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9 LITTLEROCK CREEK IRRIGATION DISTRICT, PALM RANCH IRRIGATION DISTRICT,  
10 NORTH EDWARDS WATER DISTRICT, DESERT LAKE COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

11 **SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

12 **IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – CENTRAL DISTRICT**

13 Coordinated Proceeding )  
14 Special Title (Rule 1550(b)) )

**Judicial Council Coordination No. 4408**

15 ANTELOPE VALLEY GROUNDWATER )  
16 CASES )

**CLASS ACTION**

17 Included Actions: )

Santa Clara Case No. 1-05-CV-049053  
Assigned to the Honorable Jack Komar – Dept. 12

18 Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 40 )  
19 v. Diamond Farming Co. Los Angeles County )  
20 Superior Court Case No. BC 325201; )

**NOTICE OF APPEAL**

21 Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 40 )  
22 v. Diamond Farming Co., Kern County Superior )  
23 Court, Case No. S-1500-CV-234348; )

24 Wm. Bolthouse Farms, Inc. v. City of Lancaster )  
25 Diamond Farming Co. v. City of Lancaster v. )  
26 Palmdale Water District, Riverside County )  
27 Superior Court, Consolidated Actions, Case Nos. )  
28 RIC 353840, RIC 344436, RIC 344668 )

AND RELATED CROSS-ACTIONS

To the clerk of the Superior Court for the State of California, County of Los Angeles:

1           **PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that LITTLE ROCK CREEK IRRIGATION DISTRICT, PALM  
2 RANCH IRRIGATION DISTRICT, NORTH EDWARDS WATER DISTRICT, AND DESERT LAKE  
3 COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT, public entities, hereby appeal the award of attorneys' fees and  
4 costs in the Amended Final Judgment Approving the Willis Class Settlement entered on September 22,  
5 2011. This Judgment is appealable under CCP section 904.1, subdivision (a)(1).

6           Notice of Entry of Judgment was served electronically to the parties on September 27, 2011.

7           This notice of appeal is timely pursuant to California Rules of Court, Rules 8.108(f) and  
8 8.108(g)(1).

9 DATED: December 1, 2011

LEMIEUX & O'NEILL

10  
11 By:  \_\_\_\_\_

12 WAYNE K. LEMIEUX

13 W. KEITH LEMIEUX

14 Attorneys for LITTLE ROCK CREEK IRRIGATION  
15 DISTRICT, PALM RANCH IRRIGATION DISTRICT,  
16 NORTH EDWARDS WATER DISTRICT and DESERT  
17 LAKE COMMUNITY SERVICE DISTRICT  
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SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

ANTELOPE VALLEY  
GROUNDWATER CASES

JUDICIAL COUNCIL COORDINATION  
PROCEEDING NO. 4408

This Pleading Relates to Included Action:  
REBECCA LEE WILLIS, on behalf of  
herself and all others similarly situated,

CASE NO. BC 364553

Plaintiff,

**[PROPOSED] AMENDED FINAL  
JUDGMENT APPROVING WILLIS  
CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT**

vs.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY WATERWORKS  
DISTRICT NO. 40; CITY OF LANCASTER;  
CITY OF PALMDALE; PALMDALE  
WATER DISTRICT; LITTLEROCK CREEK  
IRRIGATION DISTRICT; PALM RANCH  
IRRIGATION DISTRICT; QUARTZ HILL  
WATER DISTRICT; ANTELOPE VALLEY  
SERVICE DISTRICT; PHELAN PINON  
HILL COMMUNITY SERVICE DISTRICT;  
and DOES 1 through 1,000;

Date:  
Time:  
Dept:  
Judge: Hon. Jack Komar  
Coordination Trial Judge

Defendants.

This matter has come before the Court on the Motion of Plaintiff Rebecca Lee Willis  
(Willis) for Final Approval of the Proposed Class Action Settlement between and among  
Rebecca Lee Willis and the Willis Class, on the one hand; and Los Angeles County Waterworks  
District No. 40, City of Palmdale Water District, Littlerock Creek Irrigation District, Palm  
Ranch Irrigation District, Quartz Hill Water District, California Water Service Company,

1 Rosamond Community Service District, Phelan Pinon Hills Community Services District,  
2 Desert Lake Community Services District, and North Edwards Water District (collectively, the  
3 "Settling Defendants"), on the other hand.

4 By Order dated November 18, 2010, this Court granted Plaintiff's Motion for  
5 Preliminary Approval of the Proposed Settlement of this action and directed the sending of  
6 Notice to the Willis Class. After considering all arguments and submissions for and against  
7 final approval of the proposed settlement, and being fully advised of the premises, **IT IS**  
8 **HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED AS FOLLOWS, PURSUANT TO**  
9 **SECTIONS 382 AND 664.6 OF THE CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE.**

10 1. For over 10 years, a number of actions have been pending in the Los Angeles  
11 County Superior Court and other California courts seeking an adjudication of the various  
12 parties' respective rights to the groundwater underlying the Antelope Valley Groundwater Basin  
13 (the "Basin").

