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13	SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STA	TE OF CALIFORNIA
14 15	COUNTY OF LOS A	NGELES
15		
16	Coordination Proceeding Special Title (Rule 1550(b))	Judicial Council Coordination Proceeding No. 4408
17	ANTELOPE VALLEY GROUNDWATER CASES	Santa Clara Case No. 1-05-CV-
18	Included Actions:	049053
19		
• •	Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 40 v.	Assigned to
20	<b>Diamond Farming Co.</b> Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles,	Assigned to The Honorable Jack Komar
21	<b>Diamond Farming Co.</b> Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, Case No. BC 325 201	The Honorable Jack Komar DEFENDANTS' NOTICE OF
21 22	<ul> <li>Diamond Farming Co.</li> <li>Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, Case No. BC 325 201</li> <li>Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 40 v.</li> <li>Diamond Farming Co.</li> </ul>	The Honorable Jack Komar DEFENDANTS' NOTICE OF MOTION AND MOTION TO DISMISS PUBLIC WATER
21 22 23	<ul> <li>Diamond Farming Co.</li> <li>Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, Case No. BC 325 201</li> <li>Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 40 v.</li> </ul>	The Honorable Jack Komar DEFENDANTS' NOTICE OF MOTION AND MOTION TO
<ul><li>21</li><li>22</li><li>23</li><li>24</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Diamond Farming Co.</li> <li>Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, Case No. BC 325 201</li> <li>Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 40 v.</li> <li>Diamond Farming Co.</li> <li>Superior Court of California, County of Kern, Case No. S-1500-CV-254-348</li> <li>Wm. Bolthouse Farms, Inc. v. City of Lancaster</li> </ul>	The Honorable Jack Komar DEFENDANTS' NOTICE OF MOTION AND MOTION TO DISMISS PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIERS' CROSS- COMPLAINT Date: June 19, 2009
<ul> <li>21</li> <li>22</li> <li>23</li> <li>24</li> <li>25</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Diamond Farming Co. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, Case No. BC 325 201</li> <li>Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 40 v. Diamond Farming Co. Superior Court of California, County of Kern, Case No. S-1500-CV-254-348</li> <li>Wm. Bolthouse Farms, Inc. v. City of Lancaster Diamond Farming Co. v. City of Lancaster Diamond Farming Co. v. Palmdale Water Dist.</li> </ul>	The Honorable Jack Komar DEFENDANTS' NOTICE OF MOTION AND MOTION TO DISMISS PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIERS' CROSS- COMPLAINT
<ul> <li>21</li> <li>22</li> <li>23</li> <li>24</li> <li>25</li> <li>26</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Diamond Farming Co.</li> <li>Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, Case No. BC 325 201</li> <li>Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 40 v.</li> <li>Diamond Farming Co.</li> <li>Superior Court of California, County of Kern, Case No. S-1500-CV-254-348</li> <li>Wm. Bolthouse Farms, Inc. v. City of Lancaster Diamond Farming Co. v. City of Lancaster Diamond Farming Co. v. Palmdale Water Dist.</li> <li>Superior Court of California, County of Riverside, Case Nos. RIC 353 840, RIC 344 436, RIC 344 668</li> </ul>	The Honorable Jack Komar <b>DEFENDANTS' NOTICE OF</b> <b>MOTION AND MOTION TO</b> <b>DISMISS PUBLIC WATER</b> <b>SUPPLIERS' CROSS-</b> <b>COMPLAINT</b> Date: June 19, 2009 Time: 2:00 p.m.
<ul> <li>21</li> <li>22</li> <li>23</li> <li>24</li> <li>25</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Diamond Farming Co. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, Case No. BC 325 201</li> <li>Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 40 v. Diamond Farming Co. Superior Court of California, County of Kern, Case No. S-1500-CV-254-348</li> <li>Wm. Bolthouse Farms, Inc. v. City of Lancaster Diamond Farming Co. v. City of Lancaster Diamond Farming Co. v. Palmdale Water Dist. Superior Court of California, County of Riverside,</li> </ul>	The Honorable Jack Komar <b>DEFENDANTS' NOTICE OF</b> <b>MOTION AND MOTION TO</b> <b>DISMISS PUBLIC WATER</b> <b>SUPPLIERS' CROSS-</b> <b>COMPLAINT</b> Date: June 19, 2009 Time: 2:00 p.m.

