	M: 1 1D D : GDN1002670				
1	Michael Duane Davis, SBN 093678 Marlene L. Allen-Hammarlund, SBN 126418				
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3	A Professional Corporation				
4	3750 University Avenue, Suite 250 Riverside, CA 92501-3335				
5	Telephone: (951) 684-2171 Facsimile: (951) 684-2150				
6	Attorneys for Cross-Defendant/Cross-Compl				
7	A.V. UNITED MUTUALS GROUP; and Cross- Defendants, ADAMS BENNETT INVESTMENTS,				
8	LLC; MIRACLE IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION				
	GOLDEN SANDS TRAILER PARK, named as ROE				
9	1121; ST. ANDREW'S ABBEY, INC., named as ROE 623; WHITE FENCE FARMS PRODUCTS, L.P.; and SHEEP CREEK WATER COMPANY, INC.				
11	SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA				
12	IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES				
13	Coordination Proceeding) Judicial Council Coor	dination		
14	Special Title (Rule 1550(b))) Proceeding No. 4408			
	ANTELOPE VALLEY GROUNDWATER) Santa Clara Case No.			
15	CASES	Assigned to the HonorDepartment 17C	able Jack Komar		
16	Including Consolidated Actions:)			
17	Los Angeles County Waterworks District) CROSS-DEFENDA) COMPLAINANT A	ANT/CROSS- ANTELOPE VALLEY		
18	No. 40 v. Diamond Farming Co. Superior Court of California, County of Los) UNITED MUTUAI	LS GROUP'S		
1	Angeles, Case No. BC 325 201	$\overline{5}$ TRIAL ON THE	L BRIEF FOR PHASE ISSUE OF RETURN		
19	Los Angeles County Waterworks District) FLOWS FROM IM)	IPORTED WATER		
20	No. 40 v. Diamond Farming Co.	Phase 5 Trial Date:	February 10, 2014		
21	Superior Court of California, County of Kern, Case No. S-1500-CV-254-348) Time:) Dept.:	9:00 A.M. Dept. 1		
22	Wm. Bolthouse Farms, Inc. v. City of) Judge:)	Hon. Jack Komar		
23	Lancaster Diamond Farming Co. v. City of Lancaster)			
24	Diamond Farming Co. v. Palmdale Water Dist.	\langle			
	Superior Court of California, County of)			
25	Riverside, consolidated actions, Case Nos. RIC 353 840, RIC 344 436, RIC 344 668)			
2627	AND RELATED ACTIONS.))			
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GRESHAM SAVAGE
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
3750 UNIVERSITY AVE.
STE. 250
RIVERSIDE, CA 92501-3335
(951) 684-2171

TO ALL PARTIES AND TO THEIR ATTORNEYS OF RECORD:

Cross-Defendants / Cross-Complainants, El Dorado Mutual Water Co. ("El Dorado"), Landale Mutual Water Co. ("Landale"), Shadow Acres Mutual Water Co. ("Shadow Acres"), Sunnyside Farms Mutual Water Co. ("Sunnyside Farms"), West Side Park Mutual Water Co. ("West Side Park"), and White Fence Farms Mutual Water Co., Inc. ("White Fence Farms") [which are six of the 16 mutual water companies that comprise the A. V. UNITED MUTUALS GROUP, and are referred to herein collectively as "These Mutual Water Companies"], by and through their attorneys of record, Gresham Savage Nolan & Tilden, PC, by Michael Duane Davis, Marlene L. Allen-Hammarlund, and Derek R. Hoffman submit the following Amended Trial Brief for the Phase 5 Trial proceedings. These six (6) members of the A. V. United Mutuals Group are making a claim to return flows from imported water and will be participating in the Phase 5 Trial on that issue. Any other mutual water company members of the A. V. United Mutuals Group, or any other parties represented herein, who purchase imported water in the future, should also have the right to returns flows from their imported water.

I.

INTRODUCTION.

These Mutual Water Companies have purchased State Water Project ("SWP") imported water for decades for distribution to their customers, who are the stockholders in the respective mutual water companies. Landale, Shadow Acres, Sunnyside Farms and White Fence Farms are within the Antelope Valley – East Kern Water Agency's ("AVEK") service area and have purchased their water directly from AVEK out of its SWP allotment. El Dorado and West Side Park are within Palmdale Water District's ("PWD") service area and have purchased their water from AVEK out of PWD's allotment under three-way agreements with AVEK and PWD.

