

1 Manuel Rivas, Jr., State Bar No. 161236  
2 [INSERT NAME OF PARTY OR ATTORNEY]

3 Friedland, Rivas & Associates

4 225 Bush Street, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor

5 San Francisco, CA 94104

6 Telephone No. : (415) 439-8874

7 Facsimile No. : (415) 439-8347

8 E-mail Address: rivas@friedlandrivas.com  
9 [Insert address, phone number, fax number, and e-  
10 mail address]

11 Attorney for Elias Garmout

12 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

13 COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

14 **ANTELOPE VALLEY**  
15 **GROUNDWATER CASES**

16 **Included Actions:**

17 Los Angeles County Waterworks District  
18 No. 40 v. Diamond Farming Co.  
19 Los Angeles County Superior Court  
20 Case No. BC 325201

21 Los Angeles County Waterworks District  
22 No. 40 v. Diamond Farming Co.  
23 Kern County Superior Court  
24 Case No. S-1500-CV-254-348

25 Wm. Bolthouse Farms, Inc. v. City of  
26 Lancaster, Diamond Farming Co. v. City of  
27 Lancaster, Diamond Farming Co. v.  
28 Palmdale Water Dist.  
Riverside County Superior Court  
Consolidated actions  
Case Nos. RIC 353 840, RIC 344 436, RIC  
344 668

Judicial Council Coordination No. 4408

For filing purposes only:  
Santa Clara County Case No. 1-05-CV-049053

Assigned to The Honorable Jack Komar

**MODEL ANSWER TO COMPLAINT AND  
ALL CROSS-COMPLAINTS**

, Elias Carmest,

I hereby answer the Complaint and all Cross-Complaints which have been filed as of this date, specifically those of Antelope Valley East-Kern Water Agency, Palmdale Water District & Quartz Hill Water District, Rosamond Community Services District and Waterworks District No. 40 of Los Angeles County. I do not intend to participate at trial or other proceedings unless ordered by the Court to do so, but I reserve the right to do so upon giving written notice to that effect to the Court and all parties. I own the following property(ies) located in the Antelope Valley:

APN # 3263002001

[Insert address and/or APN Number]

### **GENERAL DENIAL**

1. Pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure section 431.30(d), Defendant and Cross-Defendant hereby generally denies each and every allegation set forth in the Complaint and Cross-Complaint, and the whole thereof, and further denies that Plaintiff and Cross-Complainant are entitled to any relief against Defendant and Cross-Defendant.

### **AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES**

#### **First Affirmative Defense**

(Failure to State a Cause of Action)

2. The Complaint and Cross-Complaint and every purported cause of action contained therein fail to allege facts sufficient to constitute a cause of action against Defendant and Cross-Defendant.

#### **Second Affirmative Defense**

(Statute of Limitation)

3. Each and every cause of action contained in the Complaint and Cross-Complaint is barred, in whole or in part, by the applicable statutes of limitation, including, but not limited to, sections 318, 319, 321, 338, and 343 of the California Code of Civil Procedure.



1 Complaint.

2 **Ninth Affirmative Defense**

3 10. The prescriptive claims asserted by governmental entity Cross-Complainants are  
4 *ultra vires* and exceed the statutory authority by which each entity may acquire property as set  
5 forth in Water Code sections 22456, 31040 and 55370.

6 **Tenth Affirmative Defense**

7 11. The prescriptive claims asserted by governmental entity Cross-Complainants are  
8 barred by the provisions of Article 1 Section 19 of the California Constitution.

9 **Eleventh Affirmative Defense**

10 12. The prescriptive claims asserted by governmental entity Cross-Complainants are  
11 barred by the provisions of the 5<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the United States Constitution as applied to the  
12 states under the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment of the United States Constitution.

13 **Twelfth Affirmative Defense**

14 13. Cross-Complainants' prescriptive claims are barred due to their failure to take  
15 affirmative steps that were reasonably calculated and intended to inform each overlying  
16 landowner of cross-complainants' adverse and hostile claim as required by the due process clause  
17 of the 5<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Amendments of the United States Constitution.

18 **Thirteenth Affirmative Defense**

19 14. The prescriptive claims asserted by governmental entity Cross-Complainants are  
20 barred by the provisions of Article 1 Section 7 of the California Constitution.

21 **Fourteenth Affirmative Defense**

22 15. The prescriptive claims asserted by governmental entity Cross-Complainants are  
23 barred by the provisions of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the United States Constitution.

24 **Fifteenth Affirmative Defense**

25 16. The governmental entity Cross-Complainants were permissively pumping at all  
26 times.

27 **Sixteenth Affirmative Defense**

28 17. The request for the court to use its injunctive powers to impose a physical solution

1 water right priorities and water usage within the Antelope Valley will be *ultra vires* as it will be  
2 subverting the pre-project legislative requirements and protections of California's Environmental  
3 Quality Act (CEQA) (Pub.Res.C. 2100 *et seq.*).  
4

5 **WHEREFORE**, Defendant and Cross-defendant prays that judgment be entered as  
6 follows:

- 7 1. That Plaintiff and Cross-Complainant take nothing by reason of its Complaint or  
8 Cross-Complaint;  
9 2. That the Complaint and Cross-Complaints be dismissed with prejudice;  
10 3. For Defendant and Cross-Defendant's costs incurred herein; and  
11 4. For such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.  
12

13 Dated: December 22, 2006

Signature

Manuel Rivas, Jr., Attorney for Elias Cermeno  
[Print name of party and/or attorney]

14  
15  
16  
17 [FILE IN LA SUPERIOR COURT AND POST ON COURT WEBSITE – FOR E-FILING  
18 INSTRUCTIONS, PLEASE GO TO WWW.SCEFILING.ORG/FAQ OR CONTACT GLOTRANS  
19 AT (510) 208-4775.]  
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21  
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24 ORANGE\JDUNN\32353.1  
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28

**PROOF OF SERVICE**

I, Kerry V. Keefe, declare:

I am a resident of the State of California and over the age of eighteen years, and not a party to the within action; my business address is Best Best & Krieger LLP, 5 Park Plaza, Suite 1500, Irvine, California 92614. On December 28, 2006, I served the within document(s):

**MODEL ANSWER TO COMPLAINT AND ALL CROSS-COMPLAINTS (Elias Qarmout)**

- ☒ by posting the document(s) listed above to the Santa Clara County Superior Court website in regard to the Antelope Valley Groundwater matter.
- ☐ by placing the document(s) listed above in a sealed envelope with postage thereon fully prepaid, in the United States mail at Irvine, California addressed as set forth below.
- ☐ by causing personal delivery by ASAP Corporate Services of the document(s) listed above to the person(s) at the address(es) set forth below.
- ☐ by personally delivering the document(s) listed above to the person(s) at the address(es) set forth below.
- ☐ I caused such envelope to be delivered via overnight delivery addressed as indicated on the attached service list. Such envelope was deposited for delivery by Federal Express following the firm's ordinary business practices.

I am readily familiar with the firm's practice of collection and processing correspondence for mailing. Under that practice it would be deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on that same day with postage thereon fully prepaid in the ordinary course of business. I am aware that on motion of the party served, service is presumed invalid if postal cancellation date or postage meter date is more than one day after date of deposit for mailing in affidavit.

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

Executed on December 28, 2006, at Irvine, California.

  
Kerry V. Keefe