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	DEFENDANTS' MOTION TO DISMISS PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIERS' CROSS-COMPLAINT
	SF-2686503

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1	NOTICE OF MOTION
2	TO ALL PARTIES AND THEIR ATTORNEYS OF RECORD:
3	PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that this Motion to Dismiss has been set for hearing on June 19,
4	2009, at 2:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as counsel can be heard, in Department 17C of the Santa
5	Clara County Superior Court.
6	This Motion to Dismiss and Memorandum of Points and Authorities in support thereof are
7	directed to the First-Amended Cross-Complaint of Public Water Suppliers for Declaratory and
8	Injunctive Relief and Adjudication of Water Rights for failure to join indispensable parties, filed on
9	January 10, 2007. This Motion is brought pursuant to California Civil Procedure Code section 389
10	and 43 U.S.C. section 666 (the McCarran Amendment).
11	This Motion will be based on this Notice of Motion, the Memorandum of Points and
12	Authorities in support thereof, the Declaration of William Sloan, and on such oral argument of
13	counsel and further evidence as may be presented at the hearing on the Motion.
14 15	Dated: May 28, 2009 EDGAR B. WASHBURN WILLIAM M. SLOAN MORRISON & FOERSTER LLP
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24	* Signatures to the Notice of Motion are attached following the signatures to the Memorandum of Points and Authorities.
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	DEFENDANTS' MOTION TO DISMISS PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIERS' CROSS-COMPLAINT SF-2686503

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20	* Signatures to the Notice of Motion are attached following the signatures to the Memorandum of Points and Authorities.
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	DEFENDANTS' MOTION TO DISMISS PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIERS' CROSS-COMPLAINT SF-2686503

### MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

2 This Motion to Dismiss is brought by more than 60 Cross-Defendants that have been named 3 and served in the "comprehensive adjudication" filed by the Public Water Suppliers—an adjudication 4 that is now in its fourth year and still does not even have all of the necessary parties. Specifically, 5 Cross-Defendants U.S. Borax, Inc.; Bolthouse Properties, LLC; Wm. Bolthouse Farms, Inc.; 6 Diamond Farming Company; Crystal Organic Farms; Grimmway Enterprises, Inc.; Lapis Land 7 Company, LLC; White Fence Farms Mutual Water Co., Inc.; El Dorado Mutual Water Co.; West 8 Side Park Mutual Water Co.; Shadow Acres Mutual Water Co.; Antelope Park Mutual Water Co.; 9 Averydale Mutual Water Co.; Sundale Mutual Water Co.; Evergreen Mutual Water Co.; Aqua J 10 Mutual Water Co.; Bleich Flat Mutual Water Co.; Colorado Mutual Water Co.; Sunnsyside Farms 11 Mutual Water Co.; Land Projects Mutual Water Co.; Tierra Bonita Mutual Water Co.; Landale 12 Mutual Water Co.; B.J. Calandri; John Calandri; John Calandri as Trustee of the John and B.J. 13 Calandri 2001 Trust; Forrest G. Godde; Forrest G. Godde as Trustee of the Forrest G. Godde Trust; 14 Lawrence A. Godde; Lawrence A. Godde and Godde Trust; Kootenai Properties, Inc.; Gailen Kyle; 15 Gailen Kyle as Trustee of the Kyle Trust; James W. Kyle; James W. Kyle as Trustee of the Kyle Family Trust; Julia Kyle; Wanda E. Kyle; Eugene B. Nebeker; R and M Ranch, Inc.; Edgar C. Ritter; 16 17 Paula E. Ritter; Paula E. Ritter as Trustee of the Ritter Family Trust; Hines Family Trust; Malloy 18 Family Partners; Consolidated Rock Products; Calmat Land Company; Marygrace H. Santoro; 19 Marygrace H. Santoro as Trustee for the Marygrace H. Santoro Rev. Trust; Helen Stathatos; Savas 20 Stathatos; Savas Stathatos as Trustee for the Stathatos Family Trust; Dennis L. & Marjorie E. Groven 21 Trust; Scott S. and Kay B. Harter; Habod Javadi; Eugene V., Beverly A., and Paul S. Kindig; Paul S. 22 and Sharon R. Kindig; Jose Maritorena Living Trust; Richard H. Miner; Jeffrey L. and Nancee J. 23 Siebert; Barry S. Munz, Terry A. Munz and Kathleen M. Munz; Beverly Tobias; Leo L. Simi; White 24 Fence Farms Mutual Water Co. No. 3.; William R. Barnes & Eldora M. Barnes Family Trust of 1989; 25 Del Sur Ranch, LLC; Healy Enterprises, Inc.; John and Adrienne Reca; Sahara Nursery; Sal and 26 Connie L. Cardile; and Gene T. Bahlman (collectively, "Defendants") submit these points and 27 authorities in support of their Motion to Dismiss the Public Water Suppliers' First-Amended Cross-28 Complaint for failure to join indispensable parties.