It is anticipated that, in the future, at least eight (and possibly more) of the other members of the A.V. United Mutuals Group, and potentially other parties represented herein, will also be purchasing SWP imported water, and thus will be entitled to their return flows as well.

GRESHAM SAVAGE
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
3750 UNIVERSITY AVE.
STE. 250
RIVERSIDE, CA 92501-3335
(951) 684-2171

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THE MUTUAL WATER COMPANIES PURCHASE AND USE IMPORTED WATER AND ARE THEREFORE ENTITLED TO RETURN FLOWS.

These Mutual Water Companies have various agreements with AVEK and/or PWD regarding the purchase, delivery and storage of SWP water. Neither AVEK nor PWD have retained any interest in the water sold to These Mutual Water Companies, who are the end users of the purchased water. Accordingly, These Mutual Water Companies are entitled to the return flows from imported water.

These Mutual Water Companies Hold a Complete and Undivided Interest in the Imported Water That They Bring Into the Basin and in the Resulting Return Flows.

As articulated in the Court's Order After Hearing on January 27, 2014, by which the Court denied AVEK's Motion for Summary Adjudication, the use of imported SWP water results in a certain percentage of return flows, which enter the basin through recycling pools, septic systems, or other percolation. "When that water is reintroduced into the aguifer, it becomes part of the ground water in the basin and to the extent it is separate because there is storage room, the [mutual water company] may be entitled to store that return flow. To the extent that there is no storage, and it merges, there may still be value in drought or overdraft conditions."²

Water Code § 7075 provides that water that has been appropriated "may be turned into the channel of another stream, mingled, with its water, and then reclaimed; but in reclaiming it the water already appropriated by another shall not be diminished." Accordingly, the "one who brings water into a watershed may retain a prior right to it even after it is used." City of Santa

See, for example: (1) Agreement between PWD, AVEK and El Dorado dated April 1981 [marked as Exhibit 5-El Dorado-6]; and (2) Agreement between AVEK and White Fence Farms, dated March 4, 2013 [marked as Exhibit 5-White Fence Farms-17].

² See, Order After Hearing on January 27, 2014, 1. Motion by Cross-Complainant Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency ("AVEK") for Summary Judgment/Summary Adjudication," which was posted to the Santa Clara County Superior Court website on January 30, 2014, which These Mutual Water Companies ask that this Court take judicial notice of pursuant to California Evidence Code § 452(d) [marked as Exhibit 5-AVUMG-1].

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GRESHAM SAVAGE
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
3750 UNIVERSITY AVE.
STE. 250
RIVERSIDE, CA 92501-3335
(951) 684-2171

Maria v. Adam (2012) 211 Cal.App.4th 266, 301 (citing City of Los Angeles v. City of Glendale (1943) 23 Cal.2d 68, 76-77). "To preserve its right to return flows, an importer must manifest its intent to recapture or otherwise use return flows." As set forth herein, These Mutual Water Companies deliver the imported water to their stockholders who use the water, some of which percolates into the aquifer, thereby augmenting the groundwater in the Basin. These Mutual Water Companies therefore have the right to their return flows from this imported water.

As set forth in Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 40's Opposition to AVEK's Motion for Summary Adjudication, pp. 6 to 7, it is well established that a selling party relinquishes all rights and interests in the sold property unless the seller expressly reserves an interest. (California Civil Code § 1105 ["A fee simple title is presumed to be intended to pass by a grant of real property, unless it appears from the grant that a lesser estate was intended."] and § 1084 ["The transfer of a thing transfers also all of its incidents, unless expressly excepted."]; American Enterprise, Inc. v. Van Winkle (1952) 39 Cal.2d 210, 220 ["In the absence of some exception, limitation or reservation, a grant deed is presumed to convey the grantor's entire interest."]; Long Beach v. Marshall (1938) 11 Cal.2d 609, 613-14 [a transfer of real property is presumed to be a grant of fee simple title]; California Comm. Code § 2401 ["Any retention or reservation by the seller of the title (property) in goods shipped or delivered to the buyer is limited in effect to a reservation of a security interest . . . Unless otherwise explicitly agreed, title passes to the buyer at the time and place at which the seller contemplates his performance with reference to the physical delivery of the goods, despite any reservation of a security interest and even though a document of title is to be delivered at a different time or place; and in particular and despite any reservation of a security interest buy the bill of lading . . . [i]f the contract requires delivery at destination, title passes on tender there."].)4

³ See, Order After Hearing on January 27, 2014, 1. Motion by Cross-Complainant Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency ("AVEK") for Summary Judgment/Summary Adjudication," which was posted to the Santa Clara County Superior Court website on January 30, 2014, which these mutual water companies ask that this Court take judicial notice of pursuant to California *Evidence Code* § 452(d) [marked as Exhibit 5-AVUMG-1].

