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|---------------|--|---|
| 6<br>7        | Attorneys for Plaintiffs/Defend<br>Properties, LLC and Wm. Bolthouse   |   |
| 8             | SUPERIOR COURT   | OF CALIFORNIA   |
| 9             | COUNTY OF S  | SANTA CLARA   |
| 10            | * *  | · *   |
| 11            | COORDINATION PROCEEDING )  | Judicial Council Coordination Proceeding No. 4408           |
| 12            | )  | CASE NO. 1-05-CV-409053                                     |
| 13            | CASES )  | CASE NO. 1 03 CV 403033                                     |
| 14            | INCLUDED ACTIONS:  | BOLTHOUSE PROPERTIES, LLC'S AND WM. BOLTHOUSE FARMS, INC.'S |
| 15            | LOS ANGELES COUNTY WATERWORKS ) DISTRICT NO. 40 v. DIAMOND )   | OPPOSITION TO MOTION FOR                                    |
| 16            |  | LITTLEROCK CREEK IRRIGATION                                 |
| 17            | Case No. BC325201  | DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA SERVICE WATER COMPANY, CITY OF         |
| 18            | LOS ANGELES COUNTY WATERWORKS ) DISTRICT NO. 40 v. DIAMOND )   | LANCASTER, PALMDALE WATER                                   |
| 19            | ·  | DISTRICT  |
| 20            | Case No. S-1500-CV-254348  |   |
| 21            | DIAMOND FARMING COMPANY, and ) W.M. BOLTHOUSE FARMS, INC., v. )  |   |
| 22            | CITY OF LANCASTER, et al., () Riverside Superior Court ()  | DATE: OCTOBER 16, 2007                                      |
| 23            | Case No. RIC 344436 [c/w case )   no. RIC 344668 and 353840]   |   |
| 24            | 10. Ric 344000 and 333040]   | DEI. I  |
| 25            |  |   |
| 26            |  | )<br>)  |

#### I. INTRODUCTION

In this litigation, each Water Purveyor has alleged a claim of prescriptive rights in Bolthouse property and that of all named parties as well as all overlying property owners within the established jurisdictional boundary. On December 2, 2005, at the scheduled Case Management Conference, counsel for Diamond Farming specifically asked this court if there was any prohibition against initiating discovery. This court affirmed that there was no problem. (See Declaration of Bob H. Joyce in Support of this Opposition and Exhibit "A" thereto.) On December 2, 2005, none of the Water Purveyors objected and none sought to then limit Thereafter, on May 22, 2007, the public water suppliers (including all of the moving parties herein) collectively served a First Set of Special Interrogatories. Responses to that discovery were propounded.

On August 15, 2007, Bolthouse Properties, LLC and Wm. Bolthouse Farms, Inc. (collectively "Bolthouse") served its Request for Admissions [Set One], Form Interrogatories [Set One], Special Interrogatories [Set One], and Request for Production of documents [Set One]. On September 14, 2007, Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 40 and Rosamond Community Services District served objections to each separate Request for Admission, Special Interrogatory and Request for Production of Documents, with the exception of a handful of responses. The same repeated objection consisted of the following response:

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"Objection. The request is premature, burdensome and oppressive. This request seeks information concerning defendant class members and the court has not yet completed its defendant class certification process."

The remaining moving parties herein, did not provide any responses to Bolthouse's Request for Admissions [Set One], Form Interrogatories [Set One], Special Interrogatories [Set One], and Request for Production of documents [Set One], but brought the instant motion.

The moving parties now concede that the discovery is both material and relevant. "The Water Purveyors do not contest the landowner's rights to this information." (See Motion, p. 6, lines 9-10.)

On September 13, 2007, the present motion seeking protective order was filed by LITTLEROCK CREEK IRRIGATION DISTRICT, PALM RANCH IRRIGATION DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA SERVICE WATER COMPANY, CITY OF LANCASTER, PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT AND QUARTZ HILL WATER DISTRICT(collectively "Water Purveyors"). focus of this motion is admittedly not on the content of the the discovery sought as Water Purveyors admit that the information is relevant to the action and that Bolthouse is entitled to the information. 1 Nonetheless, they have filed this belated motion unjustly seeking a court order to limit the ability of the landowners to conduct discovery while retaining their own discovery rights. (See Motion, p. 7, line 1-4.)

