Exempt from filing fee 1 DOUGLAS J. EVERTZ, SBN 123066 Government Code § 6103 MURPHY & EVERTZ, LLP 650 Town Center Drive, Suite 550 Costa Mesa, California 92626 3 Telephone: (714) 277-1700 Fax: (714) 277-1777 4 Attorneys for Defendant, Cross-Complainant 5 and Cross-Defendant CITY OF LANCASTER 6 [NAMES OF ADDITIONAL MOVING PARTIES ON FOLLOWING PAGES] 7 8 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA 9 FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES 10 ANTELOPE VALLEY GROUNDWATER 11 LASC, Case No. BC 325201 CASES 12 **Judicial Council Coordination** Included Actions: Proceeding No. 4408 13 Los Angeles County Waterworks District Santa Clara Case No. 1-05-CV 049053 Assigned to The Honorable Jack Komar 14 No. 40 v. Diamond Farming Co. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, Case No. BC325201; 15 EX PARTE APPLICATION OF Los Angeles County Waterworks District 16 "MOVING PRINCIPALS" FOR No. 40 v. Diamond Farming Co. **CONTINUANCE OF TRIAL:** 17 Superior Court of California, County of Kern, DECLARATION OF DOUGLAS J. Case No. S-1500-CV-254-348 **EVERTZ IN SUPPORT OF** 18 APPLICATION Wm. Bolthouse Farms, Inc. v. City of 19 Lancaster, Diamond Farming Co. v. City of Lancaster, Diamond Farming Co. v. Palmdale DATE: July 29, 2010 Water Dist., Superior Court of California 20 9:00 a.m. TIME: County of Riverside, consolidated actions; Case DEPT: 12 [Santa Clara] Nos. RIC 353 840, RIC 344 436, RIC 344 668. 21 Trial Date: September 27, 2010 22 23 24 /// 25 111 26 111 27 28

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	EX PARTE APPLICATION FOR CONTINUANCE OF TRIAL; DECLARATION OF DOUGLAS J. EVERTZ IN SUPPORT OF APPLICATION				

A.

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## TO ALL PARTIES AND THEIR ATTORNEYS OF RECORD HEREIN:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT on July 29, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. in Department 12 of

This Ex Parte Application ("Application") is made pursuant to Rule 3.1332 of the

the Santa Clara County Superior Court, located at 191 N. First Street, San Jose, CA 95133, the

moving parties will move for an Ex Parte Order continuing the Phase III Trial, presently set for

California Rules of Court, as well as the inherent power of this Court to control the proceedings

before it. (Code Civ. Proc, §§ 128, 187.) This Application is brought on behalf of The City of

Lancaster, Palmdale Water District, the Woods Class, Bolthouse Properties, Tejon Ranchcorp,

Phelan Piñon Hills Community Services District, A.V. United Mutual Group, Service Rock

Products, L.P., Sheep Creek Water Company, Antelope Valley Water Storage, LLC, WDS California

II, LLC, U.S. Borax Inc., Grimmway Farms (Diamond Farming Company, Crystal Organic Farms,

Grimmway Enterprises Inc., and Lapis Land Company LLC), WAGAS Land Company LLC, and the

Antelope Valley Groundwater Agreement Association ("Moving Principals"). As this Court was

advised at a Case Management Conference held on July 15, 2010, the Antelope Valley Mediation

Principals ("Principals") reached an agreement referred to as the "Antelope Valley Accord"

("Accord"). The Accord represents a comprehensive agreement establishing a physical solution for

Antelope Valley groundwater management and providing a basis for final resolution of all pending

litigation over the amount and allocation of groundwater pumping rights of the Antelope Valley Area

of Adjudication. A true and correct copy of the Accord, together with supporting technical

documents, are filed concurrently herewith. The moving Principals therefore request a short 60 day

continuance of the Phase III Trial (and continuance of all other pretrial dates based on the new trial

date) so as to afford the parties an opportunity to finalize their Agreement, and to conduct a

Previous Applications of the Court (Cal. Rule Court Rule 3.120(b).

September 27, 2010, and to continue all pretrial dates, including depositions, accordingly.

Basis of the Application.

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B.

This is the first formal application for continuance of the Phase III Trial.

meaningful mediation scheduled August 24 and 25 before Justice Robie.

