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7 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
8 FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
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10 ANTELOPE VALLEY
11 GROUNDWATER CASES

JUDICIAL COUNCIL COORDINATION
PROCEEDING NO. 4408

12 This Pleading Relates to Included Action:
13 REBECCA LEE WILLIS, on behalf of
herself and all others similarly situated,

CASE NO. BC 364553

14 Plaintiff,

15 vs.

**~~PROPOSED~~ AMENDED FINAL
JUDGMENT APPROVING WILLIS
CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT**

16 LOS ANGELES COUNTY WATERWORKS
17 DISTRICT NO. 40; CITY OF LANCASTER;
18 CITY OF PALMDALE; PALMDALE
19 WATER DISTRICT; LITTLEROCK CREEK
20 IRRIGATION DISTRICT; PALM RANCH
21 IRRIGATION DISTRICT; QUARTZ HILL
WATER DISTRICT; ANTELOPE VALLEY
WATER CO.; ROSAMOND COMMUNITY
SERVICE DISTRICT; PHELAN PINON
HILL COMMUNITY SERVICE DISTRICT;
and DOES 1 through 1,000;

Date:
Time:
Dept:
Judge: Hon. Jack Komar
Coordination Trial Judge

22 Defendants.
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24 This matter has come before the Court on the Motion of Plaintiff Rebecca Lee Willis
25 (Willis) for Final Approval of the Proposed Class Action Settlement between and among
26 Rebecca Lee Willis and the Willis Class, on the one hand; and Los Angeles County Waterworks
27 District No. 40, City of Palmdale Water District, Littlerock Creek Irrigation District, Palm
28 Ranch Irrigation District, Quartz Hill Water District, California Water Service Company,

1 Rosamond Community Service District, Phelan Pinon Hills Community Services District,
2 Desert Lake Community Services District, and North Edwards Water District (collectively, the
3 “Settling Defendants”), on the other hand.

4 By Order dated November 18, 2010, this Court granted Plaintiff’s Motion for
5 Preliminary Approval of the Proposed Settlement of this action and directed the sending of
6 Notice to the Willis Class. After considering all arguments and submissions for and against
7 final approval of the proposed settlement, and being fully advised of the premises, **IT IS**
8 **HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED AS FOLLOWS, PURSUANT TO**
9 **SECTIONS 382 AND 664.6 OF THE CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE.**

10 1. For over 10 years, a number of actions have been pending in the Los Angeles
11 County Superior Court and other California courts seeking an adjudication of the various
12 parties’ respective rights to the groundwater underlying the Antelope Valley Groundwater Basin
13 (the “Basin”).

14 2. A number of cases raising such issues were coordinated by a July 11, 2005 order
15 of Judicial Council and assigned to the Honorable Jack Komar of the Superior Court for the
16 County of Santa Clara (the “Court”).

17 3. The Court held an initial phase of the trial on October 3006 with respect to the
18 boundaries of the Basin and issued an Order on November 3, 2006 defining the Basin for
19 purposes of the litigation.

20 4. The Willis Class Action was filed on or about January 11, 2007 to contest certain
21 public entities’ claims that those entities had obtained prescriptive rights to a portion of the
22 Basin’s groundwater. The Willis case was subsequently coordinated with the Coordinated
23 Cases.

24 5. By Order dated September 11, 2007, the Court certified the Willis Class. As
25 amended by Orders dated May 22, 2008 and September 2, 2008, the Willis Class is defined as
26 follows:
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1 "All private (i.e., non-governmental) persons and entities that own real property
2 within the Basin, as adjudicated, that are not presently pumping water on their
3 property and have not done so at any prior time ("the Class"). The Class
includes the successors-in-interest by way of purchase, gift, inheritance, or
otherwise of such landowners.

4 The Class excludes the defendants herein, any person, firm, trust,
5 corporation, or other entity with which any defendant has a controlling interest or
6 which is related to or affiliated with any of the defendants, and the
7 representatives, heirs, affiliates, successors-in-interest or assigns of any such
8 excluded party. The Class also excludes all persons to the extent their properties
are connected and receive service from a municipal water system, public utility,
9 or mutual water company. The Class shall [further] exclude Kern County
Assessor's' office, unless the owners of such properties declare under penalty of
perjury that they do not pump and have never pumped water on those
properties."

10 6. Notice of the Pendency of this action was sent to the Willis Class in or about
11 January 1, 2009 and the opt-out period (as extended) expired on August 30, 2009. Certain
12 persons who opted out were subsequently permitted to rejoin the Class.

13 7. The persons listed on Exhibit 1 hereto validly excluded themselves from the
14 Class in accordance with this Court's prior Orders (and have not re-joined the Class) and are not
15 bound by the Settlement or this Judgment.

16 8. Counsel for the Willis Class engaged in settlement discussions with Defendants'
17 counsel during mid 2009. On September 2, 2009, counsel participated in mediation session
18 before the Honorable Ronald Robie. That mediation resulted in an agreement in principle
19 among counsel for the Settling Parties to settle the litigation between and among their respective
20 clients, subject to appropriate approvals.

21 9. By Order dated October 28, 2009, the Court stated its intent to consolidate the
22 various Actions that were coordinated as part of JCCP No. 4408, including the Willis action.
23 On February 19, 2010, the Court entered an Order Transferring and Consolidating [the
24 Coordinated] Actions for All Purposes. As provided in the Consolidation Order, this Final
25 Judgment shall not be construed to prejudice the rights of any of the Non-Settling Parties in the
26 Consolidated Actions nor shall it prejudice the claims and defenses that the Settling Parties may
27 assert with respect to such Non-Settling Parties.