As set forth below, this motion filed by the Water Purveyors  $% \left( 1\right) =\left( 1\right) +\left( 1\right$ 

The Water Purveyors do not contest the landowner's right to this information. The

1 must be denied as it is untimely and does not comport with the 2 Code of Civil Procedure. The delay has prejudiced Bolthouse. 3 Granting any part of this motion would be unjust and prejudicial to the overlying landowner's rights in this case. 4 The order sought would not advance the objectives of complex 6 litigation procedures and this court's management of this case, 7 but would retard and delay pretrial resolution of issues. "The complex litigation procedure is intended to 8 facilitate pretrial resolution of evidentiary and other 9

issues, and to minimize the time and expense of lengthy or multiple trials. [Citations.]" (Rutherford v. Owens-Illinois (1997) 16 Cal.4<sup>th</sup> 952,967.)

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"The purposes of California's discovery statutes are well known. They are intended, among other things, to the parties and the trier of ascertaining the truth; to encourage settlement by educating the parties as to the strengths of their and defenses; to expedite and facilitate preparation and trial; to prevent delay; safeguard against surprise." (Beverly Hosp. Superior Court (1993) 19 Cal. App. 4<sup>th</sup> 1289, 1294.)

If, and to the extent, this court grants any part of this motion, Bolthouse requests that it only be granted as to the moving parties herein and that any party who is not a moving party remain subject to the discovery pursuant to the Code of Civil Procedure.

#### II. ARGUMENT

# The Water Purveyors' Motion Seeking A Protective Order Is Untimely

The timing limitations for the filing of a Motion for

Water Purveyors agree that this information should be provided fully and fairly at the appropriate time." (See Motion, P. 6, Lines 9-10.)

Protective Order is governed by multiple statutes<sup>2</sup> all of which reiterate the same basic rule:

"When [discovery has been served], the responding party may promptly move for a protective order. This motion shall be accompanied by a meet and confer declaration under Section 2016.040 . . . . The court, for good cause shown, may make any order that justice requires to protect any party from unwarranted annoyance, embarrassment, oppression, or undue burden and expense."

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The word "promptly" is not specifically defined in the statute but, has a well-established meaning in common parlance. The dictionary defines it as "1. Being ready and quick to act as occasion demands; 2. performed readily or immediately." (Merriam-Websters Collegiate Dictionary 10<sup>th</sup> Edition (1993).) The evidence that is before the court shows that the moving parties were anything but prompt. They did not raise the issue or object at the Case Management Conference on December 2, 2005. They did not move for a protective order when served with the discovery.

The prompt requirement set forth in the statute is designed to balance the statutory burdens placed on the parties. When a party is commanded to promptly move for a protective order, the burden is on that party to show good cause as to why the propounding parties discovery should be denied. (Southern California Edison Co. v. Superior Court of Los Angeles County (1972) 7 Cal.3d 832, 843.) Under this statutory scheme, the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Code of Civil Procedure, Sections 2017.020, 2019.030, 2030.090, 2031.060 and 2033.080

responding party can shift that burden of foregoing the protections afforded by the motion for protective order and assert objections to the discovery. When, as in this case, the party seeking to deny another's rights to discovery, elects to wait the statutory time frame for the response, it has thereafter waived its rights to bring that motion. This is borne out by the fact that once a party's deadline to act has expired, they cannot thereafter seek court intervention to have the expired date extended. (People v. Am. Sur. Ins. Co. (1999) 75 Cal.App.4<sup>th</sup> 719, 727.)

"Common sense compels the conclusion that a trial court cannot extend a time period that has already expired. We must use common sense when construing a statute." (Id.)

Under the statutory scheme, this motion should have been made after the discovery was served. (This is especially true when the discovery is conceded to be both material and relevant.)

# B. The Motion Fails To State The Elements Required To Grant A Protective Order

In order for this court to exercise its discretion and make a protective order, this court must first find that the Water Purveyors have shown good cause for the order and that the discovery propounded constitutes an "unwarranted annoyance, embarrassment, or oppression, or undue burden and expense."

Neither of these elements have been shown in the moving papers.