⁴ The A.V. United Mutual Water Companies incorporate herein by reference the Opposition to AVEK's Motion for Summary Adjudication which was filed by Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 40, which was posted to the Santa Clara County Superior Court website on December 27, 2013, and ask that this Court take judicial notice of that document pursuant to California *Evidence Code* § 452(d) [marked as Exhibit 5-AVUMG-2].

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There is no agreement, written or oral, by which AVEK or PWD reserved their rights to return flows. Therefore, the mutual water companies that import water have a complete and undivided interest in the SWP water they purchase from AVEK or PWD, including any return flows from that imported water.

В. These Mutual Water Companies are the End Users of Their Imported Water.

These Mutual Water Companies are mutual benefit, non-profit corporations, the stockholders of which are the owners of the real property within their respective service areas.⁵ When These Mutual Water Companies were organized, the property owners surrendered their rights of control or regulation in the use of their water rights to These Mutual Water Companies in exchange for stock in the corporation [see Fuller v. Azusa Irrigating Co. (1902) 138 Cal. 204, 213-214], without impairing or severing the right from the appurtenant land [see Turner v. Lowell Avenue Mutual Water Co. (1951) 104 Cal. App.2d 204, 209; In re Thomas' Estate (1905) 147 Cal. 236, 242; Woodstone Marble & Tile Co. v. Dunsmore Canyon Water Co. (1920) 47 Cal.App. 72, 77], or changing the substance in the ownership of the right [see Locke v. Yorba Irr. Co. (1950) 35 Cal.2d 205, 209]. The water rights remain the substance of individual ownership after the formation of These Mutual Water Companies, as well as before [see Hildreth v. Montecito Creek Water Co. (1903) 139 Cal. 22, 29], the only distinction being that it is held and exercised by the mutual water companies under a formally different title [see In re Thomas' Estate, supra at 242; Locke v. Yorba Irr. Co., supra at 209]. It is through These Mutual Water Companies, which constructed, operated and maintained the production, storage and distribution facilities, that the stockholders receive their water. The corporation is merely the agent of its stockholders for the purpose of serving their several interests [see Hildreth v. Montecito Creek Water Co., supra at 29].

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⁵ See Map depicting locations of El Dorado MWC, Landale MWC, Shadow Acres MWC, Sunnyside Farms MWC, West Side Park MWC and White Fence Farms MWC, on January 29, 2007 Map of Water Purveyors of Antelope Valley, produced by Wildermuth Environmental, Inc. [marked as Exhibit 5-AVUMG-10]; see also, Antelope Valley United Mutual Group's Responses to December 12, 2012 Discovery Order for Phase 4 Trial. submitted under penalty of perjury and filed by posting on December 21, 2012 [marked Exhibits 5-El Dorado-8, 5-Landale-7, 5-Shadow Acres-7, 5-Sunnyside Farms-7, 5-West Side Park-10, 5-White Fence Farms-20].

The California Supreme Court, in *City of San Fernando* (1975) 14 Cal.3d 199, held that, with respect to water that the importer sells and delivers to a local water district, which the local district then delivers to the ultimate user – the local water district has the right to return flows. Therefore, since These Mutual Water Companies (the functional equivalent of the local water district) deliver the imported water they purchase to their customers (i.e., their stockholders), the mutual water companies have the right to their return flows. The Court of Appeal has also ruled in *City of Santa Maria v. Adam* (2012) 211 Cal.App.4th 266, 301-303, that retail purchasers of SWP water are entitled to return flows attributed to their respective water purchases. Consequently, These Mutual Water Companies are the retail purchasers and end users of the water purchased from State Water Project contractors, namely AVEK and/or PWD, and are entitled to the return flows attributed to the imported water that they purchase.

C. These Mutual Water Companies Have Imported Water Into the Basin for Decades and Are Entitled to Return Flows From Future Water Purchases.