14 2. A number of cases raising such issues were coordinated by a July 11, 2005 order  
15 of Judicial Council and assigned to the Honorable Jack Komar of the Superior Court for the  
16 County of Santa Clara (the "Court").

17 3. The Court held an initial phase of the trial on October 30, 2006 with respect to the  
18 boundaries of the Basin and issued an Order on November 3, 2006 defining the Basin for  
19 purposes of the litigation.

20 4. The Willis Class Action was filed on or about January 11, 2007 to contest certain  
21 public entities' claims that those entities had obtained prescriptive rights to a portion of the  
22 Basin's groundwater. The Willis case was subsequently coordinated with the Coordinated  
23 Cases.

24 5. By Order dated September 11, 2007, the Court certified the Willis Class. As  
25 amended by Orders dated May 22, 2008 and September 2, 2008, the Willis Class is defined as  
26 follows:

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1 "All private (i.e., non-governmental) persons and entities that own real property  
2 within the Basin, as adjudicated, that are not presently pumping water on their  
3 property and have not done so at any prior time ("the Class"). The Class  
4 includes the successors-in-interest by way of purchase, gift, inheritance, or  
5 otherwise of such landowners.

6 The Class excludes the defendants herein, any person, firm, trust,  
7 corporation, or other entity with which any defendant has a controlling interest or  
8 which is related to or affiliated with any of the defendants, and the  
9 representatives, heirs, affiliates, successors-in-interest or assigns of any such  
10 excluded party. The Class also excludes all persons to the extent their properties  
11 are connected and receive service from a municipal water system, public utility,  
12 or mutual water company. The Class shall [further] exclude Kern County  
13 Assessor's office, unless the owners of such properties declare under penalty of  
14 perjury that they do not pump and have never pumped water on those  
15 properties."

16 6. Notice of the Pendency of this action was sent to the Willis Class in or about  
17 January 1, 2009 and the opt-out period (as extended) expired on August 30, 2009. Certain  
18 persons who opted out were subsequently permitted to rejoin the Class.

19 7. The persons listed on Exhibit 1 hereto validly excluded themselves from the  
20 Class in accordance with this Court's prior Orders (and have not re-joined the Class) and are not  
21 bound by the Settlement or this Judgment.

22 8. Counsel for the Willis Class engaged in settlement discussions with Defendants'  
23 counsel during mid 2009. On September 2, 2009, counsel participated in mediation session  
24 before the Honorable Ronald Robie. That mediation resulted in an agreement in principle  
25 among counsel for the Settling Parties to settle the litigation between and among their respective  
26 clients, subject to appropriate approvals.

27 9. By Order dated October 28, 2009, the Court stated its intent to consolidate the  
28 various Actions that were coordinated as part of JCCP No. 4408, including the Willis action.  
On February 19, 2010, the Court entered an Order Transferring and Consolidating [the  
Coordinated] Actions for All Purposes. As provided in the Consolidation Order, this Final  
Judgment shall not be construed to prejudice the rights of any of the Non-Settling Parties in the  
Consolidated Actions nor shall it prejudice the claims and defenses that the Settling Parties may  
assert with respect to such Non-Settling Parties.

10. By Order dated November 18, 2010, this Court granted preliminary approval to

1 the proposed settlement of this action and directed that Notice of the Proposed Settlement be  
2 sent to the Class.

3 11. Notice of the Proposed Settlement has been sent to the Willis Class by first class  
4 mail in accordance with the Court's Preliminary Approval Order. Such Notice fully and  
5 accurately informed the Class of all material terms of the proposed settlement and the  
6 opportunity to object to or comment on the Settlement. The Notice was given in an adequate  
7 and sufficient manner, constituted the best notice practicable under the circumstances, and  
8 satisfied due process.

9 12. The Settling Parties and each class member have irrevocably submitted to the  
10 jurisdiction of this Court for any suit, action, proceeding or dispute arising out of the Settlement  
11 Agreement.

12 13. It is in the best interest of the parties and the Class Members and consistent with  
13 principles of judicial economy that any dispute between any class member (including any  
14 dispute as to whether any person is a class member) and any Settling Defendant which is in any  
15 way related to the applicability or scope of the Settlement Agreement or the Final Judgment  
16 should be presented to this Court for resolution.

17 14. The Stipulation of Settlement submitted by the Settling Parties is hereby finally  
18 approved as fair, reasonable, and in the best interests of the Class, and the parties are directed to  
19 consummate the Settlement in accordance with its terms.

20 15. The Complaint in the Willis Action shall be deemed dismissed with prejudice as  
21 soon as the Final Judgment becomes effective under the terms of the Settlement Stipulation.

22 16. For purposes of this Final Judgment, "Released Parties" means Plaintiff Rebecca  
23 Lee Willis and the Willis Class, as well as Defendants Los Angeles County Waterworks District  
24 No. 40; The City of Palmdale; Palmdale Water District; Littlerock Creek Irrigation District;  
25 Palm Ranch Irrigation District; Quartz Hill Water District; California Water Service Company;  
26 Rosamond Community Services District; Phelan Pinon Hills Community Services District;  
27 Desert Lake Community Services District; and North Edwards Water District.