#### 1. Good Cause

The element of "good cause" is required by each and every

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24 25 26 discovery statute governing the issuance of protective orders. (See Code of Civil Procedure, Sections 2030.090, 2031.060 and 2033.080.) The burden of showing "good cause" for a protective order rests on the party seeking to deny the other's discovery right. (Southern California Edison Co. v. Superior Court of Los Angeles County, supra, 7 Cal.3d, at p. 843.)

"[G]ood cause which must be shown should be such that will satisfy an impartial tribunal that the request may be granted without abuse of the inherent rights of the adversary." (Greyhound Corp. v. Superior Court of Merced County (1961) 56 Cal.2d 355, 388.)

Despite being a required element, the Water Purveyors do not address "good cause" in their moving papers. To the extent it can be argued that the Water Purveyors have inferentially made a case for "good cause" they have intermingled their arguments with the second required element, that the discovery constitutes an "unwarranted annoyance, embarrassment, or oppression, or undue burden and expense." These arguments however fall short of the pleading and proof required to grant the relief sought by their motion.

2) Water Purveyors Show That The Have Failed To Discovery Constitutes An "Unwarranted, Bolthouse's Annoyance, Embarrassment, Or Opression, Or Undue Burden and Expense"

waiting the statutory time and then responding to Bolthouse's discovery, the Water Purveyors have created a situation where they have limited the basis upon which they can contest the discovery. Ιt has been a long understood interpretation of the discovery statutes that a party's failure to assert an objection to discovery within the time provided by the statutes ordinarily results in a waiver of his right to assert that objection. (Willis v. Superior Court (1980) 112 Cal.App.3d 277, 289 fn. 3.) As quoted above, the Water Purveyors raised only two objections that may be considered, those are burden and oppression. All other objections are waived including the now asserted relevance claim asserted in Part B of the motion.

"There is no provision for the subsequent filing of objections. . . . it could not, in the absence of a showing of good cause for relief from default, file further objections. It follows that the only grounds that existed at the time the trial court made its order, and on which it could then predicate the same, were the grounds stated in Pacific's objections as originally filed." (Coy v. Superior Court of Contra Costa County (1962) 58 Cal.2d 210, 217.)

While this case discusses the statutory language of the Discovery Statutes prior to the most recent amendments, its rule still holds true today. The Water Purveyors waived any objection to this discovery not asserted in their original responses, therefore only the objections of burden and oppression will be addressed.

### a. Burden

The Water Purveyors inferentially argue that the discovery creates an undue burden on them because the information sought is voluminous and not "directly" relevant to what they perceive to be the current phase of the trial. This is an improper standard to evaluate burden.

"[S]ome burden is inherent in all demands for

discovery. The objection of burden is valid only when that burden is demonstrated to result in injustice. Hence, the trial court is not empowered to sustain an objection in toto, when the same is predicated upon burden, unless such is the only method of rendering substantial justice." (West Pico Furniture Co. v. Superior Court of Los Angeles County (1961) 56 Cal.2d 407, 418.)

"The fact alone that the response to an interrogatory may be expensive and burdensome does not justify a refusal to answer." (Alpine Mut. Water Co. v. Superior Court of Ventura County (1968) 259 Cal.App.2d 45, 55.)

The Water Purveyors cannot show that the discovery would result in injustice. They have conceded its relevancy. The Water Purveyors have delayed bringing this motion. The Water Purveyors concede that Bolthouse is entitled to this information sought. Bolthouse does not object to a reasonable time within which to provide the discovery responses, and a reasonable time should be provided so long as a date certain is set.

The Water Purveyors' relevance argument was waived, contradicts the concession of relevancy, and is a misstatement of the discovery statutes and should therefore be ignored. *Code of Civil Procedure*, *Section 2017.010* provides as follows:

"Unless otherwise limited by order of the court in accordance with this title, any party may obtain discovery regarding any matter, not privileged, that is relevant to the subject matter involved in the pending action or to the determination of any motion made in that action, if the matter either is itself admissible in evidence or appears reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence. Discovery may relate to the claim or defense of the party seeking discovery or of any other party to the action . . . "

Bolthouse's discovery is conceded to be relevant to the subject matter. Depending on the responses provided by the Water

Purveyors, Bolthouse may seek to de-certify the now certified class. Bolthouse intends to seek a summary adjudication of the prescription claims asserted. Staying this discovery until the prescription issue is set for trial will delay and prejudice Bolthouse's rights to bring these motions.