These Mutual Water Companies will present evidence at the Phase 5 Trial showing the quantities of SWP water that have been purchased historically, most for over 30 years. A summary of the amounts purchased by These Mutual Water Companies is as follows:

A. V. UNITED MUTUALS WATER COMPANY	YEARS THAT IMPORTED WATER HAS BEEN PURCHASED	AMOUNT OF IMPORTED WATER PURCHASED DURING THAT PERIOD
El Dorado MWC	1982 to 2013	4,728 acre feet
Landale MWC	1991 to 2013	317 acre feet
Shadow Acres MWC	1988 to 2013	5272 acre feet
Sunnyside Farms MWC	1977 to 2013	7695 acre feet
West Side Park MWC	1982 to 2010	943 acre feet
White Fence Farms MWC	1983 to 2013	5,918 acre feet

AVEK does not deny that These Mutual Water Companies purchase imported water. In fact, AVEK specifically reports in its 2008 and 2010 Urban Water Management Plans that These

(951) 684-2171

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ATTORNEYS AT LAW 3750 UNIVERSITY AVE. STE. 250 RIVERSIDE, CA 92501-3335 (951) 684-2171 Mutual Water Companies have been purchasing imported water for years.⁶ There are also numerous agreements between AVEK and These Mutual Water Companies regarding the imported water that they purchase.

As stated above, it is anticipated that additional mutual water companies (that comprise A.V. United Mutuals Group) and other parties represented herein will be purchasing imported SWP water in the future. Those entities will also have the right to their return flows. The members of the A.V. United Mutuals Group agree to accept the average return flow percentage discussed at the Phase 3 Trial of thirty-nine percent (39%).⁷ This percentage appears to be a sufficiently demonstrated average for the overall Antelope Valley basin.

D. The Other Entities Represented Herein Should Be Entitled to Return Flows When They Begin to Purchase Imported Water.

In addition to These Mutual Water Companies, some of the other entities comprising the A.V. United Mutuals Group, as well as the other entities represented herein, are planning to likewise import SWP water into the Basin. Each of these entities should similarly be entitled to the return flows associated with those water purchases.

III.

THESE MUTUAL WATER COMPANIES PARTIALLY PAID FOR THE INFRASTRUCTURE THAT AVEK USES TO DELIVER THE STATE WATER PROJECT WATER.

In addition to case law supporting that mutual water companies have the right to the return flows from water they import, it is also important to note that each of These Mutual Water Companies, as well as their stockholders, have paid a significant amount of money toward the infrastructure that is used to deliver the SWP water. There is voluminous evidence that they

⁶ See, AVEK 2008 Urban Water Management Plan, dated January 13, 2009, pages 14-15 of 39 [marked as Exhibit 5-AVUMG-3]; see also, AVEK 2010 Urban Water Management Plan, dated June 20, 2011, pages 3-1 and 3-2 [marked as Exhibit 5-AVUMG-7].

⁷ See, p. 17 of Court's Transcript from Phase 3 Trial proceedings on October 16, 2013, which is attached as Exhibit LL to L.A. District No. 40's Supplemental Request for Judicial Notice of Phase Three Trial Testimonies and Exhibits, which was posted to the Santa Clara County Superior Court website on January 24, 2014, which these mutual water companies ask that this Court take judicial notice of pursuant to California *Evidence Code* § 452(d) [marked as Exhibit 5-AVUMG-4].

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GRESHAM SAVAGE
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
3750 UNIVERSITY AVE.
STE. 250
RIVERSIDE, CA 92501-3335
(951) 684-2171

have paid at least part of the costs of the additional facilities needed to deliver the water purchased from AVEK and/or PWD into the mutual water companies' distribution systems.

These documents include, but are not limited to:

- 1) Correspondence and itemization of expenses for the cost of the infrastructure from AVEK.⁸
- 2) Newsletter distributed to stockholders of mutual water company explaining that the cost to the mutual water companies and the stockholders for the infrastructure will be "considerable."
- 3) Evidence of capacity charges paid by These Mutual Water Companies and their stockholders for infrastructure, including summaries of charges and AVEK's receipts for capacity charges paid.¹⁰
- 4) Evidence of payments to AVEK for banking State Water Project water in the Water Supply Stabilization Project No. 2 ("WSSP2") for later withdrawal.¹¹
- 5) Property tax bills showing amounts paid for "special water" taxes and other assessments.¹²
- 6) Minutes of the mutual water companies' board meetings regarding the cost of connecting to AVEK to acquire the State Water Project water.¹³

Since These Mutual Water Companies and their stockholders have paid part of the costs for the infrastructure used to deliver the SWP water from AVEK to their service area, they have invested in the infrastructure for the delivery of imported SWP water to their service areas. They have paid for the water, have paid for the infrastructure to deliver the water, and have used the water, all of which has collectively resulted in unused imported water being introduced into the groundwater basin. Consequently they have the right to the return flows.

