic irrigation is considered to

DECLARATION OF ROBERT C. WAGNER, P.E. IN SUPPORT OF WATERMASTER'S OPPOSITION TO GOLDEN STATE WATER COMPANY'S MOTION TO ENFORCE JUDGMENT contribute no return flow (a conservative and simplifying assumption). Consumptive use for irrigation (agriculture) is determined with crop coefficient and climate data based on the Victorville CIMIS station; total agricultural pumping is about 10% of the total pumping in the TZ (by one producer). The riparian habitat consumptive use is determined based on the riparian water use as determined with the remote sensing study presented in 2011 by the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR), adjusted on a yearly basis for that year's climate data. The riparian water uses vary between 5,700 and 6,300 acre-feet, or about 6,000 acre-feet per year; the value determined by Lines and Bilhorn, (USGS and CDFG, 1996). On a long-term average annual basis (1951-2023), the stream flows at Lower Narrows including VVWRA discharges, is about 49,000 acre-feet per year (see Exhibit 7). Pumping in the TZ during 2023 was about 11,000 acre-feet determined by USBR through remote sensing techniques has been about 6,000 acre-feet. The estimated consumptive use of pumping about 6,600 acre-feet is less than 10% of the total measured values. The calculation of the flow across the Helendale Fault (by arithmetic) is no less precise than other methods available.

The use of the USGS Basin Characterization Model (BCM) and the Parameter-elevation Regressions on Independent Slopes Model (PRISM) are included in the Upper Mojave Basin Model and as appropriate will be incorporated into the model expansion.

Having studied the data from the unreliable Wild Crossing gage and USGS conclusions as to its unreliability, it is my opinion that he installation of a stream gage at or near the Helendale Fault would be subject to the same conditions that resulted in the Wild Crossing gage's abandonment, as noted by USGS; similarly, installing a stream gage at or near the Helendale Fault as suggested by GSWC would encounter the same conditions resulting in an unreliable record.

GSWC's Expert Report also indicates that Alto producers are not meeting their Subarea Obligation to deliver 23,000 acre-feet annually to the Transition Zone. The surface flow component of this obligation (21,000 acre-feet annually) has been satisfied every year and is reported in the Watermaster's Annual Reports to the Court. The surface flow component consists of base flow estimated from measured streamflow at Lower Narrows, and VVWRA discharges (see Exhibit 7). The subsurface flow component of this obligation (2,000 acre-feet annually) has been deemed by the Judgment and has been confirmed by later Watermaster studies: Report titled "Subsurface Flow Between Subareas" dated February 22, 2006 (included as Exhibit 8). This Watermaster study and report was presented during the Watermaster Board meeting on February 22, 2006 (agenda and adopted Board actions are included in Exhibit 9) and was unanimously adopted by Watermaster Board during the Watermaster Board meeting on March 22, 2006 (agenda and adopted Board actions are included in Exhibit 10).

The TM also includes information about Mojave Water Agency and Watermaster's efforts to expand the Upper Mojave River Basin Model, improve data collection, installation of a stream gaging station between the HF and Barstow, and performance of geophysical investigations.

In the furtherance of the foregoing, I have reviewed the water level hydrographs for the TZ. The hydrographs are published by Watermaster annually in its Annual Report to the Court and are posted on the Mojave Water Agency website and are also included herein as Exhibit A to the TM. The TZ hydrographs support the Watermaster's conclusion that over time, the TZ water levels have been stable indicating that there is limited change in storage with the TZ.

During dry periods, there is some depletion in storage due to consumptive use of water by riparian habitat, domestic, municipal, recreation and a small amount of agricultural use. This depletion is replaced when flow in the river increases in the fall and winter of each year and following storm events. The amount of the depletion is equal to the consumptive uses; this is evidenced by the stability over time of the water levels, within the TZ and at and near the HF. Thus, the changes in storage in the TZ are cumulatively zero or near zero over time.

The Upper Mojave Basin Model is an adequate tool for estimating flow into the TZ from the upstream portion of Alto. The Model is currently being expanded to include the TZ and the Centro and Baja subareas and when complete (December 2024) will provide another tool for basin management.

The expanded model will be a useful tool to estimate flow at boundaries like the TZ to Centro and to predict water level changes for future basin management.

I declare under penalty of perjury, under the laws of the State of California, that the foregoing is true and correct.

5 DECLARATION OF ROBERT C. WAGNER, P.E. IN SUPPORT OF WATERMASTER'S OPPOSITION TO GOLDEN STATE WATER COMPANY'S MOTION TO ENFORCE JUDGMENT

Dated: October 9, 2024

Robert C. Wagner, P.E. cgni

DECLARATION OF ROBERT C. WAGNER, P.E. IN SUPPORT OF WATERMASTER'S OPPOSITION TO GOLDEN STATE WATER COMPANY'S MOTION TO ENFORCE JUDGMENT

EXHIBIT 1



Nicholas F. Bonsignore, P.E. Robert C. Wagner, P.E. Paula J. Whealen

TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

Martin Berber, P.E. Patrick W. Ervin, P.E. David P. Lounsbury, P.E. Vincent Maples, P.E. Leah Orloff, Ph.D, P.E. David H. Peterson, C.E.G., C.H.G. Ryan E. Stolfus

To: Mr. Lee McElhaney Attorney, Mojave Basin Area Watermaster Brunick, McElhaney & Kennedy <u>Imcelhaney@bmklawplc.com</u>

From: Robert Wagner, P.E., A. Leonardo Urrego-Vallowe

Date: October 9, 2024

Re: Aquilogic Expert Report, September 2024

This Technical Memorandum summarizes and responds to the statements and conclusions presented by Aquilogic in their Expert Report (September 2024) on behalf of Golden State Water Company (GSWC). In summary, the Expert Report provided opinions and recommendations from two experts, analyzed the water budgets prepared by Watermaster Engineer, and conducted a statistical analysis of water levels in Centro. The statistical analysis evaluated the Mann-Kendall(MK) correlation/trend tests for seventeen active GSWC wells for water levels versus time and water levels versus total pumping. Many of the issues raised in the Aquilogic Expert Report, are similar to or variations of the same arguments and analysis previously presented by Aquilogic on February 28, 2024.

Watermaster Engineer provided a detailed response to GSWC (Aquilogic) in a Technical Memorandum (TM) to Mr. Lee McElhaney Attorney, Mojave Basin Area Watermaster dated April 12, 2024. We provide additional details in this memorandum as well as incorporating by reference data and information in our April 12, 2024 TM.

Opinions Expressed by Aquilogic

The Expert Report presented several opinions prepared by Mr. Anthony Brown and Mr. Robert Abram, wherein they claim groundwater levels in Centro have been decreasing as a result of either excessive discharge (over pumping) and/or insufficient recharge in Centro. As explained herein the Expert Report does not consider other possible causes of water level decline in the GSWC wells, notable the impacts of the prolonged period of severe drought from 2012 to 2022.

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https://mojavewater-my.sharepoint.com/personal/jruesch_mojavewater_org/Documents/Watermaster/GSWC Sept 2024 Motion/WM Response/Technical Memorandum Final Draft 10-9-2024.docx

The Expert Report concluded that the decline in observed groundwater levels at the GSWC's production wells is not a result of over-pumping. Instead, the Expert Report indicated that it is more likely the result of decreased recharge to Centro from Alto, or a failure of the Alto Producers to meet their Subarea Obligations under the Judgment. While there has been a significant decrease in recharge to Centro as a result of severe drought conditions from 2012 to 2022 as reflected in the hydrographs of monitoring wells located near Hodge and Golden State's well fields, the evidence is quite clear the Alto Producers have been meeting, and are meeting, their Subarea Obligation to the Transition Zone.

Flow from Alto to Centro (Helendale Fault)

The Mojave Basin Area (MBA) experiences frequents periods of below average water supply as indicated in the chart below. The chart shows the history of inflow as measured at the Forks near Hesperia; approximating the surface inflow to the Basin Area. As shown, the 11 year period from 2012-2022 experienced only about 42% of the long term average water supply see Figure 1.



Note: Discharge of Mojave Raverat. The Forks from the addition of values as reported from USOS stations at Wen Fork Mojave Raver Near Hesperia, CA (10261000), and Deep Creek Near Hesperia, CA (10260700) from 1971-1971, the greater of 10260700 and Mojave Raver Fork Near Hesperia, CA (10260700) and 10360700 from 1972-1974, and the addition of Wen Fork Mojave Raver Above Mojave Raver Fork Reservor Near Hesperia, CA (10260700) and 10360700 from 1972-1974, and the addition of Wen Fork Mojave Raver Above Mojave Raver Fork Reservor Near Hesperia, CA (10260700) and 10360700 from 1972-1974, and the addition of Wen Fork Mojave Raver Above Mojave Raver Sear Hesperia, CA (10260700) and 10360700 from 1972-1974, and the addition of Wen Fork Mojave Raver Above Mojave Raver Near Hesperia, CA (10260700) and 10360700 from 1972-1974, and the addition of Wen Fork Mojave Raver Above Mojave Raver

The Transition Zone, or TZ (area between the Alto and Centro Subareas) includes about 15 miles of Mojave River channel between the Lower Narrows, Mojave River, and the Helendale Fault; a geologic structure separating Alto and Centro Subareas. There is a United States Geological Survey (USGS) stream gage at the Lower Narrows. Surface flows across the Helendale Fault,

Consulting Civil Engineers, A Corporation

that become recharge to the Centro subarea, are episodic, resulting from large infrequent storm events.

Flow at the Helendale Fault (HF) has been estimated by various researchers over time. Shown below are estimates of average annual flow at HF for different time periods:

California Department of Water Resources, (1967) for the period 1936-1961 = **35,500** AF USGS, (Stamos, 2001) for the period 1951-1999 = **35,819** AF Albert A. Webb and Associates (Webb, 2000) 1931-1990 = **36,700** AF Watermaster (2024), 1991-2023 = 34,900 AF plus 2,305 AF Make Up water purchases = **37,205** AF.

Thus, total average annual surface flows from the TZ into the Centro subarea, as estimated at Helendale Fault have not changed significantly since at least the period 1936-1961.

Measured Surface Flow into the TZ

Surface flow into the TZ is measured by USGS at the Mojave River Lower Narrows, near Victorville (measurements made weekly by USGS staff). Treated sewer effluent is measured and discharged by the Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority (VVWRA) into the TZ. Shown below as Figure 2 is a graph of the measured flow at Lower Narrows, and the measured VVWRA discharges since 1951. Treated effluent discharge to the river began in about 1981.





Figure 2. Total stream flows at Lower Narrows + VVWRA Discharge

As shown above, the average inflow to the TZ between 1951 and 1990 (49,028 AF), and between 1991 and 2023 (48,899 AF) is little changed (-0.26%). The graphic (Figure 2) is based on measurements as reported by USGS and VVWRA, and not on any estimates made by Watermaster.



Further, pumping in the TZ has declined significantly from the past. The graphic below shows changes in pumping within the TZ:



Figure 3. Historic groundwater pumping in the Transition Zone.

Average annual pumping in the TZ declined by 40.2% from the period 1951-2023 to the 2001-2023 period. Pumping during 2023 was 10,039 AF, and consumptive use of pumping (losses) were about 6,859 AF. Phreatophyte use, which also contributes to losses in the TZ was about 5,702 AF in 2023.¹ If the future average annual flow into the TZ, is similar to the past (about 48,899 AF) and consumptive uses are about the same as they are now, *average annual* outflow to Centro will be about 36,338 AF.

The average annual water supply into the TZ has remained constant over time, and the water demands have fallen. This has resulted in stable water levels in the TZ, allowing storms to pass to Centro; consequently, the estimated flow across the HF is about the same now as in the past.

¹ Phreatophytes consumptive use is calculated by Watermaster on an annual basis based on values reported in "Evapotranspiration Water use Analysis of Saltcedar and Other Vegetation in the Mojave River Flood plain, 2007 and 2010, Mojave Water Agency Water Supply Management Study, Phase 1 Report". Values are adjusted to annual climatological conditions.



This condition is reflected in the TZ water levels as presented in the Watermaster's Annual Report (Figures 3-7, 3-8 and 3-9). The compilation of hydrographs in the TZ are included herein as Exhibit A.