"Good cause for disclosure might be a party's inability to prepare its claim or defense because he cannot obtain the information elsewhere." (Hernandez v. Superior Court (2003) 112 Cal.App.4<sup>th</sup> 285, 298.)

### b. Oppression

The Water Purveyors have failed to provide the court with any evidence upon which a finding of oppression can be made.

"[T]o support an objection of oppression there must be some showing either of an intent to create an unreasonable burden or that the ultimate effect of the burden is incommensurate with the result sought." (West Pico Furniture Co. v. Superior Court of Los Angeles County (1961) 56 Cal.2d 407, 417.)

The Water Purveyors have made no showing of an ill intent by Bolthouse. On the contrary, the Water Purveyors acknowledge that the discovery seeks information to which Bolthouse is entitled. Bolthouse's offer to reasonably extend the time to respond confirms there was no ill intent.

"While it is true that the trial court has a broad discretion in passing on an objection that there has been harassment and oppression (Cembrook v Superior Court, 56 Cal.2d 423, 427), such discretion is not absolute. As was said in Cembrook, such discretion does not authorize the trial court "to make blanket orders barring disclosure in toto when the factual situation indicates that a just and equitable order could be made that would authorize disclosure with limitations." (Coy v. Superior Court of Contra Costa County (1962) 58 Cal.2d 210, 221-222.)

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# C. While The Court Has The Discretion To Manage Discovery In Complex Cases, That Discretion Is Not Unlimited

The Public Water Purveyors focus the premise of their motion on the discretion granted a court in complex litigation to manage the case. From this assertion the Public Water Purveyors then make the illogical inference that this discretion allows the court to ignore a statutory scheme and make any order requested. This claim is contrary to the intent and objective of the complex litigation rules.

"The complex litigation procedure is intended to facilitate pretrial resolution of evidentiary and other issues, and to minimize the time and expense of lengthy or multiple trials. [Citations.]" (Rutherford v. Owens-Illinois (1997) 16 Cal.4<sup>th</sup> 953, 967.)

To delay the time for responses to the discovery will hinder not further these objectives. The Public Water Purveyors cite to several cases that cite, the now repealed, subsection (f) of Standards of Judicial Administration \$19. The Public Water Purveyors loose interpretation of these cases attempts to mislead the court and overstate the court's discretionary decision making powers.

The current version of *Standard 3.10* provides, in pertinent party:

- "(a) Judicial management. In complex litigation, judicial management should begin early and be applied continuously and actively, based on knowledge of the circumstances of each case . . .
- "(d) **Establishing time limits**. Time limits should be regularly used to expedite major phases of complex litigation. Time limits should be established early, tailored to the circumstances of each case, firmly and

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"expedite" not delay the litigation.

This court has held multiple case management conferences in which the Public Water Purveyors have participated and submitted proposed orders. They have not previously requested that this court set a discovery schedule. When the issue of discovery was specifically raised by counsel for Diamond during the December 20065 Case Management Conference, they did not then, or any time thereafter, request that the court limit or establish a discovery schedule. The discovery process to date has been governed by the

The court's discretion is further limited when there is a procedure set forth in a statute or rule of court. The Supreme

procedures specified in the Code of Civil Procedure.

 $<sup>^3</sup>$  Prior to January 1, 2007, the pronouncement in Rule 3.541(a) was apart of the judicial standard Section 19 lettered as subdivision (e).

#### Court has stated:

"Courts have inherent power, as well as power under section 187 of the Code of Civil Procedure, to adopt any suitable method of practice, both in ordinary actions and special proceedings, if the procedure is not specified by statute or by rules adopted by the Judicial Council." (Citizens Utilities Co. v. Superior Court of Santa Cruz County (1963) 59 Cal.2d 805, 813; See also Rutherford v. Owens-Illinois, supra, 16 Cal.4<sup>th</sup> at p. 967.)

The discovery act is generally viewed as comprehensive and exclusive. (Zellerino v. Brown (1991) 235 Cal.App.3d 1097, 1104.) The time limits for the filing of this Motion for a Protective Order are set forth in the discovery act. None of the authority cited by the Public Water Purveyors suggest that this court should, through discretion, ignore the "promptly" time limit set forth in the Code. The exercise of the court's discretion to grant the relief sought is not unlimited and must be exercised with reason.