I. INTRODUCTION

1	
2	These proceedings are devolving into a free-for-all that is already visiting substantial
3	prejudice on many of the parties. The Public Water Suppliers have sued a large number of
4	landowners, including the United States, in order to obtain a comprehensive groundwater
5	adjudication, implicating the water rights of all overlying landowners to the Antelope Valley
6	Groundwater Basin. <sup>1</sup> Inherent to the "comprehensive adjudication" of rights to a single water source
7	is the zero-sum principle that the allocation of the right to pump water by one user will necessarily
8	affect the allocation of that right to all other users. Indeed, in one of its most recent pleadings, the
9	United States confirmed:
10	All overlying landowners within the geographical boundaries of the
11	adjudication area (parties with correlative usufructuary rights), parties who produce water from the aquifer that the Court identified as the common source of groundwater in the jurisdictional area (parties with
12	appropriative rights), and the United States (as owner of federal reserved rights) <i>are necessary parties to this action</i> . <i>The United States</i>
13	remains a party to this litigation because the Court decided that the adjudication, as currently structured, will be a comprehensive
14	adjudication of all rights to groundwater in the aquifer. See 43 U.S.C. § 666(a); Phase I Order, Nov. 8, 2006 at 2 ('These boundaries
15	are established for purposes of ensuring that the most reasonably inclusive boundaries will be used to ensure a complete and final
16	adjudication of rights to the ground water.')
17	(Fed. Defs.' Response in Opp. to Sheep Creek Water Co.'s Mot. to be Excluded from the Antelope
18	Valley Groundwater Adjudication [attached as Ex. B to Sloan Decl.] (emphasis added).)
19	Additionally, the Public Water Suppliers themselves have conceded that:
20	[A]ll parties are affected by a determination of how much the Wood class members have pumped. There are two principal objectives in
21	this case – to determine all the water rights to the groundwater in the Antelope Valley, and to fashion a physical solution. The members of
22	the Wood class are by definition holders of overlying rights. As such, they share correlatively with the overlying rights of the other
23	landowners. [citation omitted] This is true whether or not the Public
24	<sup>1</sup> Paragraph 15 of the Public Water Suppliers' First-Amended Cross-Complaint expressly states
25	that "[t]his is an action to <i>comprehensively adjudicate</i> the rights of <i>all</i> claimants to the use of a source of water located entirely within California, i.e., the Basin, and for the ongoing administration of <i>all</i>
26	such claimants' rights." (First-Amended Cross-Complaint of Public Water Suppliers for Declaratory and Injunctive Relief and Adjudication of Water Rights ("Cross-Complaint") at ¶ 15) (emphasis
27	added) [attached as Ex. A to the Declaration of William Sloan in Support of Defs.' Motion to Dismiss ("Sloan Decl.")].)
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	DEFENDANTS' MOTION TO DISMISS PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIERS' CROSS-COMPLAINT
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Water Suppliers have acquired prescriptive rights. After accounting for any prescriptive rights and federal reserved rights, the remaining native safe yield will be divided among the Wood class and the other landowners.

(Opp. to Richard Wood's Mot. for Order Allocating Costs of Court-Appointed Expert Witnesses at 2:15-14 [attached as Ex. C to Sloan Decl.] (emphasis added).) Therefore, pursuant to California Civil Procedure Code section 389 and the policies underlying the McCarran Amendment, all overlying landowners and any other water rights holders within the Basin are indispensable parties to the comprehensive groundwater adjudication lawsuit brought by the Public Water Suppliers.

Given the tremendous number of indispensable parties and the impossibility of certifying the requisite *defendant classes*, however, joinder of these indispensable parties into one lawsuit is not feasible. Additionally, because all remaining parties to the adjudication will continue to suffer significant prejudice should these indispensable parties not be joined, this Court should dismiss the Public Water Suppliers' lawsuit in its entirety.