The change in storage in the TZ over time has been relatively constant, meaning water levels show limited variability over time. The Centro Subarea hydrographs shown in Exhibit B show the sites located in the vicinity of the TZ in the Centro subarea (downstream of the Helendale Fault). These hydrographs show groundwater elevations to be relatively stable over time (08N04W21M-01-04 [Exhibit C], 08N04W12Q01 [Exhibit D], 08N03W04A07 [Exhibit E]). Exhibits A, B, C, D, and E all show stability of the groundwater levels within the TZ. Specifically, wells located in the Centro subarea closest to the TZ, as reflected in Exhibits C, D, and E indicate stable water levels, also the average surface inflow to the TZ (Figure 3) has not changed from 1951 to 2023. This confirms that the historical flows to the Centro Subarea have not been significantly reduced. Therefore, we conclude that the flow across the Helendale Fault has remained consistent as evidenced by these exhibits.

Importantly, the river reach between the HF and Barstow is normally a dry channel. Figure 4 is an aerial image showing the extent of the river reach between the HF and Barstow; the photo is dated August 22, 1969. Notably water year 1969 was an extreme flow event on the Mojave River. The flow at Barstow that year was reported by USGS to be (146,000 AF). Figure 5 shows the same reach of the river in 2022 following several years of drought. As noted, the channel in the photo is dry. This is the normal condition of the channel between the HF and Barstow (a distance of about 20 miles). There is only continuity of surface flow between the HF and Barstow during extreme storm events. During dry periods, sometime lasting many years, there is no flow in this reach of the river.

The statistical analysis presented by Aquilogic, intending to correlate pumping and water level change, and concluding that diminished flow into Centro must be the reason for declining water level in the GSWC wells, ignores time and distance, in its conclusion. As indicated above the average annual flow at HF is about 36,000 AF per year and has not significantly changed over time. In any given year, the flow will be substantially less than or greater than 36,000 AF, and in fact, it is likely to be low in some years. But the limited variability in water levels in the TZ as reflected in the hydrographs indicates little if any change in storage within the TZ over time; hence storms pass through the TZ in much the same way as they have in the past.





Figure 4. Aerial imagery of the area of interest taken in 1969 with the 2022 background image.





Figure 5. Aerial imagery of the area of interest taken in 2022.

Statistical Analysis From Expert Report

Section 5 of the Expert Report is the analysis of water levels in the GSWC production wells. The figures shown in the Expert Report contain monthly Mojave River flows, measured at the Lower Narrows stream gage. The Expert Report provides a qualitative analysis of the relationship of stream flows and depth to water by stating that depth to water generally decreases during and after large storm events, (i.e., groundwater levels rise when Mojave River flows are higher). However, this does not support the Expert Report conclusion that the flow that enters Centro from the Transition Zone has been declining over the years for reasons other than diminished flow directly attributable to the severe drought conditions experienced from 2012 to 2022. The correlation between groundwater level rise and flows in the Mojave River is well known and is not disputed by the Watermaster. What is not addressed by the Expert Report is that the portion of streamflow that can eventually reach GSWC's extraction wells depends on a complex set of processes that a simple correlation cannot capture. These processes include but are not limited to the impact of severe drought conditions during various time periods, flow-impeding faults, frequency and intensity of the storms, prior state of the basin (due to dry



conditions and past pumping patterns), groundwater flow patterns and transmissivity distribution (ability of the sediments to transmit water). An intense and fast-moving storm might generate less recharge and generate more surface outflow from Centro to Baja. Also, as noted above, the normally dry channel between HF and Barstow will induce more recharge in that area.

The Expert Report's statistical analysis of depth to water versus pumping is based on the hypothesis that if chronic water level decline is due to over-pumping alone, there should be a correlation between pumping and depth to water. Similarly to the explanation given in the previous paragraph, this approach overlooks the complexity of the aquifer system and the processes that determine water levels. Also, the correlation presented by the Expert Report are calculated using pumping rate from the well where the water level is measured. Such an approach overlooks the fact that a well can be influenced by pumping from other wells in the basin or even the same wellfield. Even with this approach the results are not convincingly conclusive as 5 out of 17 wells are indicated to have statistically significant correlations/trends that show depth to water decreasing (water level rises) as pumping magnitude increases which shows that the aquifer system has more complexity than this simplified method can capture. Ultimately the lack of a clear correlation between water levels and pumping does not prove that chronic decline of water levels in the GSWC wells is due to a decline of inflow into Centro, except during periods of extreme drought such as occurred from 2012 to 2022. Other explanations that take into account the complexity of the basin should be considered. As an example, a well-calibrated model is a much better tool for this type of study as it incorporates the actual physical laws of groundwater flow, surface geology, and hydro-stratigraphy (geometry and extent of aquifers).

Importantly, there are many other possible reasons for water level declines in the GSWC wells other than the conclusion in the Expert Report, i.e. that the only possible reason is reduced outflow to Centro from Alto. For example:

- 1) Reduced flows to Centro through the HF during periods of extreme drought, such as was experienced from 2012 to 2022
- 2) The conclusion is incorrect based on the correlation; 5 of 17 wells indicate water level increases with pumping
- 3) Pumping by other wells in the area influence the GSWC water level measurements
- 4) Recharge between the HF and Barstow due to its dry channel characteristics and decades of pumping between 1950 and 1990
- 5) Export of domestic return flow to the Barstow WWTP located downstream near the Baja Centro boundary
- 6) Concentrated pumping within the narrow cross section, fault bounded area near GSWC's production wells and others
- 7) Pumping by nearby Agricultural interest that purchase excess Free Production Allowance from GSWC

Wagner Bonsignore Consulting Civil Engineers, A Corporation

8) Recharge lost to the north around Iron Mountain and through the Hinkely Gap, both toward Harper Lake

Table 4-3 of the Expert Report, Aquilogic described the various components of the estimated water budget for the Transition Zone. On this table, Aquilogic marked some entries as "Assumed". The "assumed" entries include the subsurface outflows (2,000 AFY), and the Consumptive Use by phreatophytes (6,000 AFY). Subsurface outflows are not assumed. This value was established by the parties to the Judgment. The Consumptive Use by phreatophytes was determined by the Lines and Bilhorn study from 1996 and is considered representative of long-term conditions in the area. These amounts were agreed to by the parties and California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The Expert Report states that Watermaster's calculations of the amount of consumptive use by agriculture and phreatophytes are based on outdated studies and techniques and recommend the use of satellite remove sensing data to redefine the estimates of ET. The Expert Report recommends Watermaster consider installing a new stream gage near the Helendale Fault. If this is determined to be infeasible, the Expert Report recommends the use of remote sensing to approximate the Mojave River flow discharge, and the approximations can be calibrated with stream gage measurements at the existing USGS gages (Lower Narrows, Hodge, and Barstow).

In response to these recommendations, Watermaster has not refused and is not opposed to use of remote sensing technologies to improve and/or update estimates of consumptive use by agriculture and phreatophytes. Watermaster is working on studying the riparian vegetation using satellite-based remote sensing tools to update consumptive use values for Phreatophytes. However, there are limitations in the ability of remote sensing to accurately determine the quantity of river flows, particularly in the environment existing at the HF compounded with the relative infrequency of significant storm events resulting in detectable storm flow at the HF, as will be explained in Mr. Wagner's declaration,

We note that making reliable measurements in wide sandy unstable channels like the Mojave River is challenging as the channel geometry, a critical element in stream flow calculation is constantly changing. Furthermore, the episodic occurrence of flow makes direct measurements, upon which reliable stream gage calculations also depend, hard to collect, as predicting when to mobilize staff to make a measurement is dependent on the episodic nature of the flow in the river. Static measurements (staff gage) or remote sensing techniques, will be highly unreliable in such environments. Regarding the of use of remote sensing to approximate the Mojave River flow discharge, Watermaster will study this recommendation and implement this as appropriate or necessary.

Watermaster has met with representatives of GSWC several times in the past in a series of meetings that were interrupted by the Covid pandemic:

June 11, 2019, MWA Office 1-3 p.m. (MWA staff and GSWC staff and attorney)


To Mr. Lee McElhaney October 9, 2024 Page 11

> October 23, 2019, MWA Office, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. MWA staff and GSWC staff and attorney) February 10, 2022, Helendale Field Trip, (Allison Febbo/Tony Winkle, Dave Peterson, WBE, with Toby Moore and GSWC staff)

Among issues raised by GSWC, were the installation of an additional stream gaging station, and geophysical investigations.

Subsequently, MWA, installed a stream gage at Hinkley Road near Hodge, upstream of the GSWC wells. MWA also conducted extensive geophysical investigations (approximately \$150,000) in the area of Helendale.

MWA also imported 1,994 AF of water in 2022 to address impacts to GSWC wells due to drought. That water was delivered to the Lenwood recharge site that benefits the area where GSWC wells are located. During 2023 MWA imported 9,229 AF to the Hodge and Lenwood recharge sites near GSWC wells. The total amount imported to the Mojave Basin Area was 94,690 AF (Jeffrey Ruesch, Watermaster Service Manager).

MWA is also working to expand its current Upper Mojave River Basin Model which will include the TZ, Centro, and Baja subareas. In June of 2024 we informed the Court that this work was in progress and scheduled to be completed by the end of 2024 (The Mojave Regional Groundwater Model). The model expansion will inform the estimates of flow into the Centro subarea, the water balance in the TZ, and provide tools for evaluating recharge and pumping scenarios for optimal basin management.

Enclosures:

Exhibit A – Alto Transition Zone Hydrographs 2024

Exhibit B – Centro Subarea Hydrographs 2024

- Exhibit C Centro Subarea 08N04W21M01_04 Hydrographs
- Exhibit D Centro Subarea 08N4W12Q01 Hydrograph
- Exhibit E Centro Subarea 08N03W04A07 Hydrograph



EXHIBIT A



EXHIBIT B







EXHIBIT C



EXHIBIT D



EXHIBIT E



* Preliminary data, subject to revision.

Mojave River Flow at The Forks Water Years 1931 - 2023



Note: Discharge of Mojave River at The Forks from the addition of values as reported from USGS stations at West Fork Mojave River Near Hesperia, CA (10261000), and Deep Creek Near Hesperia, CA (10260500) from 1931-1971, the greater of 10260500 and Mojave River Below Forks Reservoir Near Hesperia, CA (10260100) from 1972-1974, and the addition of West Fork Mojave River Above Mojave River Forks Reservoir Near Hesperia, CA (10260500) and 10260500 from 1972-1974, and the addition of West Fork Mojave River Above Mojave River Forks Reservoir Near Hesperia, CA (10260500) and 10260500 from 1975-Present.



Transition Zone Water Balance

Monitoring Method by Percentage of Production Transition Zone Producers

Water Year	Flowmeter	Pump Test ¹ (Electrical Records)	Natural Gas Records	Estimates	Load Count by Truck	No Use, Property Sold 2020, BAP separated.	Total Production (AF)
2023	90.1%	9.8%	0.01%	0.04%	0.04%	0.00%	11,221
2022	89.9%	10.1%	0.01%	0.03%	0.03%	0.00%	12,040
2021	87.9%	12.0%	0.01%	0.03%	0.03%	0.00%	11,804
2020	88.6%	11.3%	0.01%	0.04%	0.04%	0.00%	11,223
2019	89.2%	10.7%	0.01%	0.04%	0.04%	0.00%	10,789
2018	89.3%	10.7%	0.01%	0.03%	0.03%	0.00%	11,484
2017	90.7%	9.2%	0.01%	0.04%	0.04%	0.00%	10,129
2016	96.3%	3.6%	0.02%	0.04%	0.04%	0.00%	9,515
2015	99.1%	0.3%	0.02%	0.25%	0.04%	0.36%	9,139
2014	99.3%	0.4%	0.02%	0.22%	0.04%	0.00%	10,522
2013	99.2%	0.7%	0.04%	0.04%	0.02%	0.00%	10,287
2012	99.1%	0.7%	0.04%	0.04%	0.04%	0.01%	10,242

Information derived from data maintained in Watermaster producer records.

Notes:

1) Water production reported by producers with flow meters.