# C. <u>Documents Supporting the Application.</u>

This Application is based upon this Application, the Memorandum of Points and Authorities in Part II, the Declaration of Douglas J. Evertz in Part III, the Accord and all concurrently filed technical documents, Lancaster's Case Management Conference Statement filed July 13, 2010, the Declaration of James C. Waldo filed July 14, 2010, the pleadings and papers on file in this action, and all further oral and documentary evidence as may be presented to the Court at or before the hearing on this Application.

DATED: July 26, 2010

MURPHY & EVERTZ LLP

CITY OF LANCASTER

vertz, Attorneys for Defendant,

Cross-Complainant and Cross-Defendant

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II.

### A. Introduction.

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On July 15, 2010, the Court held a Case Management Conference at which time a number of parties representing the vast majority of groundwater pumping within the AVAA requested the Court to continue the Phase III Trial. The parties requested the continuance based upon the significant achievement the Principals have made in negotiating the Accord, which incorporates a proposed physical solution. The Accord includes an initial total sustainable yield (which is subject to future adjustment), agreed upon reduction in current groundwater pumping and applied groundwater management tools. At this point, no party is formally bound by the Accord. Upon approval, The Accord will serve as the framework and starting point of a comprehensive settlement agreement.

MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

To further evaluate the merits of the requested trial continuance, this Court stated in its Minute Order of July 15, 2010 that "in order to consider the request for a continuance the Court must have more details of the terms of the so-called Waldo settlement proposal and information specifying the parties who have not participated and would not be covered by the settlement as well as those who would be bound." Pursuant to Evidence Code section 1122, all Principals have now consented to the limited disclosure of the Accord, a copy of which (with supporting technical data) is filed concurrently with this Application as Exhibit "A." (Evertz Decl., ¶¶ 3-4.)

A mediation has now been scheduled on August 24, and if necessary, will continue on August 25, 2010, with Justice Robie. August 24, 2010 is the first date Justice Robie is available to conduct the mediation. As ordered by this Court, the Principals have selected representative

Technical documents accompanying the Accord include: (i) "Technical Considerations in Constructing the Settlement Framework," (ii) "Report #1: Summary and Synthesis of Available Information on Standing Groundwater Levels and Significant Trends," (iii) "Report #2: Summary and Synthesis of Available Information on Historical Groundwater Pumping in the Antelope Valley," (iv) "Report #3: Critical Factors Affecting Assessments of Groundwater Yield and Resource Status in the Antelope Valley," (v) "Report #4: Summary and Synthesis of Available Information on Change in Groundwater Storage and Sustainable Yield in the Antelope Valley," (vi) "Updated Estimate of Agricultural Pumping in the Antelope Valley," (vii) "Change in Groundwater Levels 1997-2009," (viii) Report of independent expert Kenneth D. Schmidt, and (ix) Report of independent expert David Abbot/Todd Engineers.

1	counsel to speak on their behalf at the mediation. Los Angeles County Water Works District No. 40			
2	Littlerock Creek Irrigat	tion District, and the City of Los Angeles have confirmed they will		
3	participate in the process. (Evertz Decl., ¶ 5.)			
4	Because of the monumental progress made to date in crafting the Accord, and to afford the			
5	parties an opportunity to conduct a meaningful mediation before Justice Robie, the Moving			
6	Principals respectfully request a short 60 day continuance of the Phase III Trial, and that all other			
7	pretrial dates, including depositions, be continued based upon the new trial date.			
8	B. Participants in the Antelope Valley Principals' Mediation Process and the			
9	<u>Percenta</u>	age of Pumping They Represent.		
10	The following is a comprehensive list, in alphabetical order, of the Principals who			
11	participated in crafting the Accord. (Evertz Dec., ¶ 3.)			
12	<u>Principa</u>	<u>lls.</u>		
13	1. A	ntelope Valley Water Storage, LLC.		
14	2. A	.V. United Mutual Group:		
15		ntelope Park Mutual Water Company qua J Mutual Water Company		
16	A	verydale Mutual Water Company leich Flat Mutual Water Company		
17	C	olorado Mutual Water Company Idorado Mutual Water Company		
18	E	vergreen Mutual Water Company andale Mutual Water Company		
19	L	and Projects Mutual Water Company hadow Acres Mutual Water Company		
20	Si	undale Mutual Water Company unnyside Farms Mutual Water Company		
21	[] T	ierra Bonita Mutual Water Company Vestside Park Mutual Water Company		
22		hite Fence Farms Mutual Water Company.		
23	3. A	ntelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency ("AVEK").		
24	4. A	ntelope Valley Ground Water Agreement Association ("AGWA"):		
25		J. Calandri, John Calandri, John Calandri as Trustee of the John and B.J. alandri 2001 Trust, Forrest G. Godde, Forrest G. Godde as Trustee of the		
26	Fo	orrest G. Godde Trust, Lawrence A. Godde, Lawrence A. Godde and Godde rust, Kootenai Properties, Inc., Gailen Kyle, Gailen Kyle as Trustee of the		
27	K	yle Trust, James W. Kyle, James W. Kyle as Trustee of the Kyle Family rust, Julia Kyle, Wanda E. Kyle, Eugene B. Nebeker, R and M Ranch, Inc.,		
28	E(	dgar C. Ritter, Paula E. Ritter, Paula E. Ritter as Trustee of the Ritter Family		
		,		