## II. STATEMENT OF FACTS

Relevant to the present motion, on January 10, 2007, the Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 40, on behalf of all Public Water Suppliers,<sup>2</sup> filed a First-Amended Cross-Complaint seeking declaratory and injunctive relief and a "comprehensive" adjudication of all water rights within the Antelope Valley Groundwater Basin ("Basin"). (Cross-Complaint at 1.) The Cross-Complaint named as cross-defendants individuals and entities who owned, or had possessory interests in, land within the geographic boundaries of the Basin. (*Id.* at ¶¶ 11-12.)

In substance, the Cross-Complaint alleges that the Basin has been in a state of overdraft for more than five consecutive years, and that demand has overtaken the natural supply of water in the Basin. (*Id.* at  $\P$  31.) According to the Cross-Complaint, the depletion in water levels has led to land subsidence throughout the Basin, (*Id.* at  $\P\P$  26-27), and is being caused by all cross-defendants'

<sup>2</sup> The Public Water Suppliers include: California Water Service Company, City of Lancaster, City of Palmdale, Littlerock Creek Irrigation District, Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 40, Palmdale Water District, Rosamund Community Services District, Palm Ranch Irrigation District, and Quartz Hill Water District.

continued pumping of groundwater above the Basin's safe-yield. (*Id.* at  $\P$  32.) The Public Water Suppliers allege that the cross-defendants' continued extraction of water from the Basin has deprived the Public Water Suppliers of their rights to provide water to their customers. (*Id.* at  $\P$  35.) The Cross-Complaint also alleges that the Public Water Suppliers have obtained appropriative and prescriptive rights to groundwater within the Basin that are superior to the cross-defendants' overlying rights. (*Id.* at  $\P\P$  37-39, 43, 47.) The Public Water Suppliers also claim that their rights to water in the Basin take priority over and are paramount to the rights possessed by the crossdefendants. (*Id.* at  $\P$  61.)

In seeking a "comprehensive adjudication" of all of the rights to the water in the Basin, the Public Water Suppliers' action seeks declaratory relief from the Court determining both qualitative and quantitative water rights, as well as priority of those rights, of all overlying landowners and users of the water in the Basin. Specifically, their action seeks a determination of: (a) the priority and amount of water that each party is entitled to pump; (b) the Basin's safe yield; (c) the overlying rights of each defendant and person with appropriative or prescriptive rights to pump water from the Basin; (d) a physical solution to the water rights dispute and enforcement thereof; (e) the priority and paramount nature of the Public Water Suppliers' rights to pump water vis-à-vis any other rights; (f) the Public Water Suppliers' sole right to pump imported water in the Basin; (g) the Public Water Suppliers' sole right to recapture return flows in the Basin; and (h) the Defendants' rights to unreasonable use of water in the Basin.

20 Long after the Public Water Suppliers commenced their action, two separate *plaintiff* class 21 actions were filed—one on behalf of dormant, non-pumpers of Basin water, and the other on behalf 22 of small pumpers of Basin water ---for the purpose of seeking a judicial determination of their rights 23 to use groundwater in the Basin vis-à-vis the Public Water Suppliers. The non-pumper class action 24 was filed by class representative Rebecca Willis and was "coordinated" with the Antelope Valley 25 Groundwater cases as an "add-on" action on April 13, 2007. (Order Granting Petition for 26 Coordination of Add-On Case [attached as Ex. D to Sloan Decl.].) The Court granted Willis' motion 27 for class certification on September 11, 2007. (Order Certifying Plaintiff Class [attached as Ex. E to 28 Sloan Decl.].) The small pumper class action was filed by class representative Richard Wood, and

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was transferred to Judge Komar as an "add-on" action to the Antelope Valley Groundwater cases on
June 25, 2008 by Judge Lichtman. (Order Transferring Wood Class Action to Judge Komar [attached as Ex. F to Sloan Decl.].) The Court certified the Wood class action on September 2, 2008. (Order Certifying Small Pumper Class [attached as Ex. G to Sloan Decl.].) As of the filing of this motion, neither class has been named as a cross-defendant in the Public Water Suppliers' comprehensive adjudication lawsuit.

