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ANTELOPE VALLEY

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SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Judicial Council Coordination Proceeding No. 4408

Santa Clara Case No. 1-05-CV-049053 Assigned to The Honorable Jack Komar

ANTELOPE VALLEY GROUNDWATER AGREEMENT ASSOCIATION'S JOINDER TO DIAMOND FARMING, ET AL.'S OPPOSITION TO THE WILLIS CLASS' MOTION FOR COURT APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXPERT WITNESS

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The Antelope Valley Groundwater Agreement Association ("AGWA") hereby joins in the Opposition to the Willis Class Motion for Court Appointment of Independent Expert Witness filed June 15, 2010 ("Willis Class Motion"), filed by Diamond Farming Company, Inc., Crystal Organic Farms, LLC, Grimmway Enterprises, Inc., and LAPIS Land Company, LLC on July 1, 2010 (the "Opposition").

AGWA reiterates the Opposition's objections that the consolidation of actions in this matter was not intended to create adversity between the participants that did not exist prior to consolidation. AGWA and its members were not defendants to the Willis Class' complaint and should not be considered parties to the Willis Class' action for the purposes of Evidence Code section 731's provisions regarding the allocation of costs of a court appointed expert. While it is possible that adversity may arise in the future with regard to the allocation of rights to the groundwater basin since, by definition, the Willis Class members have no historical pumping on which to assert a claimed right, no adversity currently exists because the Willis Class shares the objective of the other landowners to defend against the purveyors' attempt to assert an artificially low safe yield number in order to bolster their prescriptive claim.

Further, the Willis Class Motion's proposed mechanism for the allocation of costs of the proposed expert – only to those parties who have already hired their own experts – is inequitable and not supported under Evidence Code section 731.

For the reasons discussed in the Opposition and those described above, the requested allocation of the expert costs as against non-parties to the Willis Class action should be denied.

Dated: July 1, 2010 BROWNSTEIN HYATT FARBER SCHRECK, LLP

> wheel oit MICHAEL T. FIFE

BRADLEY J. HERREMA ATTORNEYS FOR AGWA

1 PROOF OF SERVICE 2 STATE OF CALIFORNIA, 3 **COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA** 4 I am employed in the County of Santa Barbara, State of California. I am over the age of 18 and not a party to the within action; my business address is: 21 E. Carrillo Street, Santa Barbara, 5 California 93101. 6 On July 1, 2010, I served the foregoing document described as: 7 ANTELOPE VALLEY GROUNDWATER AGREEMENT ASSOCIATION'S JOINDER TO 8 DIAMOND FARMING, ET AL.'S OPPOSITION TO THE WILLIS CLASS' MOTION FOR COURT APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXPERT WITNESS 9 on the interested parties in this action. 10 By posting it on the website at 4:30 p.m. on July 1, 2010. 11 This posting was reported as complete and without error. 12 (STATE) I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the above is true and correct. 13 Executed in Santa Barbara, California, on July 1, 2010. 14 15 16 17 18 19 MARIA KLACHKO-BLAIR TYPE OR PRINT NAME **SIGNATURE** 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 SB 550593 v1:007966.0001

PROOF OF SERVICE