EX PARTE APPLICATION FOR CONTINUANCE OF TRIAL; DECLARATION OF DOUGLAS J. EVERTZ IN SUPPORT OF APPLICATION

# C. <u>Allocation of Groundwater Pumping in the Antelope Valley Area of Adjudication</u> Between Accord Participants and Non-Participants.

During the mediation process, the mediators distributed a questionnaire to all the Principals, asking each Principal to report its recorded or estimated groundwater pumping from 1980 to the present time, with these responses to be held in strict confidence under the mediation privilege and confidentiality provisions. Using the self-reported pumping values, plus an estimate of 8,000 AF/yr provided by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power ("LADWP") for its lands in the AVAA, the mediators calculated average annual pumping values for the period 2006-2010 at 142,482 AF/yr for the mediation participants plus LADWP.

Los Angeles County Waterworks District 40's recent filing of the "Appendices to Public Water Suppliers' Expert Report - Appendix A" with attached exhibits allowed the mediators to calculate estimates of pumping for parties not participating in the mediation, using recent, publicly-available figures. The mediators used pumping values reported in Appendix D-7 of this filing to calculate average annual pumping for the period 2005-2009 for the following non-participating entities:

Antelope Valley Water Company	686 AF/yr
Desert Lake Community Services District	81 AF/yr
Edwards Air Force Base	1.837 AF/yr
Littlerock Creek Irrigation District	914 AF/yr
Los Angeles County Waterworks District 40	18,978 AF/vr
Palm Ranch Irrigation District	815 AF/yr
Total	23,311 AF/vr

Adding the estimated annual pumping from the Principals' self-reports to the average total pumping by major non-participants yields an estimated value of 165,793 AF/yr for total groundwater pumping in the AVAA.<sup>3</sup> Pumping by the mediation Principals represents 85.9% of the annual groundwater production in the AVAA, leaving Los Angeles County Waterworks,

It is likely that there is additional pumping occurring in the AVAA by parties that were neither among the Principals nor accounted for in the analysis presented in Appendix D-7 Table 3. However, it is believed that such pumping is de minimis since the parties listed here account for the great majority of the pumping described in Los Angeles County Waterworks District 40's Expert Report.

Littlerock Creek Irrigation District, Edwards Air Force Base, and the other non-participants representing approximately 14% of current groundwater pumping.

#### D. Pursuing the Accord to Finality is in the Best Interest of all Stakeholders.

The Accord (i) settles all claims to natural groundwater by and between the settling parties, (ii) serves as a basis for the fair resolution of claims with non-participating parties, thereby satisfying the requirements of the McCarran Amendment, (iii) provides for a comprehensive physical solution, which includes an initial total sustainable yield, agreed upon reductions in groundwater pumping and agreed upon management tools, (iv) establishes a watermaster, and (v) will improve groundwater conditions in the AVAA, while offering water users real opportunities to serve adequate water supplies for urban needs, economic development and irrigated agriculture. The experts retained by the Waldo team confirm that the safe yield in the Accord is a viable number and will not damage the Basin. This safe yield combines a reduction in water use with a reasonable means of allowing the continued use of the Basin's water for productive purposes.

#### E. Good Cause Exists to Continue the Trial in this Case for at Least Six Reasons.

Under Rule 3.1332 of the California Rules of Court, the court may grant a trial continuance for "good cause." (Cal. Rules Court 3.1332(c).) Factors a court may consider in determining whether "good cause" exists for a trial continuance include, but are not limited to, (1) whether there have been any previous trial continuances, (2) "[t]he length of the continuance requested," (3) "[t]he prejudice that the parties or witnesses will suffer as a result of the continuance," (4) "[w]hether all parties have stipulated to a continuance," and (5) "[a]ny other fact or circumstance relevant to the fair determination of the motion or application." (Cal. Rules Court 3.1332(d).)