The Court has completed two preliminary phases of trial in this action to determine the boundaries and characteristics of the groundwater basin that is being adjudicated. However, as the litigation now progresses towards deciding the crucial issues of whether the basin is in overdraft and what the basin's safe-yield is, a decision about what parties are indispensable to this comprehensive adjudication must be made. Indicative of this need, representatives for the Wood class (and possibly the Willis class) have been actively engaging in settlement talks with the Public Water Suppliers, and have excluded all other water rights holders despite the fact that any agreement they might reach will necessarily impact the rights of all other water rights holders in the Basin.

### III. ARGUMENT

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### The Wood and Willis Classes Are Indispensable Parties Under California Civil Procedure Code Section 389 Whose Joinder Is Not Feasible

18 The Willis and Wood classes are "indispensable parties" to the Public Water Suppliers' 19 comprehensive groundwater adjudication lawsuit within the meaning of California Civil Procedure 20 Code section 389(a). California's compulsory joinder rule, Civil Procedure Code section 389, 21 requires that a plaintiff must join as parties to the action any person whose interest is such that 22 (1) In his or her absence complete relief cannot be accorded among those already parties; or 23 (2) any judgment rendered in his or her absence might either (i) as a 24 practical matter impair or impede his or her ability to protect that interest or (ii) leave any of the persons already parties before the court 25 exposed to a risk of additional liability or inconsistent obligations by reason of his or her claimed interest. If he or she has not been so joined, 26 the court shall order that he or she be made a party. 27 /// 28 111 7 DEFENDANTS' MOTION TO DISMISS PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIERS' CROSS-COMPLAINT

See Cal. Civ. Proc. Code § 389(a);<sup>3</sup> see also Olszewski v. Scripps Health, 30 Cal. App. 4th 798, 808-809 (2003) ("a person is an indispensable party . . . when the judgment to be rendered necessarily must affect his rights."). Section 389(a) contains two distinct clauses, which if either one is satisfied, renders a non-joined party a necessary party. Under either clause, the Willis and Wood classes are indispensable parties to the current action.

# 1. Complete Relief to the Public Water Suppliers Cannot be Achieved Without Joinder of the Willis and Wood Classes.

"The controlling test for determining whether a person is an indispensable party is, 'where the plaintiff seeks some type of affirmative relief which, if granted, would injure or affect the interest of a third person not joined, that third person is an indispensable party." *Save Our Bay, Inc. v. San Diego Unified Port Dist.*, 42 Cal. App. 4th 686, 692 (1996) (affirming the trial court's grant of summary judgment based on finding that a landowner whose land was necessary to complete a recreational marina project was an indispensable party and that his interests were not represented and would be affected by the judgment) (quoting *Bank of Cal. v. Super. Ct. of the City & County of San Francisco,* 16 Cal. 2d 516, 522 (1940)). In other words, "a person is an indispensable party if his or her legal rights must necessarily be affected by the judgment." *Id.* (quoting *Hartman Ranch Co. v. Associated Oil Co.,* 10 Cal. 2d 232, 262 (1937)).

Here, there is no question that the legal rights of all landowners, including the Willis and

Wood classes, would be affected by the judgment in the Public Water Suppliers' case. Indeed, both

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> California Code of Civil Procedure 389(a), states that

A person who is subject to service of process and whose joinder will not deprive the court of jurisdiction over the subject matter of the action shall be joined as a party in the action if (1) in his or her absence complete relief cannot be accorded among those already parties, or (2) he or she claims an interest relating to the subject of the action and is so situated that the disposition of the action in his or her absence may (i) as a practical matter impair or impede his or her ability to protect that interest or (ii) leave any of the persons already parties subject to a substantial risk of incurring double, multiple, or otherwise inconsistent obligations by reason of his or her claimed interest. If he or she has not been so joined, the court shall order that he or she be made a party.

Cal. Civ. Proc. Code § 389(a).

the Willis and Wood classes have each filed separate lawsuits seeking to enforce their rights to the water in the Basin and seeking forms of relief that overlap and conflict with the relief sought in the instant case (i.e., a court determination that their rights to pump water in the Basin take priority over other persons' or entities' rights to use water). Thus, the Willis and Wood classes are indispensable parties to the instant case.