2) Single agricultural producers, non-stipulating party, Cardoza Appellent measures and reports consistent with Watermaster rules

Centro Subarea Estimated Water Balance (2012-2022)

Inflow	<u>Flow (AF)</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Recharge	12,238	(1)
Return Flow	4,623	
Total Inflow:	16,861	
Outflow		
Baja Subsurface	1,462	(2)
Baja Surface	19	(3)
Phreatophytes	3,000	(4)
Production	20,046	(5)
Total Outflow:	24,527	
Difference	(7,666)	

Notes:

- 1. Derived from Figure 3-10 Watermaster Annual Report.
- 2. USGS Stamos 2001, page 87.
- 3. USGS stream flow at Barstow from 2012 to 2022.
- 4. USGS Lines and Bilhorn 1996.
- 5. Average verified production by Watermaster for 2012-2022 and includ

Mt. General fault	Harbort Deproduction (more marked) Deproduction (more ma	te faun 0 2022	P-23 Wate Hinkley Date of CIF 3,750 7,5	VE BASIN A CRMAS' er Year Pl and Bars R Photo: June	rear roduction stow 2023 15,000 Feet		
	19 00 10						
			BOOTINGT			Maler	Than laug
	Lenwood fault		Exprostored Construction			Water S Hinkley P Water Year	Sold to roducers Acre- Feet
09N03W23F01,03 and 04	2022-23 Water Year Production	Verified	Production Hodge to	in Indicated	d Areas Percentage of Total	2009-10 2010-11 2011-12 2012-13 2013-14	1,500 2,000 1,800 2,100 2,300
	CA Geologic Survey Faults 5,416 AF Golden State Water Wells 741 AF Hector Huerta Water Wells 2,352 AF Vernola Trust Water Wells 	Water Year 2016-17 2017-18 2018-19 2019-20	(AF) 13,580 14,134 13,926 12,723	(AF) 17,905 19,112 18,231 16,756	Production 76% 74% 76% 76% 76%	2014-15 2015-16 2016-17 2017-18 2018-19 2019-20	2,400 2,400 2,400 2,400 2,400 2,400
	 2,236 AF Pacific Gas & Electric Water Wells 578 AF Ruisch Trust Water Wells 589 AF Ruisch, et al. Water Well 302 AF Harmsen Family Trust Water Wells 	2020-21 2021-22 2022-23 Total	14,169 12,784 12,214 93,530	18,132 15,422 14,840 120,398	78% 83% 82% 78%	2020-21 2021-22 2022-23 Total	2,400 2,400 2,400 31,300







Streamflow at Lower Narrows + VVWRA Discharges to the Transition Zone (Includes Make-Up Obligation Purchases

Note: Based on USGS Stream gage records, VVWRA discharges, and Make-Up Obligation Purchases.

MOJAVE BASIN AREA WATERMASTER

SUMMARY REPORT

SUBSURFACE FLOW BETWEEN SUBAREAS

ROBERT C. WAGNER, P.E. WATERMASTER ENGINEER FEBRUARY 22, 2006

Introduction

The Judgment After Trial dated January 10, 1996 (Judgment) recognized that additional information would need to be obtained in order to establish certain physical characteristics of the Mojave Basin Area. A specific finding at trial concerned the hydrologic interrelationship between the five Subareas comprising the Mojave Basin Area (Figure 1). One component of the relationship is the subsurface flow between Subareas which is used to determine the annual obligations that one Subarea owes to another.

The estimates of the subsurface flow between Subareas made at the time of trial were based on the best information available. Mojave Water Agency (MWA) was directed to undertake studies including establishing monitoring wells for the purpose of estimating the actual subsurface flow, and for future monitoring. Watermaster was directed to report back to the Court within 10 years with a recommendation for monitoring the subsurface flow in the future, and to determine whether or not a revision to the historic estimate was needed.

Background

MWA began installing monitoring wells in various locations as early as 1993 for the purpose of understanding the hydrology of the Mojave Basin Area, and to comply with various parts of the Judgment. As of December 2005, MWA has installed over 100 wells and spent in excess of \$3,000,000 on monitoring well installation and over \$4,000,000 on various studies related to groundwater recharge and groundwater movement. These studies include a numerical groundwater model prepared by USGS, age dating of water, a comprehensive investigation of the Transition Zone, Este Subarea, numerous USGS reports and others.

MWA recently prepared four studies to investigate the subsurface flow between the Subareas. The purpose of the studies was to collect data, identify data gaps, determine historic groundwater gradients, existing gradients and evaluate changes over time. This report to Watermaster, summarizes the findings from the MWA studies, and provides a recommendation for establishing the estimated flow between Subareas as required by the Judgment. The estimates established by the Judgment of subsurface flow are shown on Figure 2.

Methodology

Generally, the only anthropogenic factor that can affect the subsurface flow between Subareas is pumping, since the lowering of the hydraulic head in the aquifer by man made influences will affect the quantity and direction of groundwater flow. The Judgment envisioned that we would determine the amount of water that historically flowed between the Subareas and ensure that this flow was maintained in the future. The best way accomplish this goal is to establish the historic groundwater gradient across a Subarea boundary and to maintain the gradient. Within certain limits, if the gradient remains unchanged, so will the flow across a given boundary. Consequently it is not critical to actually know what the subsurface flow historically was; rather it is necessary only to know that the flow has not changed. This is accomplished by computing and comparing the historic gradient to the present one at a given location.

The flow estimates for each Subarea can be estimated by Darcy's Law from the equation:

Q = KiA

where:

- $Q = discharge in ft^3/day$ (groundwater flow across the boundary)
- K = hydraulic conductivity in ft/day (hydraulic properties)
- i = gradient or slope in ft/ft
- $A = cross sectional area in ft^2$

Historic and present day water level data was collected for various wells considered to be representative of the generalized groundwater conditions on either side of a Subarea boundary. The data was evaluated and groundwater contours were developed in order to determine the gradient. The hydraulic properties of the aquifer were estimated from various sources including previous studies and investigations, well drillers logs and pump test data, as available. The geometry of the basin area at each boundary was approximated to obtain a cross sectional area. The flow Q, is determined by the given equation.

The actual flow at each Subarea boundary is difficult to calculate with great certainty due to the complexities of the geology of the basin, the magnitude of the cross sectional area, and relative unknowns like the thickness of the water bearing sediments and the hydraulic conductivity of the various aquifer units. However, reasonably reliable water level data is available, so a comparison of past and present conditions affecting the flow at the Subareas boundaries can be made.

Discussion - Flow Between Subareas

There are five boundaries where there exists a Subarea obligation pursuant to the Judgment (Figure 2). The following discussion evaluates each of the obligations and the estimated historic and current discharge.

Alto - Centro

The subsurface flow obligation from Alto to Centro is 2,000 acre-feet per year (1935-1960) which was based on the estimate made by Department of Water Resources, Bulletin 84, 1967. The estimate contained in Bulletin 84 represented the subsurface flow between the Upper and Middle basins; this is now considered the boundary between the Transition Zone (Alto) and Centro. Most of the subsurface flow contribution from Alto to Centro occurs along the Transition Zone boundary with Centro within the upper part of the aquifer. Groundwater contours and a groundwater gradient were determined across the Alto to Centro boundary, based on 153 data points for 1958 (Figure 3). While it is generally accepted that overdraft commenced in the 1950's, data prior to 1958 is not readily obtainable. As of 1958, the estimated gradient was 0.0035 feet per foot, or 3.5 feet of elevation drop for every 1,000 feet of horizontal travel (about 18.5 feet per mile), meaning there was groundwater flow in the direction of Alto to Centro.

The groundwater gradient determined for 1998 did not change from 1958, meaning that there had been little change in the average subsurface flow between Alto and Centro (Figure 4). Whatever the subsurface flow was in 1958 it was unchanged in 1998.

Further analysis showed an increase (steeper) in the gradient from 1998 to 2004, but it is not known whether or not the change was related to dry weather conditions or to man made influences like pumping. It is more likely that the changes seen in this six year period were the result of nature as pumping generally declined in Centro during the past 10 years. We also expect that after the storms of 2005, that water levels will have recovered to the previous level and the gradient will again be as it was in 1998.

USGS (Stamos et al, 2001) estimated the flow across the Transition Zone boundary to be 1566 acre-feet for the sixty year base period 1931-1990. The USGS work involved the development of a numerical groundwater model which evaluated all of the components of water inflow and outflow and attempted to match up predicted water levels with actual measurements. Given the uncertainty in the measurements, data, and estimated inputs, the predicted value is reasonably close to the historic estimate of 2,000 acre-feet. More importantly, the gradient analysis showed that the gradient was unchanged over a forty year period, 1958-1998 indicating a stable relationship at the Subarea boundary. Consequently, there is not a reason to recommend a change in the estimated subsurface flow from Alto to Centro.

Este - Alto

The subsurface flow from Este to Alto was estimated to be 200 acre-feet per year at the time of trial. USGS (Stamos et al, 2001) estimated the discharge from Este to Alto to be 995 acre-feet during the 1931-1990 period. Webb (2000) estimated the discharge to be about 850 acre-feet. DWR (Bulletin 84, 1967) estimated 100 acre-feet per year. MWA (Napoli-Laton-Eckhart 2006) has estimated a possible range based on a variety of sources, but very limited data, that the flow could be less than 100 acre-feet and up to about 7,000 acre-feet per year. The MWA study indicates that the actual amount is likely at the lower end of the range.

An analysis of Watermaster records and water levels wells in Alto near the Alto–Este boundary indicate that the upper range is probably not more than about 1,000 acre-feet.

Este is divided along the Helendale fault, with Fifteen Mile Valley to the southwest and Lucerne Valley to the Northeast. Water level data suggests that the subsurface flow from Este to Alto is from Fifteen Mile Valley and not Lucerne. Water levels in Fifteen Mile Valley appear to be stable suggesting that inflow and outflow are about equal.

There is insufficient data to properly evaluate the historic flow from Este to Alto, but it would appear that the flow is in excess of the 200 acre-feet per that is indicated in the Judgment.

The best information we have suggests that the gradient in this area is unchanged and consequently the average subsurface flow, whatever it is, also remains unchanged over a 47 year period (Figures 5 and 6). The actual value is probably closer to 1,000 acrefeet per year which is consistent with the USGS (2001) and Webb (2000) estimates and falls within the reasonable range of flow as estimated by the 2006 MWA study. However given that the amount is relatively small the area in question is very large and more importantly, based on the 2006 MWA investigation, the gradient is unchanged, We are not recommending that the subsurface flow estimate in the Judgment be changed from the current estimate of 200 acre-feet per year.

Centro - Baja

The subsurface flow obligation from Centro is Baja is 1,200 acre-feet per year based on estimates made at the time of trial by various researchers and unpublished reports. Department of Water Resources, Bulletin 84, 1967, estimated the subsurface discharge between the Middle and Lower Basins to be 2,000 acre-feet, but the boundary for that study was at Barstow, several miles upstream from the Centro-Baja boundary. Webb (2000) concluded that 1,200 acre-feet per year was a reasonable estimate.

USGS (Stamos et al 2001) estimated the average flow to be 1,462 acre-feet for the sixty year period 1931-1990, similar to the previous estimates. The groundwater gradient in this area has changed slightly from 0.0045 ft/ft in 1960 (23.75 ft per mile) to 0.0050 ft/ft in 2004 (26.4 feet per mile) (Figures 7 and 8). The change is a result of declining water levels in Baja as water levels in Centro along the boundary have been relatively stable. Importantly, the gradient is unchanged since 1993. Consequently, we are not recommending a change in the estimated flow from Centro to Baja, which is to remain at 1,200 acre-feet.

Oeste - Alto

The subsurface flow from Oeste to Alto is indicated in the Judgment to be 800 acre-feet. USGS (Stamos 2001) and Webb (2000) estimated this value to be 1,162 acre-feet and 350 acre-feet respectively. The boundary line between Alto and Oeste covers a large distance and the actual boundary can not be readily identified in the subsurface. There is only sparse water level data in the area of the boundary to evaluate historic conditions. The available data for current conditions is also limited. The water supply conditions of Oeste are also not well understood. Preliminary evaluation of the available data suggests that there is insufficient information to make a recommendation. The data we have collected suggests that the subsurface relationship between Oeste and Alto has not changed significantly, but the data is inconclusive.

MWA is currently investigating the water supply conditions in Oeste and preparing a comprehensive evaluation of the hydrogeology. That effort will help support Watermaster recommendations for water management in Oeste and is expected to be mostly completed by November of 2006. Consequently, we would recommend that Watermaster make no determination about the Oeste to Alto subsurface flow until we have compiled more data; for now, the subsurface flow will remain 800 acre-feet as

indicated in the Judgment. We will report back to Watermaster in the Fall of 2006 and to the Court in Spring of 2007.

Baja - Afton

There is an obligation of 400 acre-feet from the Baja Subarea to Afton based on as estimate of the long term average base flow measured at the USGS gage at Afton. The gage is located several miles downstream of the Baja Subarea and MWA administrative boundary. While the gage data shows a continuous reduction in base discharge, it is not clear how Watermaster would implement a program to satisfy a base flow obligation at Afton.