28 10. By Order dated November 18, 2010, this Court granted preliminary approval to

1 the proposed settlement of this action and directed that Notice of the Proposed Settlement be
2 sent to the Class.

3 11. Notice of the Proposed Settlement has been sent to the Willis Class by first class
4 mail in accordance with the Court's Preliminary Approval Order. Such Notice fully and
5 accurately informed the Class of all material terms of the proposed settlement and the
6 opportunity to object to or comment on the Settlement. The Notice was given in an adequate
7 and sufficient manner, constituted the best notice practicable under the circumstances, and
8 satisfied due process.

9 12. The Settling Parties and each class member have irrevocably submitted to the
10 jurisdiction of this Court for any suit, action, proceeding or dispute arising out of the Settlement
11 Agreement.

12 13. It is in the best interest of the parties and the Class Members and consistent with
13 principles of judicial economy that any dispute between any class member (including any
14 dispute as to whether any person is a class member) and any Settling Defendant which is in any
15 way related to the applicability or scope of the Settlement Agreement or the Final Judgment
16 should be presented to this Court for resolution.

17 14. The Stipulation of Settlement submitted by the Settling Parties is hereby finally
18 approved as fair, reasonable, and in the best interests of the Class, and the parties are directed to
19 consummate the Settlement in accordance with its terms.

20 15. The Complaint in the Willis Action shall be deemed dismissed with prejudice as
21 soon as the Final Judgment becomes effective under the terms of the Settlement Stipulation.

22 16. For purposes of this Final Judgment, "Released Parties" means Plaintiff Rebecca
23 Lee Willis and the Willis Class, as well as Defendants Los Angeles County Waterworks District
24 No. 40; The City of Palmdale; Palmdale Water District; Littlerock Creek Irrigation District;
25 Palm Ranch Irrigation District; Quartz Hill Water District; California Water Service Company;
26 Rosamond Community Services District; Phelan Pinon Hills Community Services District;
27 Desert Lake Community Services District; and North Edwards Water District.

28 17. The Court hereby orders that the Released Parties are released and forever

1 discharged from the Released Claims as more specifically provided in the Stipulation of
2 Settlement.

3 18. The Class members and their heirs, executors, administrators, successors, and
4 assigns are hereby permanently barred and enjoined from instituting, commencing, prosecuting,
5 or continuing to prosecute, either directly or indirectly, any Released Claim against any of the
6 Released Parties in any form, other than claims to enforce the terms of the Settlement. Each
7 Class member may hereafter discover facts other than or different from those which he or she
8 knows or believes to be true with respect to the Released Claims. Nevertheless, each member of
9 the Class (except those who timely opted out) waive and fully, finally and forever settle and
10 release, upon the Settlement Agreement becoming final, any known or unknown, suspected or
11 unsuspected, contingent or noncontingent Released Claim, whether or not concealed or hidden,
12 without regard to the subsequent discovery or existence of such different or additional facts.

13 19. The Settling Defendants and their heirs, executors, administrators, successors,
14 and assigns are hereby permanently barred and enjoined from instituting, commencing,
15 prosecuting, or continuing to prosecute, either directly or indirectly, any Released Claim against
16 any of the Class Members in any forum, other than claims to enforce the terms of the
17 Settlement. Each Settling Defendant may hereafter discover facts other than or different from
18 those which he or she knows or believes to be true with respect to the Released Claims.
19 Nevertheless, each Settling Defendant waives and fully, finally and forever settles and releases,
20 upon the Settlement Agreement becoming final, any known or unknown, suspected or
21 unsuspected, contingent or noncontingent Released Claim, whether or not concealed or hidden,
22 without regard to the subsequent discovery or existence of such different or additional facts.

23 20. Without affecting the finality of this Judgment, the Court hereby reserves and
24 retains jurisdiction over this Settlement, including the administration and consummation of the
25 Settlement, as well as any action or proceeding brought to enforce the Settlement. In addition,
26 without affecting the finality of this Judgment, the Court retains jurisdiction over the Parties for
27 purposes of incorporating and merging this Judgment into a physical solution or other Judgment
28 that may ultimately be entered in the Consolidated Actions. The Settling Parties are hereby

1 deemed to have submitted irrevocably to the exclusive jurisdiction of this Court for any suit,
2 action, proceeding or dispute arising out of or relating to this Judgment or the Settlement.

3 21. The Court after considering the pleadings on file herein, and the arguments of
4 counsel, awards the Willis Class attorneys fees in the amount of \$1,839,494, an incentive award
5 for Ms. Rebecca Willis in the amount of \$10,000, costs in the amount of \$65,057.68, and
6 supplemental attorneys fees in the amount of \$160,622.50. Judgment in the amount of
7 \$2,075,174.18 is hereby entered for the Willis Class against Los Angeles County Waterworks
8 District No. 40, City of Palmdale, Palmdale Water District, Littlerock Creek Irrigation District,
9 Palm Ranch Irrigation District, Quartz Hill Water District, California Water Service Company,
10 Rosamond Community Service District, Phelan Pinon Hills Community Services District,
11 Desert Lake Community Services District, and North Edwards Water District.

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14 Dated:

Judge of the Superior Court
Honorable Jack Komar

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