

SEP 29 2015 ✓

Sherri R. Carter, Executive Officer/Clerk
By A. Barton Deputy
A. Barton

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

**ANTELOPE VALLEY
GROUNDWATER CASES**

) JUDICIAL COUNCIL COORDINATION
) PROCEEDING NO. 4408
)

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

) CASE NO. BC 364553
)
)

Plaintiff,

vs.

) **[PROPOSED] SECOND AMENDED FINAL**
) **JUDGMENT APPROVING WILLIS**
) **CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT**

LOS ANGELES COUNTY WATERWORKS)
DISTRICT NO. 40; CITY OF LANCASTER;)
CITY OF PALMDALE; PALMDALE)
WATER DISTRICT; LITTLEROCK CREEK)
IRRIGATION DISTRICT; PALM RANCH)
IRRIGATION DISTRICT; QUARTZ HILL)
WATER DISTRICT; ANTELOPE VALLEY)
WATER CO.; ROSAMOND COMMUNITY)
SERVICE DISTRICT; and DOES 1 through)
1,000;

) DOCUMENT FILED NUNC PRO TUNC
) AS OF SEPTEMBER 22, 2011
)

Defendants.

) Judge: Hon. Jack Komar
) Coordination Trial Judge
)

This matter has come before the Court on the Motion of Plaintiff Rebecca Lee Willis
(Willis) for Final Approval of the Proposed Class Action Settlement between and among
Rebecca Lee Willis and the Willis Class, on the one hand; and Los Angeles County Waterworks
District No. 40, City of Palmdale Water District, Littlerock Creek Irrigation District, Palm
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

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

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

18 3. The Court held an initial phase of trial on October 2006 with respect to the
19 boundaries of the Basin and issued an Order on November 3, 2006 defining the Basin for
20 purposes of the litigation.
21

22 4. The Willis Class Action was filed on or about January 11, 2007 to contest certain
23 public entities' claims that those entities had obtained prescriptive rights to a portion of the
24 Basin's groundwater. The Willis case was subsequently coordinated with the Coordinated
25 Cases.
26

27 5. By Order dated September 11, 2007, the Court certified the Willis Class. As
28

1 amended by Orders dated May 22, 2008 and September 2, 2008, the Willis Class is defined as
2 follows:

3 "All private (i.e., non-governmental) persons and entities that own real
4 property within the Basin, as adjudicated, that are not presently pumping
5 water on their property and have not done so at any prior time ("the Class").
6 The Class includes the successors-in-interest by way of purchase, gift,
inheritance, or otherwise of such landowners.

7 The Class excludes the defendants herein, any person, firm, trust,
8 corporation, or other entity with which any defendant has a controlling
9 interest or which is related to or affiliated with any of the defendants, and
10 the representatives, heirs, affiliates, successors-in-interest or assigns of any
11 such excluded party. The Class also excludes all persons to the extent their
12 properties are connected and receive service from a municipal water system,
13 public utility, or mutual water company. The Class shall [further] exclude
14 all property(ies) that are listed as 'improved' by Los Angeles or 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. The Class shall [further] exclude all persons to the extent they
own properties within the Basin on which they have pumped water at any
time."

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

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

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

26 9. By Order dated October 28, 2009, the Court stated its intent to consolidate the
27 various Actions that were coordinated as part of JCCP No. 4408, including the Willis action.

1 On February 19, 2010, the Court entered an Order Transferring and Consolidating [the
2 Coordinated] Actions for All Purposes. As provided in the Consolidation Order, this Final
3 Judgment shall not be construed to prejudice the rights of any of the Non-Settling Parties in the
4 Consolidated Actions nor shall it prejudice the claims and defenses that the Settling Parties may
5 assert with respect to such Non-Settling Parties.

6 10. By Order dated November 18, 2010, this Court granted preliminary approval to
7 the proposed settlement of this action and directed that Notice of the Proposed Settlement be sent
8 to the Class.

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

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

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

23 14. The Stipulation of Settlement submitted by the Settling Parties is hereby finally
24 approved as fair, reasonable, and in the best interests of the Class, and the parties are directed to
25 consummate the Settlement in accordance with its terms. A true and correct copy of the
26 Stipulation of Settlement is attached as Exhibit 2.

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

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

8 17. The Court hereby orders that the Released Parties are released and forever
9 discharged from the Released Claims as more specifically provided in the Stipulation of
10 Settlement.

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

21 19. The Settling Defendants and their heirs, executors, administrators, successors, and
22 assigns are hereby permanently barred and enjoined from instituting, commencing, prosecuting,
23 or continuing to prosecute, either directly or indirectly, any Released Claim against any of the
24 Class Members in any forum, other than claims to enforce the terms of the Settlement. Each
25 Settling Defendant may hereafter discover facts other than or different from those which he or
26 she knows or believes to be true with respect to the Released Claims. Nevertheless, each Settling
27 Defendant waives and fully, finally and forever settles and releases, upon the Settlement

1 Agreement becoming final, any known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected, contingent or
2 noncontingent Released Claim, whether or not concealed or hidden, without regard to the
3 subsequent discovery or existence of such different or additional facts.

4 20. Without affecting the finality of this Judgment, the Court hereby reserves and
5 retains jurisdiction over this Settlement, including the administration and consummation of the
6 Settlement, as well as any action or proceeding brought to enforce the Settlement. In addition,
7 without affecting the finality of this Judgment, the Court retains jurisdiction over the Parties for
8 purposes of incorporating and merging this Judgment into a physical solution or other Judgment
9 that may ultimately be entered in the Consolidated Actions. The Settling Parties are hereby
10 deemed to have submitted irrevocably to the exclusive jurisdiction of this Court for any suit,
11 action, proceeding or dispute arising out of or relating to this Judgment or the Settlement.

12 21. The Court after considering the pleadings on file herein, and the arguments of
13 counsel, awards the Willis Class attorneys fees in the amount of \$1,839,494, an incentive award
14 for Ms. Rebecca Willis in the amount of \$10,000, costs in the amount of \$65,057.68, and
15 supplemental attorneys fees in the amount of \$160,622.50. Judgment in the amount of
16 \$2,075,174.18 is hereby entered for the Willis Class against Los Angeles County Waterworks
17 District No. 40, City of Palmdale, Palmdale Water District, Littlerock Creek Irrigation District,
18 Palm Ranch Irrigation District, Quartz Hill Water District, California Water Service Company,
19 Rosamond Community Service District, Phelan Pinon Hills Community Services District, Desert
20 Lake Community Services District, and North Edwards Water District.

21
22 Date: 9/29/2015



Judge of the Superior Court
Honorable Jack Komar

PROOF OF SERVICE

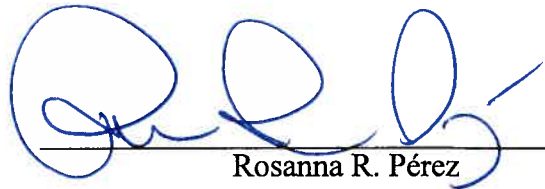
I, Rosanna R. Pérez, declare:

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, 300 S. Grand Avenue, 25th Floor, Los Angeles, California 90071. On September 30, 2015, I served the following document(s):

**SECOND AMENDED FINAL JUDGMENT APPROVING WILLIS CLASS
ACTION SETTLEMENT**

☒ by posting the document(s) listed above to the Santa Clara County Superior Court website in regard to the Antelope Valley Groundwater matter.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the above is true and correct. Executed on September 30, 2015, at Los Angeles, California.


Rosanna R. Pérez

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