Based on these rules, the Moving Principals submit that "good cause" exists to continue the Phase III Trial for the following reasons:

- 1. This is the first formal request to continue the Phase III Trial.
- 2. The Moving Principals request only a brief continuance so as to afford them an opportunity to complete their work and to draft a formal and final settlement agreement. 

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Mr. Waldo confirms in his declaration filed July 14, 2010 that a continuance is absolutely necessary to effectuate a settlement: "from my personal experience in settling water disputes, it will require a significant commitment of additional time and resources to prepare the detailed, legally-binding documents to implement such an important settlement." (Waldo Decl., ¶ 4.) The attorneys cannot engage themselves in this work if they are simultaneously taking depositions, which will take nearly a full six weeks -- proceeding with depositions now will detract from the mediation process and result in the splitting of resources.

- 3. Justice Robie is not available to conduct the mediation until August 24 and 25, 2010. (Evertz Decl., ¶ 5.)
- 4. The trial date is rapidly approaching and the parties will incur tremendous costs and expenses moving forward with depositions and preparing for a trial on September 27, 2010.
- 5. None of the parties will be prejudiced by a short continuance. The parties will be prejudiced if the continuance is not granted the lack of a continuance could well derail the possibility of any settlement and further polarize the parties.
- 6. If the parties are able to finalize a formal settlement agreement consistent with Accord, it will fully obviate the need for a Phase III Trial. The Accord includes not only an initial total sustainable yield subject to future adjustments, which results in the reduction of pumping, but a comprehensive physical solution which will be presented to the Court and ultimately enforced by the Court under its continuing jurisdiction. An early settlement, rather than protracted litigation, is in the best interests of the public and the Basin.

#### F. Conclusion.

For the first time in approximately 10 years, the parties have developed a comprehensive physical solution which will formally and finally resolve the complex water issues within the AVAA. That process will be placed in significant jeopardy if the parties are required to proceed with the Phase III Trial on September 27, 2010. To give Justice Robie the maximum opportunity of success during the mediation process, and to afford the Principals an opportunity to formally document the Accord, the Moving Principals respectfully request the Court continue the Phase III

	( )		
1	Trial for 60 days, and further order that all pretrial dates, including depositions, be continued and		
2	based upon the new trial date.		
3			
4	DATED: July , 2010	MURPHY & EVERTZ LLP	
5		Donaton 1 Great	
6	*	By: Douglas I/Evertz, Attorneys for Defendant.	
7		Douglas J. Evertz, Attorneys for Defendant, Cross-Complainant and Cross-Defendant CITY OF LANCASTER	
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#### III. <u>DECLARATION OF DOUGLAS J. EVERTZ.</u>

I, Douglas J. Evertz, declare as follows:

I am an attorney at law, duly licensed to practice before all courts of the State of California. I am a partner with the law firm of Murphy & Evertz, LLP, counsel for Defendant, Cross-Complainant and Cross-Defendant the City of Lancaster ("Lancaster"). I have personal knowledge of the facts set forth below and, if called as a witness, I could and would testify to the following:

- 1. The Principals identified as "Moving Principals" in this Application expressly authorized me to include their names as moving parties.
- 2. The Principals retained James Waldo as a mediator experienced in complex negotiations in resolving water conflicts to lead a mediation team and to develop a proposed settlement of the Antelope Valley Groundwater cases. In a meeting on July 8, 2010, the Principals reached agreement in concept on the terms and conditions of the "Antelope Valley Accord" ("Accord"). A final version of the Accord was circulated for review on July 12, 2010.
- 3. One of the members of the mediation team, William West, who is an attorney with Mr. Waldo's office, then began obtaining consents whereby the Principals would release and authorize presenting the Accord to this Court. Mr. West confirmed, however, that as of the July 15, 2010 Case Management Conference held in these proceedings, all but one of the parties had consented to the release of the Accord. Mr. West now confirms, that pursuant to Evidence Code § 1122(a)(1), all parties to the Accord have consented to the limited public disclosure of the Accord. Those parties are: Antelope Valley Water Storage, LLC, A.V. United Mutual Group, Service Rock Products, L.P., Sheep Creek Water Company, Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency, Antelope Valley Ground Water Agreement Association, Bolthouse Properties, City of Lancaster, City of Palmdale, Grimmway Farms (Diamond Farming Company, Crystal Organic Farms, Grimmway Enterprises, Inc., and Lapis Land Company, LLC), Los Angeles County Sanitation District Nos. 14 and 20, Palmdale Water District, Phelan-Piñon Hills Community Services District, Quartz Hill Water District, Rio Tinto / U.S. Borax, Rosamond Community Services District, Tejon

Ranchcorp, WAGAS Land Company, WDS California II, LLC, Willis Class (dormant overlyers class), and the Wood Class (small pumpers class).