28 17. The Court hereby orders that the Released Parties are released and forever

1 discharged from the Released Claims as more specifically provided in the Stipulation of  
2 Settlement.

3 18. The Class members and their heirs, executors, administrators, successors, and  
4 assigns are hereby permanently barred and enjoined from instituting, commencing, prosecuting,  
5 or continuing to prosecute, either directly or indirectly, any Released Claim against any of the  
6 Released Parties in any form, other than claims to enforce the terms of the Settlement. Each  
7 Class member may hereafter discover facts other than or different from those which he or she  
8 knows or believes to be true with respect to the Released Claims. Nevertheless, each member of  
9 the Class (except those who timely opted out) waive and fully, finally and forever settle and  
10 release, upon the Settlement Agreement becoming final, any known or unknown, suspected or  
11 unsuspected, contingent or noncontingent Released Claim, whether or not concealed or hidden,  
12 without regard to the subsequent discovery or existence of such different or additional facts.

13 19. The Settling Defendants and their heirs, executors, administrators, successors,  
14 and assigns are hereby permanently barred and enjoined from instituting, commencing,  
15 prosecuting, or continuing to prosecute, either directly or indirectly, any Released Claim against  
16 any of the Class Members in any forum, other than claims to enforce the terms of the  
17 Settlement. Each Settling Defendant may hereafter discover facts other than or different from  
18 those which he or she knows or believes to be true with respect to the Released Claims.  
19 Nevertheless, each Settling Defendant waives and fully, finally and forever settles and releases,  
20 upon the Settlement Agreement becoming final, any known or unknown, suspected or  
21 unsuspected, contingent or noncontingent Released Claim, whether or not concealed or hidden,  
22 without regard to the subsequent discovery or existence of such different or additional facts.

23 20. Without affecting the finality of this Judgment, the Court hereby reserves and  
24 retains jurisdiction over this Settlement, including the administration and consummation of the  
25 Settlement, as well as any action or proceeding brought to enforce the Settlement. In addition,  
26 without affecting the finality of this Judgment, the Court retains jurisdiction over the Parties for  
27 purposes of incorporating and merging this Judgment into a physical solution or other Judgment  
28 that may ultimately be entered in the Consolidated Actions. The Settling Parties are hereby

1 deemed to have submitted irrevocably to the exclusive jurisdiction of this Court for any suit,  
2 action, proceeding or dispute arising out of or relating to this Judgment or the Settlement.

3 21. The Court after considering the pleadings on file herein, and the arguments of  
4 counsel, awards the Willis Class attorneys fees in the amount of \$1,839,494, an incentive award  
5 for Ms. Rebecca Willis in the amount of \$10,000, costs in the amount of \$65,057.68, and  
6 supplemental attorneys fees in the amount of \$160,622.50. Judgment in the amount of  
7 \$2,075,174.18 is hereby entered for the Willis Class against Los Angeles County Waterworks  
8 District No. 40, City of Palmdale, Palmdale Water District, Littlerock Creek Irrigation District,  
9 Palm Ranch Irrigation District, Quartz Hill Water District, California Water Service Company,  
10 Rosamond Community Service District, Phelan Pinon Hills Community Services District,  
11 Desert Lake Community Services District, and North Edwards Water District.

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Dated: 9-22-2011

  
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Judge of the Superior Court  
Honorable Jack Komar

26345.000006870843.1



1 **PROOF OF SERVICE**

2 STATE OF CALIFORNIA, )  
3 ) ss.  
4 COUNTY OF VENTURA )

5 I am employed in the County of Ventura, State of California. I am over the age of 18 and not a  
6 party to the within action. My business address is 4165 E. Thousand Oaks Blvd., Suite 350, Westlake  
7 Village, California 91362.

8 On **December 6, 2011**, I posted the following document(s) to the website  
9 <http://www.scefiling.org>, a dedicated link to the Antelope Valley Groundwater Cases, and upon which the  
10 parties have agreed this posting constitutes service.

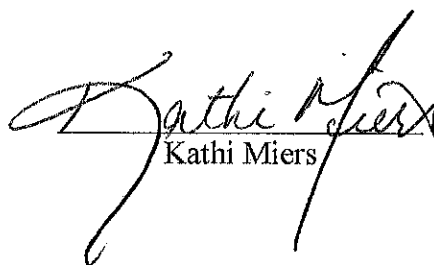
11 **NOTICE OF APPEAL**

12 By electronically serving through <http://www.scefiling.org>, and addressed to all parties appearing  
13 on the <http://www.scefiling.org> electronic service list, the file transmission was reported as complete and  
14 a copy of the <http://www.scefiling.org> Filing/Service Receipt will be maintained with a copy of the  
15 document in our office.

16 I am readily familiar with the business practice for collection and processing of pleadings and  
17 discovery for electronic service with <http://www.scefiling.org>, and that the pleadings and discovery shall  
18 be electronically served this same day in the ordinary course of business.

19 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the above is true  
20 and correct.

21 Executed on December 6, 2011, in Westlake Village, California.

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23 Kathi Miers  
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