Unlike the Alto-Centro surface base flow obligation which is quantifiable and measurable at the USGS gage at Lower Narrows, the base flow from Baja across the Agency boundary has no surface expression. It would be almost impossible to determine and measure on an annual basis. It is further unclear how Watermaster would provide make up water and to whom. In order to comply Watermaster would have to cause a pipeline to be built that delivered supplemental water to an arbitrary point in the desert. The benefits of delivering such supplemental water are unknown. We recommend that Watermaster ask the Court to relieve Baja of the obligation of maintaining base flow of 400 acre-feet at Afton.

Conclusion

The methodology for determining changes in the subsurface flow between Subareas, as set forth above is also an acceptable method for evaluating future changes. By continuing to monitor the groundwater gradient at the Subarea we will be able to determine when a change in the subsurface flow has occurred. A detail presentation of the methodology as well as the data relied upon for this analysis is contained in three documents prepared by MWA and California State University Fullerton called, Groundwater Flow Between Subareas Report (Final Drafts, February 2006) Alto-Centro; Centro-Baja; Este-Alto. A forth document on the Oeste-Alto boundary will be prepared as a final draft in Fall 2006. These documents are available online at <u>www.mojavewater.org</u>, and on CD-ROM by contacting Valerie Wiegenstein, Watermaster Services Manager, or Lance Eckhart, Senior Hydrogeologist.

We should also note that additional investigations to determine the actual amount of subsurface flow between Subareas would require a significant expenditure of funds and would not lead to a significantly better determination. We have estimated that a minimum of eight to ten additional monitoring wells would be needed to help improve our understanding of the amount of flow that is occurring. The additional monitoring wells would cost somewhere in the range of 3-5 million dollars for design and installation. We do not feel that such expenditure is warranted.

The recommended subsurface flow amounts for each Subarea boundary are shown on Figure 9. Further, we recommend that the amount shown, continue to be assumed to have satisfied any indicated subsurface obligation on an annual basis.

FIGURE 1

MAP OF

MOJAVE BASIN AREA



FIGURE 2

CHART SHOWING

CURRENT SUBSURFACE FLOW BETWEEN SUBAREAS

Current Subsurface Flow Obligations Between Subareas


FIGURE 3 1958 GROUNDWATER GRADIENT ALTO TO CENTRO



Figure 3: 1958 Groundwater Gradient – Alto to Centro

FIGURE 4 1998 GROUNDWATER GRADIENT ALTO TO CENTRO



Figure 4: 1998 Groundwater Gradient – Alto to Centro

WINTER 1957 GROUNDWATER GRADIENT

ESTE TO ALTO



Figure 5: Winter 1957 Groundwater Gradient – Este to Alto

SPRING 2004 GROUNDWATER GRADIENT

ESTE TO ALTO



Figure 6: Spring 2004 Groundwater Gradient - Este to Alto

FIGURE 7 1960 GROUNDWATER GRADIENT CENTRO TO BAJA



Figure 7: 1960 Groundwater Gradient - Centro to Baja

2004 GROUNDWATER GRADIENT

CENTRO TO BAJA



Figure 8: 2004 Groundwater Gradient - Centro to Baja

CHART SHOWING

RECOMMENDED SUBSURFACE FLOW BETWEEN SUBAREAS

Recommended Subsurface Flow Obligations Between Subareas



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EXHIBIT 9



ADOPTED BOARD ACTIONS

February 22, 2006 4:30 p.m.

1. INVOCATION – Director Bishop rendered the invocation.

2. CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND ROLL CALL -

Chairman Page called the meeting to order at 4:31 pm.

ROLL CALL

Watermaster Board: Chairman Page – Present Vice-Chairman Cox – Present Director Bishop – Present Director Fortyune – Present Director Hall – Present Director Lowry – Present Director Ventura– Present

MWA Staff Present: Kirby Brill, Executive Officer Norman Caouette, Assistant Executive Officer Valerie Wiegenstein, Watermaster Services Manager Lance Eckhart, Senior Hydrogeologist Jeffrey Ruesch, Senior Watermaster Technician Robert Boytor, Watermaster Technician II Joanne Lowrance, Watermaster Secretary

Others Present: Bill Brunick, Legal Counsel Robert Wagner, Watermaster Engineer Nine visitors

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MO #0632

2 **ACTION:** Motion made, seconded and the agenda approved as submitted.

4. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – There were no public comments at this time.

WORKSHOP

5. SUBSURFACE FLOWS BETWEEN SUBAREAS

A report titled, *"Mojave Basin Area Watermaster Summary Report Subsurface Flow Between Subareas"* by Robert C. Wagner, dated February 22, 2006, was distributed.

Mr. Caouette began with an introduction on this issue.

Mr. Wagner and Mr. Eckhart provided information by way of a Powerpoint presentation.

Mojave Basin Area Watermaster Adopted Board Actions February 22, 2006 Page 2

Mr. Tom Bilhorn representing the California Department of Fish and Game stressed the importance of considering gradient and elevation when calculating data. He stated that he does agree with the data presented by Mr. Wagner. Mr. Bilhorn expressed concern with impact to the area below Baja. He referred to Mr. Wagner's recommendation to drop the requirement of 400 acre-feet and suggested rewording to the effect of "at present, it is uneconomical to install a monitoring system. We are unaware according to the data available of any problems and therefore do not recommend any changes". He feels that the 400 acre-feet should continue to be used to calculate the basin overdraft.

Ms. Jennette Hayhurst with the City of Barstow spoke in support of considering the 400 acre-feet of subsurface flow from Baja.

ACTION: Informational purposes only. No action taken.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- 6. ACTIONS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 25, 2006
- 7. BILLS FOR PAYMENT
- 8. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS THROUGH JANUARY, 2006
- 9. PERMANENT TRANSFERS OF BASE ANNUAL PRODUCTION RIGHT
 - A. MOONYOUNG & OKHEA LEE TO STEPHEN AND LORI THOMAS (49 ACRE-FEET, BAJA SUBAREA, AMOUNT PAID, INCLUDED IN SALE OF PROPERTY)
 - B. JOHN VAN LEEUWEN TO HIGH DESERT ASSOCIATES, INC. (400 ACRE-FEET, CENTRO SUBAREA, AMOUNT PAID, \$1,030 PER ACRE-FOOT)
- MO #0633 **ACTION:** Motion made, seconded and the items on the Consent Calendar unanimously approved by the Board.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

10. PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE COMMENTS ON DRAFT APPENDIX B FOR WATER YEAR 2004-05

Introduction by Mr. Caouette.

Chairman Page opened the Public Hearing at 5:21 pm.

There being no comments from the public on this item, the Public Hearing closed at 5:22 pm.

ACTION: No action at this time.

Mojave Basin Area Watermaster Adopted Board Actions February 22, 2006 Page 3

11. PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT BUDGET AND ASSESSMENT RATES FOR WATER YEAR 2006-07 Mr. Caouette presented this item for consideration.

Chairman Page opened the Public Hearing at 5:23 pm.

There being no comments from the public on this item, the Public Hearing closed at 5:23 pm.

M0 #0634 **ACTION:** Motion made seconded and the Board approved staff's recommendation to set a public hearing and notice parties of the intent to adopt the draft Budget and Assessment Rates for Water Year 2006-07 at the regularly scheduled meeting on March 22, 2006.

12. PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED RECOMMENDATION FOR FREE PRODUCTION ALLOWANCE FOR WATER YEAR 2006-07

Introduction by Mr. Caouette and review of recommendations by Mr. Wagner. Chairman Page opened the Public Hearing at 5:25 pm.

There being no comments from the public on this item, the Public Hearing closed at 5:25 pm.

MO #0635 **ACTION:** Motion made seconded and the Board approved staff's recommendation to set a public hearing and notice all parties of the intent to adopt the proposed Free Production Allowance for Water Year 2006-07 at the regularly scheduled meeting on March 22, 2006.

NEW BUSINESS

13. AUTHORIZE LEGAL COUNSEL TO REQUEST THAT THE COURT ELIMINATE THE ALTO UNIDENTIFIED POOL

Mr. Caouette reviewed the background and recommendation for this item.

ACTION: Motion made seconded and the Board unanimously authorized legal counsel to request that the Court remove the Alto unidentified pool from further consideration for distribution of Base Annual Production in the Alto Subarea.

REPORTS

14. EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS.

A. DRAFT WATERMASTER ANNUAL REPORT FOR WATER YEAR 2004-05

The Draft Twelfth Annual Report was distributed at this meeting.

- B. TABLE AND GRAPH SHOWING THE STATUS OF THE MOJAVE WATER AGENCY'S GROUNDWATER STORAGE ACCOUNTS BY SUBAREA AND TYPE OF WATER
- C. LIQUIDITY REPORT

The reports included with the agenda package were reviewed by Ms. Wiegenstein.

MO #0636

Mojave Basin Area Watermaster Adopted Board Actions February 22, 2006 Page 4

Mr. Bilhorn responded to a request from Director Lowry that Biological fees could not be expended outside the boundaries of the Transition Zone/Upper Narrows due to restraints of Exhibit H.

15. ENGINEER REPORTS

A. GRAPH SHOWING HISTORIC ANNUAL BASE FLOW AT THE LOWER NARROWS GAGE AND DIRECT MEASUREMENTS BY USGS

Mr. Wagner reviewed the USGS measurements of base flow at the Lower Narrows.

- B. OTHER REPORTS None.
- **16.** LEGAL REPORTS. No legal reports.

17. DIRECTORS REPORTS - No reports.

OTHER BUSINESS

- 18. DISCUSSION ITEMS FOR NEXT OR FUTURE AGENDAS None.
- 19. CLOSED SESSION. None.
- **20.** ADJOURNMENT Chairman Page adjourned the meeting at 5:38 pm.

Joanne Kowrance, Secretary

Approved:

March 22, 2006

Attachments on-file:

- Item No. 5 PowerPoint presentation, "Report of Subsurface Flow Between Subareas"
 - "Mojave Basin Area Watermaster Summary Report Subsurface Flow Between Subareas" by Robert C. Wagner, dated February 22, 2006
- **Item No. 9** Signed documentation
- Item No. 10 Signed documentation
- **Item No. 11** Signed documentation
- Item No. 12 Signed documentation
 - PowerPoint presentation, "FPA Recommendation for Water Year 2006-07"
- Item No. 13 Signed documentation
- Item No. 14A– "Draft Twelfth Annual Report of the Mojave Basin Area Watermaster Water Year 2004-05"

Sign-in sheets

*Audio recording of this meeting available upon request.

















































/draulic Conductivity Values (& Aquifer Thickness Values						
Source	Hydraulic Conductivity (K) (ft/day)	Aquifer Thickness (ft)	Notes on source			
Multiple Sources	0.003	NA	General References			
Stamos, et. al., 2003	4 - 23	150+	USGS Water-Resources Investigation Report 03-4069			
Hardt, 1971	9 - 18	200	Transmissivity of 13,000 – 27,000 gpd/ft; Hydraulic Conductivity based on a depth of 200 feet.			
Stamos, et. al., 2001	250	200÷	USGS Water-Resources Investigations Report 01-4002; Estimated Transmissivity values for layer 1 are greater than 50,000 ft ² /day			
URS, 2003		200	Based on geophysics and well logs.			
Well Logs	NA	200	Deepest wells			
Multiple	300	NA	General References			

		Suc		anges		
Discharge (Q) (acre-ft/year)		Hydraulic Conductivity (K) (ft/day)				
		0.000	32	250	300	
(Q) (acre-ft	/year)	0.003	23	400		
(Q) (acre-ft	/year) 100	<0.1	<u> </u>	6,000 - 7,900	7,000 - 9,500	
(Q) (acre-ft Thickness	/year) <u>100</u> 200	0.003 <0.1 <0.2	$\begin{array}{r} 23 \\ \underline{540 - 730} \\ 1,100 - 1,500 \end{array}$	$\frac{2.50}{6,000 - 7,900}$ 12,000 - 16,000	$\frac{7,000-9,500}{14,000-19,000}$	
(Q) (acre-ft Thickness (b) (ft)	/year) <u>100</u> <u>200</u> <u>300</u>	0.003 <0.1	$ \begin{array}{r} 23 \\ 540 - 730 \\ 1,100 - 1,500 \\ 1,600 - 2,200 \\ \end{array} $	$\frac{2,30}{6,000 - 7,900}$ $\frac{12,000 - 16,000}{18,000 - 24,000}$	7,000 - 9,500 14,000 - 19,000 21,000 - 28,000	
















Did we learn anything that would change our understanding of the Subsurface flow?

No: The past and present groundwater gradient is unchanged at the boundary between:

- Alto and to Centro
- Este and Alto
- Centro and Baja

What is the relationship between an unchanged gradient and the subsurface flow?