In Greyhound Corp. v. Superior Court (1961) 56 Cal.2d 344, the Supreme Court set forth the correct test to be employed in properly allocating the burden of discovery between the parties. The Greyhound court stated:

"To constitute a proper exercise of discretion, the factual determination of the trial court should clearly and unequivocally be based upon the following legal concepts:

- "1. The legislative purposes above set forth are not to be subverted under the guise of the exercise of discretion;
- "2. Those purposes are to be given effect rather than thwarted, to the end that discovery is encouraged;
- "3. When disputed facts provide a basis for the

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"The purposes of California's discovery statutes are well known. They are intended, among other things, to assist the parties and the trier of fact in ascertaining the truth; to encourage settlement by educating the parties as to the strengths of their claims and defenses; to expedite and facilitate preparation and trial; to prevent delay; and to safeguard against surprise." (Beverly Hosp. v. Superior Court (1993) 19 Cal.App.4<sup>th</sup> 1289, 1294.)

It would also be counterproductive to the stated goal of expediting complex litigation to allow the Public Water Purveyors' delay and thus evade responding to the discovery.

## III. CONCLUSION

"The complex litigation procedure is intended to facilitate pretrial resolution of evidentiary and other issues, and to minimize the time and expense of lengthy or multiple trials. [Citations.]" (Rutherford v. Owens-Illinois (1997) 16 Cal.4 $^{\rm th}$  953, 967.)

The exercise of discretion must strive to "expedite" not delay complex litigation. As conceded, "The Water Purveyors do not contest the landowner's right to this information. The Water Purveyors agree that this information should be provided fully and fairly at the appropriate time. The Water Purveyors contemplate propounding responses to this discovery as instructed by the court." (Motion, p. 6, lines 9-12.) The only issue raised by the Motion is: When must the responses to the discovery be served?

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| 1  | This court should set a date certain within which the Water |
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| 2  | Purveyors must "fully and fairly" provide responses.        |
| 3  | DATED: October 8, 2007 CLIFFORD & BROWN                     |
| 4  |   |
| 5  | By:   |
| 6  | RICHARD G. ZIMMER, ESQ.<br>T. MARK SMITH, ESQ.              |
| 7  | Attorneys for Plaintiffs/ Defendants/Cross-Defendants,      |
| 8  | Bolthouse Properties, LLC and Wm. Bolthouse Farms, Inc.     |
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| 1  | PROOF OF SERVICE (C.C.P. §1013a, 2015.5)   |  |
|----|--|--|
| 2  | Antelope Valley Groundwater Cases  Judicial Counsel Coordination Proceeding No. 4408   |  |
| 3  | Santa Clara County Superior Court Case No. 1-05-CV-049053  |  |
| 4  | I am employed in the County of Kern, State of California. I am over the age of 18 and not a  |  |
| 5  | party to the within action; my business address is 1430 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93301.   |  |
| 6  | On October 9, 2007, I served the foregoing document(s) entitled:   |  |
| 7  | BOLTHOUSE PROPERTIES, LLC'S AND WM. BOLTHOUSE FARMS, INC.'S OPPOSITION TO MOTION FOR PROTECTIVE ORDER FILED BY LITTLEROCK  |  |
| 8  | CREEK IRRIGATION DISTRICT, PALM RANCH IRRIGATION DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA SERVICE WATER COMPANY, CITY OF LANCASTER, PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT AND QUARTZ HILL WATER DISTRICT |  |
| 9  |  |  |
| 10 | by placing the true copies thereof enclosed in sealed envelopes addressed as stated on the attached mailing list.  |  |
| 11 | by placing _ the original, _ a true copy thereof, enclosed in a sealed   |  |
| 12 | enveloped addressed as follows:  |  |
| 13 | X BY SANTA CLARA SUPERIOR COURT E-FILING IN COMPLEX  |  |
| 14 | LITIGATION PURSUANT TO CLARIFICATION ORDER DATED OCTOBER 27, 2005.   |  |
| 15 | Expansion on October 0, 2007, at Balance and California  |  |
| 16 | Executed on October 9, 2007, at Bakersfield, California.   |  |
| 17 | X (State) I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the above is true and correct.   |  |
| 18 | (Federal) I declare that I am employed in the office of a member of the Bar of   |  |
| 19 | this Court at whose direction the service was made.  |  |
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