⁸ See Exhibits marked as 5-White Fence Farms-18; 5-El Dorado-7; 5-El Dorado-14; 5-El Dorado-15, as exemplars.

⁹ See Exhibit marked as 5-El Dorado-13.

¹⁰ See Exhibits marked as 5-White Fence Farms-13; 5-White Fence Farms-14; 5-White Fence Farms-15, as exemplars.

¹¹ See Exhibit marked as 5-White Fence Farms-17.

¹² See Exhibits marked as 5-Landale-2; 5-West Side Park-5; 5-White Fence Farms-11; 5-White Fence Farms-16, as exemplars.

¹³ See Exhibit marked as 5-White Fence Farms-18, as an exemplar.

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GRESHAM | SAVAGE

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

3750 UNIVERSITY AVE.

STE. 250

RIVERSIDE, CA 92501-3335

(951) 684-2171

THESE MUTUAL WATER COMPANIES STORE IMPORTED WATER IN THE GROUNDWATER BASIN.

These Mutual Water Companies store imported water in the groundwater Basin, whose service areas are located in the Amargosa Creek wash area of the Basin. ¹⁴ Most of the customers of These Mutual Water Companies are on septic (rather than on sewer) systems, which means that the unconsumed water goes back into the Amargosa Creek wash area of the Basin, through the septic systems within their service area boundaries.

Experts evaluating the Antelope Valley have identified the area in which These Mutual Water Companies are located to be a high priority location for groundwater recharge activities due to favorable soil conditions. Data from wells located within the service areas of These Mutual Water Companies confirms that subsurface soil conditions are sufficiently porous to be able to receive and store percolating waters. Accordingly, unused water in the septic systems of These Mutual Water Companies may percolate into and be stored in the Basin for subsequent use. Accordingly, they have the legal right to their return flows pursuant to established case law as set forth herein.

The A.V. United Mutuals Group water companies also have a contractual right to store imported water with AVEK for later use. These mutual water companies have contracted to

¹⁴ See Map depicting locations of El Dorado MWC, Landale MWC, Shadow Acres MWC, Sunnyside Farms MWC, West Side Park MWC and White Fence Farms MWC, on January 29, 2007 Map of Water Purveyors of Antelope Valley, produced by Wildermuth Environmental, Inc. [marked as Exhibit 5-AVUMG-10]; see also, Declaration of John Ukkestad In Support Of Cross-Defendant / Cross-Complainant Antelope Valley United Mutuals Group's Offer Of Proof For Phase 5 Trial On The Issue Of Return Flows From Imported Water, filed by posting on February 7, 2014.

See "City of Palmdale's Proposition 1E Stormwater Flood Management Grant Proposal for the Upper Amargosa Creek Flood Control, Recharge and Habitat Restoration Project", dated April 15, 2011 [marked as Exhibit 5-AVUMG-5]; see "Study of Potential Recharge Sites in the Antelope Valley, prepared for Antelope Valley State Water Contractors Association" by Stetson Engineers, Inc., dated September 2002 [marked as Exhibit 5-AVUMG-8]; see also, Antelope Valley Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, 2007, with highlights for emphasis [marked as Exhibit 5-AVUMG-9].

¹⁶ See Department of Water Resources, Bulletin No. 91-12 "Water Wells in the Eastern Part of the Antelope Valley Area Los Angeles County, California" prepared by the U.S. Department of the Interior Geological Survey, December 1966, pp. D-44 to D-46, D-49 to D-50, and D-116. These mutual water companies ask that this Court take judicial notice of Bulletin 91-12 pursuant to California *Evidence Code* § 452(d) [marked as Exhibit 5-AVUMG-6].

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GRESHAM SAVAGE ATTORNEYS AT LAW 3750 UNIVERSITY AVE.

