1 **BEST BEST & KRIEGER LLP EXEMPT FROM FILING FEES** ERIC L. GARNER, Bar No. 130665 UNDER GOVERNMENT CODE 2 JEFFREY V. DUNN, Bar No. 131926 **SECTION 6103** STEFANIE D. HEDLUND, Bar No. 239787 3 5 PARK PLAZA, SUITE 1500 **IRVINE, CALIFORNIA 92614** 4 TELEPHONE: (949) 263-2600 TELECOPIER: (949) 260-0972 5 OFFICE OF COUNTY COUNSEL 6 COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES RAYMOND G. FORTNER, JR., Bar No. 42230 7 COUNTY COUNSEL MICHAEL MOORE, Bar No. 175599 8 SENIOR DEPUTY COUNTY COUNSEL 500 WEST TEMPLE STREET 9 LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012 TELEPHONE: (213) 974-1901 10 TELECOPIER: (213) 458-4020 Attorneys for Plaintiffs 11 ROSAMOND COMMUNITY SERVICES 12 DISTRICT and LOS ANGELES COUNTY WATERWORKS DISTRICT NO. 40 13 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA 14 COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES - CENTRAL DISTRICT 15 16 ANTELOPE VALLEY Judicial Council Coordination No. 4408 **GROUNDWATER CASES** 17 Santa Clara Case No. 1-05-CV-049053 Included Actions: Assigned to The Honorable Jack Komar 18 Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 40 v. Diamond Farming Co., Superior 19 **DECLARATION OF JEFFREY V. DUNN** Court of California, County of Los Angeles, Case No. BC 325201; RE STATUS OF SERVICE OF PROCESS 20 Los Angeles County Waterworks District 21 No. 40 v. Diamond Farming Co., Superior Court of California, County of Kern, Case 22 No. S-1500-CV-254-348; 23 Wm. Bolthouse Farms, Inc. v. City of Lancaster, Diamond Farming Co. v. City of 24 Lancaster, Diamond Farming Co. v. Palmdale Water Dist., Superior Court of 25 California, County of Riverside, Case Nos. RIC 353 840, RIC 344 436, RIC 344 668 26 27 28

### I, Jeffrey V. Dunn, declare:

- 1. I am an attorney duly admitted to practice before the California courts and I am partner with Best, Best & Krieger LLP, attorneys for Rosamond Community Services District and Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 40. I have personal knowledge of each fact herein and would testify competently thereto under oath.
- 2. As shown by the latest County Assessor Office records for Los Angeles and Kern Counties, respectively, there are more than 75,000 landowners outside the boundaries of Public Water Suppliers<sup>1</sup> within the Antelope Valley Adjudication Area.
- 3. All landowners are members of the Willis or Wood Classes except for those parties for whom the Court has ordered personal service of process. The latter group includes approximately 630 landowners each of whom owns at least 100 acres within the Adjudication Area. As a group, they constitute less than 1 percent of the total number of parties in the Adjudication.
- 4. The Court also ordered personal service upon parties known to pump more than 25 acre feet annually according to reports filed with the State of California pursuant to Water Code Section 5001. Based upon the State's records, there are approximately 38 parties who report their groundwater production but own less than 100 acres within the Adjudication Area.
- 5. As explained below, certification of the Willis and Wood Classes together with the personal service of certain landowner parties results in personal jurisdiction over 99.99 percent of the landowners within the Adjudication Area who are not within the Public Water Supplier service areas.

# LANDOWNERS OF LEAST 100 ACRES

6. Pursuant to Court Order, the Public Water Suppliers initiated personal service attempts beginning on October 28, 2005 on over 630 parties. Initial service resulted in 110 landowner parties signing and returning their mailed Notice of Acknowledgment of service of

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Public Water Suppliers include California Water Company, Little Rock Creek Irrigation District, City of Lancaster, City of Palmdale, Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 40, Palmdale Water District, Rosamond Community Services District, and Quartz Hill Water District.

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process. Pursuant to a further Court order, the Public Water Suppliers sent a letter to these parties to notify them that they must answer or otherwise appear within 30 days of the letter's date, December 13, 2006.

- 7. Subsequently, service was halted on several occasions as the Court and the parties concerned themselves with lengthy class certification proceedings.
- 8. In July of 2007, pursuant to Court order, the Public Water Suppliers resumed personal service on the approximately 520 remaining parties who had not yet returned their signed Notice of Acknowledgment, answered or otherwise appeared. Pursuant to the Court's direction at the July 20, 2007 Case Management Conference, the Public Water Suppliers halted service of these parties until the Court certified a class of landowners and determined if personal service would be necessary. As the Court certified the Willis and Wood Classes, the Court directed that personal service be completed upon the landowners owning at least 100 acres and/or known to pump more than 25 acre feet annually.
- 9. Of the approximately 630 landowners owning at least 100 acres, 449 landowners have been personally served. Repeated personal service attempts have been made as to the remaining 181 landowners except for 70 parties whose correct addresses cannot be located. Numerous attempts were made by both the process server company and by my office to obtain the correct address or otherwise locate the 70 parties.
- 10. There are 87 parties that the process service company is still attempting to complete personal serve. After several weeks of attempting to serve the 87 parties, however, the service company has been unable to complete service and personal service of process has been halted due to at least 3 attempts to complete personal service upon each those parties.
- 11. Throughout the many rounds of service, our law firm has received numerous phone calls from personally-served parties. Our attorneys have spent many hours explaining the history of the case and answering various questions relating to the case. A majority of the calls received have been from landowners who do not currently pump, do not have an interest in personally participating in this litigation and who are interesting in obtaining information on how they might be able to join the Willis Class. Although, these parties own parcels of land of

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approximately 100 acres or more, they have indicated that they do not want to hire an attorney and appear in these proceedings.

#### SERVICE OF MUTUAL WATER COMPANIES

12. Pursuant to the Court's direction at the March 12, 2007, Case Management Conference, the Public Water Suppliers identified potentially 36 mutual water companies within the Adjudication Area. There were only 25 mutual water companies that were located as continuing viable companies. The Public Water Suppliers were unable to complete service on the other 11 mutual water companies due to either wrong addresses and/or insufficient information.

## SERVICE OF PARTIES PUMPING 25 AFY OR MORE

13. California Water Code section 5001 requires that any person in Los Angeles County who extracts groundwater in excess of 25 acre feet a year to file a Notice of Extraction with the State Water Resources Control Board. The Public Water Suppliers obtained a compilation of the Annual Notices of Extraction for Los Angeles County from the State Water Resources Control Board. Using this information, the Public Water Suppliers identified an additional 38 parties that were pumping water in the Adjudication Area but had not yet been served or had not appeared in the personal service of landowners owning at least 100 acres. 29 of these parties were successfully served. As previously reported to the Court, the remaining 9 parties cannot be located to due to wrong addresses and/or other incomplete or missing information despite repeated efforts to locate these persons.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 12 day of September 2008, at Irvine, California.

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