- 4. Attached as Exhibit A is a true and correct copy of the July 12, 2010 Accord, together with supporting technical data, including reports prepared by two hydrogeology experts who rendered opinions on the methodology and conclusions that the Principals used to inform their final decision on groundwater resource issues in the Accord. Technical documents accompanying the Accord include: (i) "Technical Considerations in Constructing the Settlement Framework," (ii) Report of independent expert Kenneth D. Schmidt, (iii) Report of independent expert David Abbott/Todd Engineers, (iv) "Report #1: Summary and Synthesis of Available Information on Standing Groundwater Levels and Significant Trends," (v) "Report #2: Summary and Synthesis of Available Information on Historical Groundwater Pumping in the Antelope Valley," (vi) "Report #3: Critical Factors Affecting Assessments of Groundwater Yield and Resource Status in the Antelope Valley," (vii) "Report #4: Summary and Synthesis of Available Information on Change in Groundwater Storage and Sustainable Yield in the Antelope Valley," (viii) "Updated Estimate of Agricultural Pumping in the Antelope Valley," and (ix) "Change in Groundwater Levels 1997-2009."
- 5. Immediately following the July 15, 2010 Case Management Conference, contact was made with Justice Robie's Clerk, Malinda Moore. We were initially advised that Justice Robie would be available for mediation on August 11, 24 and 25. Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 40, Littlerock Creek Irrigation District and the City of Los Angeles have indicated their willingness to participate. Thereafter, on July 19, 2010, Ms. Moore advised my office and others that Justice Robie is not available August 11. The mediation, therefore, was set August 24 and 25 (if necessary) in Sacramento, California.

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

Executed on this 20th of July, 2010, at Costa Mesa, California.

DOUGLAS J. EVERTZ

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1	PROOF OF SERVICE		
2	ANTELOPE VALLEY GROUNDWATER CASES Judicial Council Coordination, Proceeding No. 4408		
3 4 5	Santa Clara Case No. 1-05-CV 049053 Assigned to the Honorable Jack Komar Los Angeles County Superior Court, Central, Dept. 1		
6 7	I am a resident of the State of California, over 18 years of age and not a party to this action. am employed in the County of Orange, State of California. My business address is 650 Town Cente Drive, Suite 550, Costa Mesa, California 92626. On July 26, 2010, I served the within document(s):		
8   9	EX PARTE APPLICATION OF "MOVING PRINCIPALS" FOR CONTINUANCE OF TRIAL; DECLARATION OF DOUGLAS J. EVERTZ IN SUPPORT OF APPLICATION		
0 1 2	by posting the document(s) listed above to the website <a href="http://www.scefiling.org">http://www.scefiling.org</a> , a dedicated link to the Antelope Valley Groundwater Cases; Santa Clara Case No. 1-05-CV 049053, Assigned to the Honorable Jack Komar, said document(s) is electronically served/distributed therewith.		
3	By transmitting via e-mail the document(s) listed above to the e-mail address(es) and/or fax number(s) set forth below on this date.		
4 5	by placing the document(s) listed above in a sealed Overnite Express envelope/package for overnight delivery at Irvine, California addressed as set forth below.		
6 7	by causing personal delivery by Nationwide Legal of the document(s) listed above, to the person(s) at the address(es) set forth below.		
8 9 0 1	I am readily familiar with Murphy & Evertz, LLP's practice for collecting and processing correspondence for mailing. Under that practice it would be deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on the same day that the correspondence is placed for collection and mailing, it is deposited in the ordinary course of business with the United States Postal Service, in a sealed envelope with postage fully prepaid.		
2   3	I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing true and correct.		
4	Executed on July 26, 2010, at Costa Mesa, California.		
5			
6	LORIN MORENO		
7			
8			
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PROOF OF SERVICE