- The stable groundwater gradient indicates stability in the amount of subsurface flow
- Although we may not be able to "accurately" determine the amount of flow, we can determine if it has changed
- By monitoring the gradient, we can monitor the relationship between the Subareas as required by the Judgment









ATTENDANCE MOJAVE BASIN AREA WATERMASTER REGULAR MEETING

Date: Time: Meeting Place:	February 2 2 , 2006 4:30 p.m. Mojave Water Agency Board Roorn
]	DIRECTORS:
Div. #1 Kimberly 9	Div. #4 Mike Page
Div. #2 Jim Ventu	Lenture Div. #5 Art Bishop
Div. #3 <u><i>Richare</i></u> Richard E	Div. #6 Leverly Lowry
	Div. #7 Dick Fortyune
	MWA STAFF:
1. An	conto 7. Kirley Bull
2. <u>2</u>	8
3	9
4. Robert	Boytoo 10
5. V. Wiece	ntas
6 Jaang	nundree 12.
	CONSULTANTS:
1. B.R.	3
2. <u>Bob Wag</u>	<u>men</u> 4

MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET

MOJAVE BASIN AREA WATERMASTER MEETING

FEBRUARY 22, 2006 4:30 P.M.

MOJAVE WATER AGENCY BOARD ROOM 22450 HEADQUARTERS DRIVE APPLE VALLEY CA 92307

The signing, registering, or completion of this document is voluntary. All persons may attend this meeting regardless of whether they sign, register, or complete this document.

NAME	REPRESENTING	ADDRESS	EMAIL
Tom Bilhoin	DEC		
WAYNE Soppetry	Centro		
Kol Garne	> 11		
Ju Moni-	MRCWA		
PERRY Dontlister	GSWR		
Gesse Naminez	GSWC		
IMARTIN LASLAI	GSWC		
SOE MAthein	SB SDD		
Tonya Moore	DFG		
5			

EXHIBIT 10



ADOPTED BOARD ACTIONS

March 22, 2006 4:30 p.m.

1. INVOCATION – Director Bishop rendered the invocation.

2. CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND ROLL CALL -

Chairman Page called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

ROLL CALL

Watermaster Board:

Chairman Page – Present Vice-Chairman Cox – Present Director Bishop – Present Director Fortyune – Present Director Hall – Present Director Lowry – Present Director Ventura– Present

MWA Staff Present:

Kirby Brill, Executive Officer Norman Caouette, Assistant Executive Officer Valerie Wiegenstein, Watermaster Services Manager Jeffrey Ruesch, Senior Watermaster Technician Robert Boytor, Watermaster Technician II Joanne Lowrance, Watermaster Secretary

Others Present:

Bill Brunick, Legal Counsel Robert Wagner, Watermaster Engineer Six visitors

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MO#0637 **ACTION:** Motion made, seconded and the agenda approved as submitted.

4. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – There were no public comments at this time.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- 5. ACTIONS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 22, 2006
- 6. BILLS FOR PAYMENT
- 7. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS THROUGH FEBRUARY, 2006

- 8. PERMANENT TRANSFERS OF BASE ANNUAL PRODUCTION RIGHT
 - A. KEN LUTH TO UDDERLY GOLD FARMS, LLC (27 ACRE-FEET, ALTO SUBAREA, AMOUNT PAID, INCLUDED IN SALE OF PROPERTY)
 - B. GREGORY M. & LISA A. MORCK TO DORA LAND, INC. (15 ACRE-FEET, ALTO SUBAREA, AMOUNT PAID, \$2,500 PER ACRE-FOOT)
 - C. ROBIN & JUDITH MITCHELL TO ELAINE TRAHAN (36 ACRE-FEET, ALTO SUBAREA, AMOUNT PAID, INCLUDED IN SALE OF PROPERTY)
 - D. ELAINE TRAHAN TO TRAHAN, ET AL. (36 ACRE-FEET, ALTO SUBAREA, AMOUNT PAID, INCLUDED IN SALE OF PROPERTY)
 - E. JOETTE JONES TO AQUA CAPITAL MANAGEMENT, LLC (30 ACRE-FEET, CENTRO SUBAREA, AMOUNT PAID, \$1,030 PER ACRE-FOOT)
 - F. THOMAS A. & PATRICIA C. PURCIO TO BRYAN C. HAAS & MARY H. HINKLE

(80 ACRE-FEET, BAJA SUBAREA, AMOUNT PAID, INLCLUDED IN THE SALE OF PROPERTY)

- G. RAYMOND WARD TO PORTER G. & ANITA E. SMITH (25 ACRE-FEET, BAJA SUBAREA, AMOUNT PAID, INCLUDED IN SALE OF PROPERTY)
- H. ANDY MALIN & PAULA SOLOMON TO JAMES N. JACKSON, JR. REVOCABLE TRUST (54 ACRE-FEET, BAJA SUBAREA, AMOUNT PAID, INCLUDED IN SALE OF PROPERTY)
- I. DAVID P. BALL TO BANK OF AMERICA (FORECLOSURE) (81 ACRE-FEET, BAJA SUBAREA)
- J. BANK OF AMERICA TO QUIGG AND COMPANY, INC. (81 ACRE-FEET, BAJA SUBAREA, AMOUNT PAID, INCLUDED IN SALE OF PROPERTY)
- MO#0638 **ACTION:** Motion made, seconded and the items on the Consent Calendar unanimously approved by the Board.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

9. PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE DRAFT WATERMASTER ANNUAL REPORT FOR WATER YEAR 2004-05

Mr. Brill and Ms. Wiegenstein introduced this item.

Chairman Page opened the Public Hearing at 4:33 pm.

There being no comments from the public on this item, the Public Hearing closed at 4:33 pm.

MO#0639

9 ACTION: Motion made, seconded and the Watermaster Board unanimously accepted the Twelfth Annual report and authorized staff to file the report with the Court by April 1, 2006.

10. PUBLIC HEARING TO ADOPT THE DRAFT BUDGET AND ASSESSMENT RATES FOR WATER YEAR 2006-07

Ms. Wiegenstein presented this item for consideration. Chairman Page opened the Public Hearing at 4:35 pm. There being no comments from the public on this item, the Public Hearing closed at 4:35 pm.

MO#0640

ACTION: Motion made seconded and the Watermaster Board adopted the proposed Budget and Assessment Rates for Water Year 2006-07 as follows:

Estimated Administrative Budget Administrative Assessment Rate Biological Assessment Rate Makeup Water Assessment Rate Replacement Water Assessment Rate \$ 478,538.00
\$3.10 per acre-foot of Production
\$ 0.68 per acre-foot of Production
\$ 354.00 per acre-foot
Alto
\$ 277.00 per acre-foot
Baja
\$ 371.00 per acre-foot
Centro
\$ 356.00 per acre-foot
Este
\$ 277.00 per acre-foot
Oeste
\$ 277.00 per acre-foot

11. PUBLIC HEARING TO ADOPT THE PROPOSED RECOMMENDATION FOR FREE PRODUCTION ALLOWANCE FOR WATER YEAR 2006-07

This item was introduction by Mr. Caouette and Mr. Wagner reviewed the recommendation.

Chairman Page opened the Public Hearing at 4:37 pm.

There being no comments from the public on this item, the Public Hearing closed at 4:37 pm.

MO#0641

ACTION: Motion made seconded and the Watermaster Board adopted the proposed Free Production Allowances and authorized legal counsel to request a hearing with the Court to consider the proposed Free Production Allowances for Water Year 2006-07 as follows:

SubareaFPA RecommendationEste180% of Base Annual ProductionOeste80% of Base Annual ProductionAlto - Agriculture
Alto - Municipal & Industrial80% of Base Annual Production
60% of Base Annual ProductionCentro80% of Base Annual Production

Baja²

70% of Base Annual Production or 75% of Base Annual Production pursuant to the Court Order dated December 29, 2005

Mr. Brunick clarified that although the Judgment requires Rampdown based on the numbers, the recommendation complies with what Court has determined in the past.

NEW BUSINESS

12. CONSIDER ADOPTION OF THE RECOMMENDED SUBSURFACE FLOW BETWEEN SUBAREAS

Mr. Wagner presented this item for consideration.

<u>Subareas</u>	Judgment Obligations	Proposed Obligations
Este to Alto	200 acre-feet	200 acre-feet
Oeste to Alto	800 acre-feet	To be determined
Alto to Centro	2,000 acre-feet	2,000 acre-feet
Centro to Baja	1,200 acre-feet	1,200 acre-feet
Baja to Afton	400 acre-feet	0 acre-feet

MO#0642 **ACTION:** Motion made seconded and the Watermaster Board unanimously adopted the recommended subsurface flow obligations and authorized legal counsel to report to the Court the findings.

REPORTS

- 13. EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS.
 - A. PERCENTAGE OF PRODUCERS REPORTING FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF THE 2005-06 WATER YEAR
 - B. ACTIVITY SUMMARY OF QUARTERLY REPORTING AND STATUS OF ASSESSMENTS INVOICED
 - C. TABLE AND GRAPH SHOWING THE STATUS OF THE MOJAVE WATER AGENCY'S GROUNDWATER STORAGE ACCOUNTS BY SUBAREA AND TYPE OF WATER

D. LIQUIDITY REPORT

The reports included with the agenda package were reviewed by Ms. Wiegenstein.

14. Engineer Reports.

A. GRAPH SHOWING HISTORIC ANNUAL BASE FLOW AT THE LOWER NARROWS GAGE AND DIRECT MEASUREMENTS BY USGS

Mr. Wagner reviewed the report included in the agenda package.

- **B.** OTHER REPORTS None.
- **15.** LEGAL REPORTS. No legal reports.

16. DIRECTORS REPORTS -

Director Bishop commended Watermaster staff on successfully achieving 90% reporting.

Director Hall complemented Mr. Wagner, Mr. Brunick, and staff for efforts in meeting court-mandated deadlines.

Director Lowry commented on World Water Day.

OTHER BUSINESS

- 17. DISCUSSION ITEMS FOR NEXT OR FUTURE AGENDAS None noted.
- **18.** CLOSED SESSION. Mr. Brunick indicated no need for closed session.
- **19.** ADJOURNMENT Chairman Page adjourned the meeting at 4:49 pm.

no allance Jeanne Lowrance, Secretary

Approved:

May 24, 2006

Attachments on-file:

Item No. 8 – Signed documentation Item No. 9 – Signed documentation Item No. 10 – Signed documentation Item No. 11 – Signed documentation Item No. 12 – Signed documentation Sign-in sheets

*Audio recording of this meeting available upon request.

MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET

MOJAVE BASIN AREA WATERMASTER MEETING

MARCH 22, 2006 4:30 P.M.

MOJAVE WATER AGENCY BOARD ROOM 22450 HEADQUARTERS DRIVE APPLE VALLEY CA 92307

The signing, registering, or completion of this document is voluntary. All persons may attend this meeting regardless of whether they sign, register, or complete this document.

NAME	REPRESENTING	ADDRESS	EMAIL
MORMON Nichols	Este		
Jim Gallagher	Golden State Water Co.	2143 Convention Center Way, Ste. 110 Onto,	io CA 91764
MARLYN LESLEY	GODDEN STATE WATERCO	J. J.	
9W Momor	MRCWD		

ATTENDANCE MOJAVE BASIN AREA WATERMASTER REGULAR MEETING

Date:March 22, 2006Time:4:30 p.m.Meeting Place:Mojave Water Agency Board Room

DIRECTORS	
Div. #1 June Cox	Div. #4 Mike Page
Div. #2 <u>Jim Clentur</u> Jim Ventura	Div. #5 Art Bishop
Div. #3	Div. #6 <u>Security Foury</u> Beverly Lowry
MWA STAFF	:
1	7
2. Changellund	8
3. M. Mugentein	9
4. Drum Cometo	10
5. RBayton	11
6. Jana Januance	12
CONSULTANT	'S:
1. <u>R</u> <u>R</u> .	3
2. Bub Wagner	4
l	

$W^{\text{mojave basin area}}_{\text{ATERMASTER}} R$

FOR

CITY OF BARSTOW, ET AL, VS. CITY OF ADELANTO, ET AL, CASE NO. 208568 - RIVERSIDE COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

MEMORANDUM

Date: March 22, 2006

To: Watermaster

From: Kirby Brill, Executive Officer

Re: Permanent Transfers of Base Annual Production Right

The following permanent water transfers are proposed for processing at the March 22, 2006 Watermaster meeting.

