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13 Attorneys for Plaintiff Richard Wood and the Class

14 **SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**
15 **COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

16 Coordination Proceeding
17 Special Title (Rule 1550(b))

18 ANTELOPE VALLEY GROUNDWATER
19 CASES

20 RICHARD A. WOOD, an individual, on
21 behalf of himself and all others similarly
22 situated,

23 Plaintiff,

24 v.

25 LOS ANGELES COUNTY
26 WATERWORKS DISTRICT NO. 40; et
27 al.

28 Defendants.

Judicial Council Coordination
Proceeding No. 4408
(Honorable Jack Komar)

Case No.: BC 391869

**DECLARATION OF MICHAEL D.
MCLACHLAN IN SUPPORT OF
MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY
APPROVAL OF CLASS
SETTLEMENT**

Date: March 26, 2015
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Dept: Room 222

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DECLARATION OF MICHAEL D. MCLACHLAN

I, Michael D. McLachlan, declare:

1. I make this declaration of my own personal knowledge, except where stated on information and belief, and if called to testify in Court on these matters, I could do so competently.

2. I am co-counsel of record of record for Plaintiff Richard Wood and the Class, and am duly licensed to practice law in California. I make this declaration in support of the joint motion for preliminary approval of the settlement agreement.

3. This action has been litigated vigorously on behalf of the Class for nearly seven years. There has been extensive written discovery, depositions, trial testimony, and class counsel have reviewed thousands of pages of evidence, deposition transcripts, and expert witness reports, in addition to conducting extensive legal research and analysis regarding all of the relevant legal claims of the Class and the Settling Defendants. Class counsel have also spoken to in excess of 300 class members over the past seven years, and through those calls have gained substantial insight into the water use of the Class.

4. The Settlement Agreement was negotiated at arm's-length over six years. Settlement negotiations commenced formally in February of 2009, and continued until February of 2015, ultimately resulting in the attached Settlement Agreement. These negotiations included two separate mediations with Justice Ronald Robie, and literally hundreds of meetings, phone calls, and e-mails.

5. No attorneys' fees or costs were agreed upon and those issues had no bearing whatsoever on the relief for the Class.

6. Attached as Exhibit 1 is a true and correct copy of the Settlement Agreement approved and executed by all parties to the Small Pumper Class

1 Stipulation of Settlement. Exhibit A to this Agreement is the Stipulation for
2 Entry of Judgment and Physical Solution, which had been signed by more than
3 120 parties to this coordinated proceeding.

4 7. Attached as Exhibit 2 is a true and correct copy of the proposed
5 notice to the class.

6 8. Attached as Exhibit 3 is a true and correct copy of the proposed
7 summary notice to the class, to be published in local newspapers as set forth in
8 the Settlement Agreement.

9 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California
10 that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 4th day of March, 2015, at
11 Hermosa Beach, California.

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14 _____
15 Michael D. McLachlan
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