STE, 250 RIVERSIDE, CA 92501-3335 (951) 684-2171

bring the imported SWP water into the Basin, to store it until needed, call for its delivery, and after the water has been partially used, the unused component percolates back into the ground to be recovered at a later time. For example, White Fence Farms Mutual Water Company has a contract based "storage account" with AVEK where imported SWP water may be banked in the Water Supply Stabilization Project No. 2 ("WSSP2") for later withdrawal by White Fence Farms, which AVEK has contracted to deliver to White Fence Farms, upon request. The imported SWP water in White Fence Farm's storage account is contractually required to be retained for the sole use and benefit of White Fence Farms, and cannot be withdrawn for the benefit of any other person or entity, including AVEK, and cannot be commingled with that of any other person or entity.¹⁷ Other members of the A.V. United Mutuals Group have similar "storage accounts" and agreements with AVEK.

V.

CONCLUSION.

For purposes of the Return Flows portion of the Phase 5 Trial, El Dorado, Landale, Shadow Acres, Sunnyside Farms, West Side Park and White Fence Farms propose to enter into a Stipulation to establish evidentiary facts regarding: (1) the quantities of State Water Project water purchased through AVEK and PWD over the past three decades; (2) the agreements made with AVEK and PWD regarding the purchase, delivery and storage of SWP water; (3) the fees paid for the infrastructure needed to deliver the SWP water to These Mutual Water Companies' customers; and (4) the fact that These Mutual Water Companies store the imported water that they have purchased in the groundwater basin for reproduction and reuse. These Mutual Water Companies are also prepared to present such further testimony or documentary evidence that this Court deems relevant to the issues being tried in the Phase 5 Trial.

In summary, These Mutual Water Companies have been purchasing imported SWP water, for which they have the right to the return flows. In addition, any other mutual water

¹⁷ See, for example, paragraphs (1)(e) and (f), page 2, of the Agreement Between AVEK and White Fence Farms, to Store Water at the Water Supply Stabilization Project No. 2, dated March 4, 2013 [marked as Exhibit 5-White Fence Farms-17.1

1	companies comprising the A. V. United Mutuals Group, or any other entities represented herein,		
2	that purchase imported water in the future should also have the right to those return flows.		
3	3		
4	4 Dated: February 13, 2014	Respectfully submitted,	
5	5	GRESHAM SAVAGE NOLAN & TILDEN, PC	
6	6		
7	7	By: Michael Duane Davis, Esq.	
8	8	Marlene L. Allen-Hammarlund, Esq. Derek R. Hoffman, Esq.	
9		Attorneys for CROSS-DEFENDANT / CROSS COMPLAINANT, A. V. UNITED MUTUALS GROUP	
10		and CROSS-DEFENDANTS, ADAMS BENNET INVESTMENTS, LLC, MIRACLE IMPROVEMENT	
11		CORPORATION dba GOLDEN SANDS MOBILI HOME PARK, aka GOLDEN SANDS TRAILER PARI	
12		[ROE 1121], ST. ANDREW'S ABBEY, INC. [RO] 623], WHITE FENCE FARMS PRODUCTS, L.P., and	
13		SHEEP CREEK WATER COMPANY, INC.	
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GRESHAM SAVAGE

ATTORNEYS AT LAW 3750 UNIVERSITY AVE. STE. 250 RIVERSIDE, CA 92501-3335 (951) 684-2171

PROOF OF SERVICE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

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GRESHAM SAVAGE ATTORNEYS AT LAW

3750 UNIVERSITY AVE. STE. 250 RIVERSIDE, CA 92501-3335 (951) 684-2171

ANTELOPE VALLEY GROUNDWATER CASES

Los Angeles County Superior Court Judicial Council Coordinated Proceedings No. 4408; Santa Clara County Superior Court Case No. 1-05-CV-049053

I am employed in the County of San Bernardino, State of California. I am over the age of 18 years and not a party to the within action; my business address is: 550 E Hospitality Lane, Suite 300, San Bernardino, CA 92408.

On February 13, 2014, I served the foregoing document(s) described as CROSS-DEFENDANT/CROSS-COMPLAINANT ANTELOPE VALLEY UNITED MUTUALS GROUP'S AMENDED TRIAL BRIEF FOR PHASE 5 TRIAL ON THE ISSUE OF RETURN FLOWS FROM IMPORTED WATER on the interested parties in this action in the following manner:

(X) BY ELECTRONIC SERVICE – I posted the document(s) listed above to the Santa Clara County Superior Court website, http://www.scefiling.org, in the action of the Antelope Valley Groundwater Cases.

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

Executed on February 13, 2014, at San Bernardino, California.

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