A. Ken Luth to Udderly Gold Farms, LLC

<u>27</u> acre-feet, including 21 acre-feet of Carryover Right, in the Alto Subarea

Selling Price: Included in Sale of Property

This is a transfer of BAP pursuant to the Rules and Regulations.

B. Gregory M. & Lisa A. Morck to Dora Land, Inc.

<u>15</u> acre-feet, including 12 acre-feet of Carryover Right, in the Alto Subarea

Selling Price: \$2,500 per acre-foot

This is a transfer of BAP pursuant to the Rules and Regulations.

C. Robin & Judith Mitchell to Elaine Trahan

 $\underline{36}$ acre-feet, including 29 acre-feet of Carryover Right, in the Alto Subarea

Selling Price: Included in Sale of Property

This is a transfer of BAP pursuant to the Rules and Regulations.

D. Elaine Trahan to Trahan, et al.

<u>36</u> acre-feet, including 29 acre-feet of Carryover Right, in the Alto Subarea

Selling Price: Included in Sale of Property

This is a transfer of BAP pursuant to the Rules and Regulations.

E. Joette Jones to Aqua Capital Management, LLC

 $\underline{30}$ acre-feet, including 24 acre-feet of Carryover Right, in the Centro Subarea

Selling Price: \$1,030 per acre-foot

This is a transfer of BAP pursuant to the Rules and Regulations. Joette Jones will have 32 acre-feet of BAP remaining if this transfer is accepted by Watermaster.

22450 Headquarters Drive • Apple Valley, California 92307-4304 (760) 946-7000 • 1-800-254-4242 • FAX (760) 240-4523 • E-Mail: Watermaster@mojavewater.org Permanent Water Transfers March 22, 2006 Page 2

- Gai A

F.

Thomas A. & Patricia C. Purcio to Bryan C. Haas & Mary H. Hinkle <u>80</u> acre-feet, including 64 acre-feet of Carryover Right, in the Baja Subarea

Selling Price: Included in Sale of Property

This is a transfer of BAP pursuant to the Rules and Regulations.

G. Raymond Ward to Porter G. & Anita E. Smith

<u>25</u> acre-feet in the Baja Subarea Selling Price: Included in Sale of Property

This is a transfer of BAP pursuant to the Rules and Regulations. Raymond Ward will have 105 acre-feet of BAP remaining if this transfer is accepted by Watermaster.

H. Andy Malin & Paula Solomon to James N. Jackson, Jr. Revocable Trust

54 acre-feet, including 44 acre-feet of Carryover Right, in the Baja Subarea

Selling Price: Included in Sale of Property

This is a transfer of BAP pursuant to the Rules and Regulations.

I. David P. Ball to Bank of America (Foreclosure)

<u>81</u> acre-feet, including 65 acre-feet of Carryover Right, in the Baja Subarea

Selling Price: N/A

This is a transfer of BAP pursuant to the Rules and Regulations.

J. Bank of America to Quigg and Company, Inc.

<u>81</u> acre-feet, including 65 acre-feet of Carryover Right, in the Baja Subarea

Selling Price: Included in Sale of Property

This is a transfer of BAP pursuant to the Rules and Regulations.

Action:

Staff recommends that the Watermaster accept for filing the permanent transfers of Base Annual Production Right listed above, based on the finding that they are consistent with the Watermaster Rules and Regulations.

	NM () MM		
Executive Officer:	- Kill		
Date:	March 22, 2006		
Conditions:	None.		
Watermaster Action: _	Approved Staff's recommendation.		



FOR

CITY OF BARSTOW, ET AL, VS. CITY OF ADELANTO, ET AL, CASE NO. 208568 - RIVERSIDE COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

MEMORANDUM

Date: March 22, 2006

To: Watermaster

From: Kirby Brill, Executive Officer

Re: Public hearing to receive comments and recommendations on the draft Watermaster Annual Report for Water Year 2004-05

A draft of Appendix B of the Annual Report showing verified water production and Replacement and Makeup Water Obligations and Assessments for the 2004-05 Water Year was mailed to all producers on January 31, 2006. The Watermaster held a public hearing on February 22, 2006 to receive comments on Appendix B.

A draft of the Twelfth Annual Report was presented to the Watermaster on February 22, 2006. A notice was mailed to all producers on February 23, 2006 indicating that the Annual Report was available for review and that the Watermaster would hold a public hearing to receive comments and recommendations for changes to the report on March 22, 2006.

Comments were received from Mr. Tom Ferruzzo (attached) regarding Chapter 5 text pertaining to the Baja Subarea proposed Free Production Allowance. Staff's response to Mr. Ferruzzo's concerns is attached.

Action:

Staff recommends that the Watermaster conduct a public hearing to receive comments and recommendations for changes to the Annual Report, accept the Annual Report as final and authorize staff to file the Annual Report with the Court no later than April 1, 2006.

Watermaster Action:	Approved Staff's recommendation.
Conditions:	None.
Date:	Margh 22, 2005
Executive Officer:	Ka Bull

 22450 Headquarters Drive
 Apple Valley, California 92307-4304

 (760) 946-7000
 1-800-254-4242
 FAX (760) 240-4523
 E-Mail: Watermaster@mojavewater.org



CITY OF BARSTOW, ET AL, VS. CITY OF ADELANTO, ET AL, CASE NO. 208568 - RIVERSIDE COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

MEMORANDUM

Date: March 22, 2006

To: Watermaster

From: Kirby Brill, Executive Officer

Re: Public hearing to adopt the proposed Administrative Budget and Assessment Rates for Water Year 2006-07

Attached is a copy of the draft Administrative Budget and Assessment Rates for Water Year 2006-07, which was sent to all producers on January 31, 2006. The Watermaster held a public hearing on February 22, 2006 to receive comments on the proposed Budget and Assessment Rates.

A notice was mailed to all producers on February 23, 2006 indicating that the Administrative Budget and Assessment Rates would be adopted at the March 22, 2006 Watermaster meeting.

Action:

Staff recommends that the Watermaster conduct a public hearing and adopt the following Administrative Budget and Assessment Rates to be effective during Water Year 2006-07.

Estimated Administrative Budget \$478,538.00 Administrative Assessment Rate \$ 3.10 per acre-foot of Production **Biological Assessment Rate** 0.68 per acre-foot of Production \$ Makeup Water Assessment Rate \$ 354.00 per acre-foot Replacement Water Assessment Rate Alto \$ 277.00 per acre-foot \$ 371.00 per acre-foot Baja \$ 356.00 per acre-foot Centro Este \$ 277.00 per acre-foot

Watermaster Action:	Approved Staff's recommendation.
Conditions:	None.
Date:	March 22, 2006
Executive Officer:	
	N 10 / 2 add

Oeste

\$ 277.00 per acre-foot

22450 Headquarters Drive • Apple Valley, California 92307-4304 (760) 946-7000 • 1-800-254-4242 • FAX (760) 240-4523 • E-Mail: Watermaster@mojavewater.org



FOF

CITY OF BARSTOW, ET AL, VS. CITY OF ADELANTO, ET AL, CASE NO. 208568 - RIVERSIDE COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

MEMORANDUM

Date: March 22, 2006

To: Watermaster

From: Kirby Brill, Executive Officer

Re: Public hearing to adopt the proposed recommendation for Free Production Allowance for Water Year 2006-07

Pursuant to paragraph 24 (o) of the Judgment the Watermaster is required to make a recommendation to the Court for adjusting the Free Production Allowance (Rampdown) of each Subarea, if necessary.

Pursuant to Exhibit D of the Judgment, Watermaster notified all parties of its recommendation for FPA by February 1, 2006, held a public hearing to receive comments as to its proposal on February 22, 2006 and notified all parties a second time on February 23, 2006 of the public hearing for adoption of FPA on March 22, 2006.

Watermaster is recommending FPA be set as follows for Water Year 2006-07:

<u>Subarea</u>	FPA Recommendation
Este ¹	80% of Base Annual Production
Oeste	80% of Base Annual Production
Alto – Agriculture Alto – Municipal & Industrial	80% of Base Annual Production 60% of Base Annual Production
Centro	80% of Base Annual Production
Baja ²	70% of Base Annual Production <u>or</u> 75% of Base Annual Production pursuant to the Court Order dated December 29, 2005

- 1 FPA o be set at 80% of Base Annual Production for the 2006-07 Water Year. The Este Subarea may be subject to future Rampdown to 65% immediately if water use conditions change.
- 2 The Baja Subarea Advisory Committee submitted a proposal to the Court for an alternative to the Rampdown mandated by the Judgment which includes a recommendation to set FPA at 75% (starting in 2005-06) of Base Annual Production for ten years pursuant to certain restrictions. The Baja SAC proposal was ordered by the Court on December 29, 2005 and a copy was mailed to all Baja parties on January 5, 2006.

22450 Headquarters Drive • Apple Valley, California 92307-4304 (760) 946-7000 • 1-800-254-4242 • FAX (760) 240-4523 • E-Mail: Watermaster@mojavewater.org Free Production Allowance March 22, 2006 Page 2

Action:

Staff recommends that the Watermaster conduct a public hearing, adopt the proposed Free Production Allowances and direct legal counsel to request a hearing with the Court to consider the proposed Free Production Allowances for Water Year 2006-07 detailed above.

Watermaster Action:	Approved Staff's recommendation.
Conditions:	None.
Date:	March 22, 2906
Executive Officer:	X & Dall



FOR

CITY OF BARSTOW, ET AL, VS. CITY OF ADELANTO, ET AL, CASE NO. 208568 - RIVERSIDE COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

MEMORANDUM

Date: March 22, 2006

To: Watermaster

From: Kirby Brill, Executive Officer

Re: Consider Adoption of the recommended Subsurface Flow Between Subareas

The Judgment After Trial requires that Watermaster prepare a report and recommendation for revising the estimated subsurface flow obligations specified in the Judgment. The existing subsurface flow obligations were established based on the best information that was available at the time of trial. Watermaster prepared a report setting forth a methodology to determine whether or not there had been a change in the subsurface flow amount, and to monitor flow conditions as required by the Judgment.

Staff presented a workshop on February 22, 2006 regarding the estimated subsurface flow between Subareas and circulated a notice to parties with the recommended subsurface flow obligations. The report concluded that the estimates of subsurface flow in the Judgment should be unchanged, except for Oeste and Baja. For Oeste, we are recommending that no recommendation regarding subsurface flow be made, until ongoing hydrologic studies in Oeste are completed.

During the workshop comments were made by representatives from City of Barstow and the Department of Fish and Game questioning the recommendation as it pertains to Baja. The concern was that we were recommending that the subsurface flow from Baja to Afton be reduced to zero. This is not the case. We are recommending that Watermaster be relieved of the obligation to determine the subsurface flow, and that the Baja residents be relieved of the obligation to provide "Make up" water to Afton.

The obligation as it is embodied in the Judgment is a subsurface obligation from Baja to a point downstream of the MWA administrative boundary. It is simply not feasible or cost effective to provide water to such a point, nor is it apparent whether or not there would be any beneficiary. Further, the downstream interests at Afton and beyond receive water from large storm events, which will not be affected by the recommendation.

Subsurface Flow Between Subareas March 22, 2006 Page 2

The summary report on subsurface flow was presented to Watermaster at the Workshop and made available for public review and comment. No written comments were received. We recommend the following obligations be approved:

<u>Subareas</u>	Judgment Obligations	Proposed Obligations
Este to Alto	200 acre-feet	200 acre-feet
Oeste to Alto	800 acre-feet	To be determined
Alto to Centro	2,000 acre-feet 2,000 acre-feet	
Centro to Baja	1,200 acre-feet	1,200 acre-feet
Baja to Afton	400 acre-feet	0 acre-feet

Action:

Staff recommends that the Watermaster adopt the recommended subsurface flow obligations and authorize legal counsel to report to the Court the findings.

Watermaster Action:	Approved Staff's recommendation.
Conditions:	None.
Date:	March 22, 2006 .
Executive Officer:	Ka Dall

EXHIBIT B



To: <u>ALL COUNSEL</u>.

From: E. MICHAEL KAISER

ATTACHED AMENDED STATEMENT OF Subject: DECISION

The only amendment is on page 26, paragraph 7.

CH 10: 59

CLERK'S CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (Original copy, duly executed, must be attached to original document at time of filing) (Unsigned copy must accompany document being mailed)

208568

I ARTHUR A. SIMS, Clerk of the Superior Court of California, for the County of Riverside, do hereby certify that I am not a party to the within action or proceeding; that on the _____ day of January, 1996, I served a copy of the paper to which this certificate is attached, to wit:

AMENDED STATEMENT OF DECISION

accompanied by an unsigned copy of this certificate, by depositing said copy enclosed in a sealed envelope with postage thereon fully prepaid, in the United States post office mail box at the City of Riverside, California, addressed as follows:

.

<u>,</u> ...

SEE ATTACHED MAILING LIST

Dated:_		ARTHUR	A. SIMS,	Clerk	
10132 0	CCP (8/82)	Ву		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Deputy
331.1 (CLERK'S	CERTIFIC	TE OF	MAILING

Steven A. Figueroa, President Latino's Unidos M.A.P.A. Victor Valley P.O. Box 520 Victorville, CA 92393-0520

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William J. Brunick, Esq. Boyd L. Hill, Esq. Brunick, Alvarez & Battersby 1839 Commercenter West P.O. Box 6425 San Bernardino, CA 92412

James L. Markman, Esq. William P. Curley, III, Esq. Number One Civic Center Circle P.O. Box 1059 Brea, CA 92622-1059

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Steven B. Abbott, Esq. Redwine & Sherrill 1950 Market St. Riverside, CA 92501

Therese Exline Parker P.O. Box 1318 Upland CA 91785-1318

Office of the Attorney General Marilyn H. Levin, Dep. 300 So. Spring St. Floor 11, North Tower Los Angeles, CA 90004

Office of the Attorney General Joseph Barbieri, Dep. 2101 Webster St., 12th Fl. Oakland, CA 94612-3049

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Mark B. Salas 205 No. Acacia, #D Fullerton, CA 92631

Joseph B. Vail 16993 Abby Lane Victorville, CA 92392

R. Zaiden Corrado, APC
 By: Robert Corrado
 420 N. Montebello Blvd. #204
 Montebello, CA 90640

CONSOLIDATED SUPERIOR/MUNICIPAL COURTS MINUTES RIVERSIDE COUNTY

Case No.: 208568 Date: 1/2/96 Dept.: 4 Case Name: CITY OF BARSTOW V CITY OF ADELANTO Counsel: See attached mailing list

Court Rptr: none Proceeding: AMENDED STATEMENT OF DECISION

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The original complaint was filed in this action by the City of Barstow and the Southern California Water Company on May 30, 1990. The complaint alleges that the cumulative water production upstream of Barstow has overdrafted the Mojave River System to the detriment of plaintiffs. The complaint requests that the defendants guarantee an average annual flow of 30,000 acre-feet to the Barstow area. The complaint also requests a writ of mandate against the Mojave Water Agency ("MWA") to compel it to perform its duties and to import water from the State Water Project. The defendants served with a summons and complaint have either answered, been given open extensions to answer, been dismissed, or had defaults entered against them.

On July 26, 1991, MWA filed its first amended cross-complaint in the case. The MWA first amended cross-complaint names substantially all water producers within the boundaries of the Mojave River Watershed, including parties downstream of Barstow. The MWA cross-complaint requests a declaration that the available native water supply is inadequate to meet the demands of the combined parties and a determination of the water rights of whatever nature within the MWA boundaries and the Mojave River Watershed.

On July 3, 1991, Arc Las Flores Limited Partnership ("Arc Las Flores") filed a cross-complaint for declaratory relief seeking a declaration that the overlying and riparian rights of Arc Las Flores be determined to be prior and paramount to any rights of the plaintiffs or other appropriators. The cross-complaint names the City of Barstow and the Southern California Water Company, as well as "Doe" defendants.

A cross-complaint was filed by the City of Adelanto.

KAISER , Judge

BURNS(ss), Clerk

Page 1 of 30

recharge from periodic storm flows which is one of the principal sources of recharge for downgradient subareas without interference from upstream diversions. It will also benefit riparian vegetation in the lower subareas. [RT 510:4-511:0]

F. IDENTIFICATION OF SUBAREAS, SUBAREA

1. It 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 by reductions in consumptive use. [RT 892:9-18; 910:14-18; 911:3-913:14]

The flow requirements between subareas are as 2. a) Este to Alto 200 acre-feet average annual subsurface follows: flow as estimated in Bulletin 84; b) Oeste to Alto 800 acre-feet average annual subsurface flow as estimated in Bulletin 84; c) Alto to Centro 21,000 acre-feet average annual surface 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; d) Centro to Baja 1,200 acre-feet average annual subsurface flow as estimated in Bulletin 84; e) Baja to the Mojave Basin 400 acre-feet average annual subsurface flow as estimated in Bulletin 84; f) these estimates and other subsurface estimates will need to be up-dated by the use of monitoring wells which will determine the water table slope at the boundaries. [RT 128:27-130:14]

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. [RT 320:9-321:9]

G. <u>ASSESSMENTS</u>

1. The assessments imposed by the stipulated judgment are fair and equitable. It is not appropriate to require the Mojave Water Agency (MWA) to impose an ad valorem tax as part of the Physical Solution. Such a tax is not within the scope of the judgment, and is within the political prerogative of MWA.

2. Assessments apply to all production regardless of the type of use.

Page 15 of 30

EXHIBIT C



*Please note that all requirements of the Brown Act requiring the physical presence of the Board or staff have been waived per original Executive Order N-29-20 and any amendments or modifications thereto.

1. Invocation – Deronda Smith gave the invocation.

2. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

Present:President Jeanette Hayhurst, Vice President Mike Page, Secretary
Michael Limbaugh, Treasurer Kimberly Cox, Director Jim Ventura
Limbaugh, and Director Rick Roelle, Director Ken Anderson

Absent:

Staff:

General Manager Allison Febbo, General Manager of Special Projects Kathy Cortner, Interim Assistant General Manager Yvonne Cox, Principal Hydrogeologist Tony Winkel and Executive Assistant La Trici Jones

Absent:

Consultants/ Guest Speakers: Bill Brunick, Legal Counsel

There were approximately 57 participants in-person and via teleconference.

3. Approval of Agenda

President Hayhurst stated that item 8 was removed from the agenda, there will be no legal report and items 11 and 12 will go before item 10 so the last item on the agenda will be acknowledgement of Kathy Cortner's retirement.

Action #9140: Director Cox made a motion to approve the agenda. Director Ventura seconded the motion, which was approved by a 7-0 vote.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

4. Public Comment – None

Board of Directors Regular Meeting Approved Actions – April 28, 2022 Page 2 of 3

WORKSHOP

5. Centro Groundwater Review

Mr. Winkel reviewed a detailed PowerPoint presentation on the water needs of the Centro area.

CONSENT CALENDAR

6. Adopt Board Actions from Regular Meeting Dated April 14, 2022 and Special Meeting Dated April 26, 2022

7. Approve "Category B" Payments

Action #9141: Director Page made a motion to approve the consent calendar. Director Cox seconded the motion, which was approved by a 7-0 vote.

NEW BUSINESS

8. Consider Authorization for the Purchase of One Heavy Duty Service Truck for the Operations and Maintenance Department

This item was removed from the agenda.

9. Consider Authorization to import up to 5 TAF of State Water project Water for recharge to the Centro Subarea as an Emergency Drought Response Pilot Program

Mr. Winkel reviewed a detailed PowerPoint presentation.

Discussion ensued.

Public comment was provided by: Tina Souza, Doug Matthews, Mark Franey, Otis Calef Mark and Judy Zimmerman and Perry Dahlstrom.

Action #9142: President Hayhurst made a motion to approve the import of up to 5,000 acre-feet of State Water Project water for recharge in Centro Subarea as an emergency drought response pilot program. Director Cox seconded the motion, which was approved by a 7-0 vote.

10. Consider Adoption of a Resolution Acknowledging the Retirement of Kathy Cortner, General Manager; Mojave Water Agency

Action #9143: Director Page made a motion to adopt a Resolution acknowledging the retirement of Kathy Cortner. Director Ventura on behalf of all the Board seconded the motion, which was approved by a 7-0 vote.

Board of Directors Regular Meeting Approved Actions – April 28, 2022 Page 3 of 3

REPORTS

- **11. Managers Reports** General Manager Febbo welcomed two new Hydrogeologist to the Agency
- 12. Legal Report None
- **13. Director's Reports** All of the Directors provided their sentiment and well-wishes for Kathy Cortner.

OTHER BUSINESS

14. Discussion Items for Next or Future Agendas – None

CLOSED SESSION

15. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION: Government Code Section 54956.9(A): City of Barstow, et al. v. City of Adelanto, et al., Case No. 208568 and Potential Litigation

ADJOURNMENT

16. Adjournment

Action #9144: President Hayhurst adjourned the meeting at 11:21 A.M. in honor of Kathy Cortner

Approved:

Michael Limbaugh, Secretary

Date:

May 12, 2022

Attachments on File:

Item #5 PowerPoint Presentation – Centro Groundwater Review

Item #9 Staff Report and PowerPoint Presentation – Authorizing to Import up to 5TAF of SWP Water for recharge to the Centro Subarea as an emergency drought response pilot program

Signed Documentation Sign-In Sheets



Centro Groundwater

Board of Directors April 28, 2022

Tony Winkel, Principal Hydrogeologist

Together, we're securing water for today & tomorrow...

well, where did our groundwater go?

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Background

- In response to request from
 Director Hayhurst on Sep 23, 2021
- Reports of Dry Domestic Wells
- GSW Comments to the Board



Areas of Analysis

- Water levels in monitoring and production wells
- · Historically low water levels in monitoring wells
- Minimal producer dry well investigation
- Studying relevant regional scientific reports (USGS, KJ/T, etc.)
- Precipitation and storm event behavior
- Current climate studies
- Depth to bedrock
- General Centro Subarea basin health by area analysis
- Surface flow at USGS gages by year
- Production, production location, and production type
- Well construction (production and domestic)
- Faults and barriers with water level analysis to confirm locations
- Water level surfaces by year
- Flow between Alto TZ and Centro Subareas
- Golden State Water's concerns































DRY PERIODS' AT THE USGS BARSTOW SURFACE WATER GAGE 1931 TO 2021





BRIEF COMMUNICATION

https://doi.org/10.1038/s41558-022-01290-z



Rapid intensification of the emerging southwestern North American megadrought in 2020–2021

A. Park Williams ^{1,2}, Benjamin I. Cook^{2,3} and Jason E. Smerdon ²

"Multidecade Megadroughts"





Development of longest droughts

CONCENTRATED PUMPING





















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Summary

- Drought
 - longest on record
- Concentrated Pumping
 - 88% of "focus area" pumping
 - This exacerbates local water level decline
- Healthy "bookends" water levels



Questions?



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Special thanks to Brian Hammer

Mojave Water Agency

DATE: April 28, 2022

TO: Board of Directors

- FROM: Allison Febbo, General Manager
- BY: Tony Winkel, Principal Hydrogeologist

SUBJECT: CONSIDER IMPORT OF UP TO 5,000 ACRE-FEET OF STATE WATER PROJECT WATER FOR RECHARGE IN CENTRO SUBAREA AS AN EMERGENCY DROUGHT RESPONSE PILOT PROGRAM

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Board of Directors approve the import of up to 5,000 acre-feet of State Water Project water for recharge in Centro Subarea as an emergency drought response pilot program.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Extended drought within the Mojave Water Agency (MWA; Agency) service area has resulted in low groundwater levels in certain areas of high groundwater production. In particular, wells within the Centro Subarea near Lenwood have experienced record low groundwater levels as a result of the local drought. In recognition of the prolonged drought conditions, the MWA Board of Directors directed staff to develop a drought response plan to address the effects of prolonged drought on water levels within the MWA service area. As part of the development of the drought response plan, the Agency will evaluate the effect of delivery of targeted recharge, of imported SWP water on groundwater levels. Recharge of imported SWP water to the Lenwood area would provide an opportunity to take emergency measures in response to low water levels in the Centro Subarea, while also serving as a pilot program to evaluate basin response to imported water as part of a drought protection program. With consideration to available SWP water supplies and current conditions, staff recomends that the Board of Directors consider the import of up to 5,000 acre-feet (AF) of State Water Project (SWP) water for recharge in the Centro Subarea.

PREVIOUS CONSIDERATION BY COMMITTEE/BOARD OF DIRECTORS None.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

On April 1, 2022, in recognition of the prolonged drought conditions within our service area, the MWA Board of Directors directed staff to "study and develop a drought protection program after conducting workshops in the Mojave Water Agency service

Area and analyze the economic resources required to implement such a program." As part of the effort to study and develop a drought protection program, staff intends to evaluate the effectiveness of using targeted recharge of imported SWP water to address water level concerns related prolonged drought conditions. The evaluation will include analysis and modeling of our groundwater basins and their response to targeted recharge.

Currently, the Lenwood area of the Centro Subarea is experiencing the lowest groundwater level on record. Extended drought conditions and concentrated pumping of groundwater resources in the area have contributed to low water levels. Implementing a pilot program using targeted recharge in the Centro Subarea combined with monitoring, will provide important information for the development of the drought response program, while also providing some level of emergency drought relief for the area.

Previous artificial recharge events from 1,000 to 2,000 AFY at the MWA Lenwood Recharge Facility have demonstrated a positive impact on groundwater levels. MWA staff anticipates that importing and recharging up to 5,000 AF of SWP water at the Lenwood Facility will have a positive impact on local groundwater levels of between 10 and 20 feet. Due to the current dry conditions at Barstow, which have persisted for over 11 years (based on significant surface water flow events measured at the Barstow stream gage), it is likely that the anticipated 10 to 20 foot impact on groundwater levels will trend toward the lower end of the estimate. Monitoring as part of this pilot program will help inform a predictive model, which would be required for a more precise projection of basin response.

Operational constraints of the Mojave River Pipeline and the Lenwood Recharge Facilty limits recharge capacity to a maximum of 10 CFS. At this rate, a delivery of 5,000 AF of recharge water will likely take more than 8 months to complete.

After consideration of reliability reserves, MWA currently has about 11.7 TAF of SWP water supply available this year. Approximately 2.7 TAF will be imported for direct delivery demands within the service. If up to 5,000 AF is imported for recharge into the Lenwood area under this proposed action, approximately 4 TAF of SWP water supply will remain available this year.

FISCAL IMPACT

The estimated fiscal impact is \$2,040,000, using a unit DWR variable rate of \$408 per AF delivered out of Reach 22B from the April water deliveries charge invoice.

ATTACHMENTS

None.
ACTION Motion to approve the import of up to 5,000 acre-feet of State Water Project water for recharge in Centro Subarea as an emergency drought response pilot program.

Board Action:	Staff's recommendation approved	
Conditions:	None	
Date:	April 28, 2022	
General Manager:	allian Elbo	

Mojave Water Agency

Recharge to Centro

Board of Directors April 28, 2022

Tony Winkel, Principal Hydrogeologist

Together, we're securing water for today & tomorrow...

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Overview

- Very Brief Review
 - Centro Groundwater Conditions
 - Impacts of 5,000 AF of Recharge
- SWP Water Conditions
 - Allocation and San Luis
- Drought Protection and Pilot Program
- Staff Recommendation











Lenwood Recharge

Recharge 5,000 AF at Lenwood

Pilot Program to Evaluate Centro Recharge

- ~10-20 ft. increase in water levels
 - Based on 3 previous non-storm-year recharge events ('06, '07, '17)
 - Likely lower rather the higher of the projected range due to 11+ years of preceding drought
- Operational Considerations
 - ~10 CFS "drum strainer" capacity
 - 8+ month delivery interval

(DISCLAIMER: This projection should really be MODELED!)



SWP Water Conditions

- 2022 Table A Allocation
 @ 5%: 4,500 AF
- Local Demands Met By SWP Supply:
 - 2,700 AF
 - Remaining SWP Supply = 9 AF
- San Luis Reservoir (SLR) Balance
 - This Year: 18,200 AF
 - MWA policy reliability storage SLR: 11,000 AF



MWA SWP Water Supply and Proposed Use



Pumping from Pre-stored Water Storage Accounts



MWA Storage Accounts

Drought Response

- Immediate Need
 - Record low water levels in some areas of Centro Subarea
- Drought Protection Program
 - April 1, 2022: MWA Board directed staff to develop program
 - Recognizing extended drought period since a significant recharge event
- Pilot Program
 - Opportunity to evaluate basin response to recharge
 - Inform development of Drought Protection Program



Financials of 5,000 AF

- Import Costs
 - **\$2,040,000** (~\$408/AF)
- Market Value
 - \$10,000,000 (~\$2,000/AF)
- "Buy Low / Sell High"
 - \$10M in a wet year could import ~43,500 AF of MWA's Table A (~\$230/AF)
 - Almost NINE (9) times as much water!



Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the Board of Directors approve the import of up to 5,000 acre-feet of State Water Project water for recharge in Centro Subarea as an Emergency Drought Response Pilot Program.



 Mojave Water Agency		
Agenda Item #	Date: 4-28-22	
REQUEST TO	<u>) SPEAK</u>	
In Favor of Staff Recommendation		
In Opposition to Staff Recommendation		
Other		
DOUG MATHEWS	S	
Name Please prin	nt	
Address	City Zip	
Organization, if any WATER DIST.		
	-	

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All Presentations are subject to a limit of 5 minutes, and no action can be taken on subjects that are not on the agenda.

Please present this slip to the Clerk

(Chairperson will call you to the microphone)

Series Mojave Water Agency

Agenda Item #	Date: 28 AR 2022	
REQUEST TO SPEA	ĸ	
X In Favor of Staff Recommendation		
In Opposition to Staff Recommendation		
Other		
Name FR Name Please print 36261 RITLE RD-	AANEY VEY BARSTOW ZUNAL (MUTT) (MUTT) (Z3))	
Address C	City Zip	

Organization, if any

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All Presentations are subject to a limit of 5 minutes, and no action can be taken on subjects that are not on the agenda.

Please present this slip to the Clerk

(Chairperson will call you to the microphone)

Public Comment #9

April 28,2022

Otis Calef PO Box 1120 Barstow, CA 92312 <u>otiscalef@gmail.com</u> (805) 708-5009

Mojave Water Agency Board of Directors

Item #9

Directors:

I am strongly in favor of the proposal before you to store water underground in the Lenwood Basin. I live along the north bank of the Mojave River, just off of Old Hwy. 58, at 27589 Waterman St.

The many large, old trees that have recently died in my neighborhood is strong evidence that the basin is severely depleted and provides an excellent location for storage.

Respectfully yours,

OWC

La Trici Jones

From: Sent: To: Subject: judyzimm4@gmail.com Thursday, April 28, 2022 8:45 AM La Trici Jones --EXTERNAL-- ITEM #9 Public Comment #9

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Mojave Water Agency Board of Directors

Item #9 on Agenda today (April 28, 2022)

I am in favor of the proposal #5 to store water underground in the Lenwood Basin. A <u>yes</u> vote will help us continue a quality of life, we have had for the past 40 years. My address is 26466 Community Blvd. Barstow, Ca 92311.

Thank you, Mark and Judy Zimmerman

Public Comment #9

Dalila Lozano

From: Sent: To: Subject: La Trici Jones Thursday, April 28, 2022 9:58 AM Dalila Lozano FW: --EXTERNAL-- Item-9 Recharge to Centro

Please print this page and bring to me. Thank you

From: Dahlstrom, Perry <Pldahlstrom@gswater.com> Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2022 9:34 AM To: La Trici Jones <ljones@mojavewater.org> Subject: --EXTERNAL-- Item-9 Recharge to Centro

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Hello La Trici,

Can you please read the follow statement – into the record when comments are open on Item 9.

"Golden State Water Company supports MWA's action of delivering 5TAF to the Lenwood recharge basin. We are very hopeful that it will provide a beneficial impact to all in the Centro area."

Thank you,

Perry Dahlstrom General Manager

Mountain Desert District 13608 Hitt Road Apple Valley, CA 92308

Office: (760) 515-8320 Mobile: (760) 455-3975



This message and any attached documents contain certain information from American States Water Company and its subsidiary companies that may be confidential and/or privileged. If you are not the intended recipient, you may not read, copy, distribute or use this information. If you have received this transmission in error, please notify the sender immediately by reply e-mail and then delete this message.

MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET

MOJAVE WATER AGENCY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING April 28, 2022 9:30 A.M.

Mojave Water Agency 13846 Conference Center Drive Apple Valley, CA 92307

The signing, registering, or completion of this document is voluntary. All persons may attend this meeting regardless of whether they sign, register, or complete this document.

NAME	REPRESENTING	ADDRESS	EMAIL
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MOJAVE WATER AGENCY

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ATTENDANCE ROSTER

DATE:April 28, 2022TIME:9:30 a.m.MEETING PLACE:Mojave Water Agency Board Room

DIRE	
Division #12 Kimberly Cox	Division #4 Michael L. Page
Division #2	Division #5 Online
Jim Ventura	Rick Roelle
Division #3	Division #6
Ken Anderson	Jeanette Haynurst
Division #7	line

Michael Limbaugh

MWA STAFF:

7
8
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10
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12

CONSULTANTS:

1. <u>~</u> ~	3
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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 October 9, 2024, 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:

WATERMASTER'S AMENDED OPPOSITION TO GOLDEN STATE WATER COMPANY'S MOTION TO ENFORCE JUDGMENT; DECLARATION OF ROBERT C. WAGNER

 \underline{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 October 9, 2024 at Apple Valley, California.

And

Jeffrey D. Ruesch

Attn: Roberto Munoz 35250 Yermo, LLC 11273 Palms Blvd., Ste. D. Los Angeles, CA 90066-2122

(adesdevon@gmail.com) Ades, John and Devon (via email)

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: Chun Soo Ahn (chunsooahn@naver.com) Ahn, Chun Soo and Wha Ja (via email) P. O. Box 45 Apple Valley, CA 92307-0001

Attn: Ana Chavez American States Water Company 160 Via Verde, Ste. 100 San Dimas, CA 91773-5121

Attn: Matthew Patterson Apple Valley Heights County Water District P. O. Box 938 Apple Valley, CA 92308-0938

Attn: Tina Kuhns Apple Valley, Town Of 14955 Dale Evans Parkway Apple Valley, CA 92307-3061

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: John Munoz (barlenwater@hotmail.com;) Bar-Len Mutual Water Company (via email) P. O. Box 77 Barstow, CA 92312-0077 Attn: John McCallum Abshire, David V. PO Box # 2059 Lucerne Valley, CA 92356-2059

Attn: Pedro Dumaua (pdumaua@ducommun.com) Aerochem, Inc. (via email) 4001 El Mirage Rd. Adelanto, CA 92301-9489

Attn: Simon Ahn (ssahn58@gmail.com) Ahn Revocable Trust (via email) 29775 Hunter Road Murrieta, CA 92563-6710

Ake, Charles J. and Marjorie M. 2301 Muriel Drive, Apt. 67 Barstow, CA 92311-6757

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Attn: Daniel Shaw (barhwater@gmail.com) Bar H Mutual Water Company (via email) P. O. Box 844 Lucerne Valley, CA 92356-0844

Attn: Curtis Palmer Baron, Susan and Palmer, Curtis 141 Road 2390 Aztec, NM 87410-9322 Attn: Jessie Florez Adelanto, City Of 11600 Air Expressway Adelanto, CA 92301-1914

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

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

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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: Emely and Joe Saltmeris Apple Valley View Mutual Water Company P. O. Box 3680 Apple Valley, CA 92307-0072

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Barber, James B. 43774 Cottonwood Road Newberry Springs, CA 92365

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

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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: Valeria Brown 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

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Attn: William DeCoursey (michael.lemke@dot.ca.gov; William.Decoursey@dot.ca.gov) California Department Of Transportation (via email) 175 W. Cluster San Bernardino, CA 92408-1310

Attn: Catalina Fernandez-Moores (cfernandez@calportland.com) CalPortland Company - Oro Grande Plant (via email) P. O. Box 146 Oro Grande, CA 92368-0146

Mojave Basin Area Watermaster Service List as of October 09, 2024

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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

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Attn: Virginia Shaw Dora Land, Inc. P. O. Box 1405 Apple Valley, CA 92307-0026

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Attn: Mark Asay (bettybrock@ironwood.org; waltbrock@ironwood.org) Fundamental Christian Endeavors, Inc. (via email) 49191 Cherokee Road Newberry Springs, CA 92365 Attn: Alan L. De Jong De Jong Family Trust 46561 Fairview Road Newberry Springs, CA 92365-9230

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Attn: Brian E. Bolin Green Acres Estates P. O. Box 29 Apple Valley, CA 92307-0001

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

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

Attn: Frank Hilarides Hilarides 1998 Revocable Family Trust 37404 Harvard Road Newberry Springs, CA 92365

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

Holway, Jeffrey R 1401 Wewatta St. #1105 Denver, CO 80202-1348

Attn: Sandra D. Hood Hood Family Trust 2142 W Paseo Del Mar San Pedro, CA 90732-4557

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Mojave Basin Area Watermaster Service List as of October 09, 2024

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Attn: Katherine K. Hsu Holy Heavenly Lake, LLC 1261 S. Lincoln Ave. Monterey Park, CA 91755-5017

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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

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