The Public Water Suppliers seek a "comprehensive adjudication" of the water rights to the Basin, which would necessarily implicate the Willis and Wood classes' rights to use the water in the Basin. Where a number of persons have an undetermined interest in the same property, each is an indispensable party to any action by the other to obtain his share of the property. *See Bank of Cal.*, 16 Cal. 2d at 521 (the judgment obtained by any one claimant for part of the property or fund would necessarily determine the amount remaining available for the others).

### 2. Adjudication of This Case in the Absence of the Non-Joined Parties Would Harm the Rights of the Willis and Wood Classes.

Section 389(a)(2)(i) "recognizes the importance of protecting the person whose joinder is in question against the practical prejudice to him which may arise through a disposition of the action in his absence." *Countrywide Home Loans Inc. v. Super. Ct.*, 69 Cal. App. 4th 785, 793 (1999). Under this clause, a party is "necessary" and "should be joined if they claim an interest relating to the subject of the action, and the disposition of the action, in their absence, could impair or impede their ability to protect that interest." *Id.* at 795.

The rights of landowners would be affected, and possibly harmed, if this action were allowed to proceed to judgment without the Willis and Wood classes as cross-defendants in the comprehensive adjudication. The fact that both classes have initiated separate lawsuits seeking to protect their rights to use the water in the Basin is clear evidence that if their interests are not represented in the Public Water Suppliers' case—which seeks a "comprehensive adjudication" of water rights in the Basin—these interests will likely be harmed.

Nevertheless, the Wood class has affirmatively declared that it is not a party to the
comprehensive adjudication, even though any physical solution the court may arrive at will
necessarily affect the class members' rights. (*See*, *e.g.*, Richard Wood's Mot. for Order Allocating

1 Costs of Court-Appointed Expert Witness at 4:3-8 ("the landowners are not parties to the Wood 2 action. Wood has not sued them; the class has not sued them") [attached as Ex. H to Sloan Decl.]). 3 At the same time, recent filings by the Wood class demonstrate that any resolution of the water rights 4 of small pumpers in the Basin would necessarily prejudice the water rights of overlying landowners. 5 Specifically, the Wood class has expressly stated that: 6 It is likely that any settlement or judgment in this [the Wood] case would entail an allocation of some *di minimis* pumping exemption, or 7 free production allowance, to this group of largely single-family residential pumpers. In this scenario, the case cannot be settled, or 8 fairly adjudicated, using a fixed free-pumping allowance without doing harm to the rights of either the small pumpers, or the rights of the other 9 overlying landowners. 10 (Pls.' Ex Parte Application for Order Staying Class Notice at 4:18-23 [attached as Ex. I to Sloan 11 Decl.]; see also Pls.' Ex Parte Application for Order Staying Class Notice and Lifting Stay on Court 12 Appointed Expert at 3:13-18 [attached as Ex. J to Sloan Decl.].) 13 Likewise, the Willis class, representing landowners who have not yet pumped water from 14 their land (the "dormant pumpers"), has stated that their "overlying rights need to be apportioned in a 15 fair and equitable manner among all persons holding rights to the Basin's water." (Willis Compl. ¶ 27 [attached as Ex. K to Sloan Decl.]; Pl. Willis' Second Order Modifying Definition of Pl. Class 16 17 at 3 [attached as Ex. L to Sloan Decl.].) By virtue of the fact that the Willis and Wood Classes seek 18 to protect their rights to use water in the Basin, adjudication of the Public Water Suppliers' suit in 19 their absence would harm these rights. (See Willis Compl. ¶ 30; Wood Compl. ¶ 1.) 20 3. Adjudication in the Absence of the Willis and Wood Classes Would Harm the Existing Parties. 21 22 Finally, Civil Procedure Code section 389(a)(2)(ii) "recognizes the need for considering 23 whether a party may be left, after the adjudication, in a position where a person not joined can subject 24 him to a double or otherwise inconsistent liability." Countrywide Home Loans, 69 Cal. App. 4th at 25 793. Thus, joinder is required if "in the absence of [the non-parties] the action would expose 26 defendants to a substantial risk of incurring double, multiple, or otherwise inconsistent obligations." 27 Id. at 796; see also, Showtime Game Brokers v. Blockbuster Video, 151 F.R.D. 641, 647 (S.D. Ind. 28 1993) (Federal Rule of Civil Procedure "Rule 19 is designed to protect the interests of absent persons 10

as well as those already before the court from multiple litigation or inconsistent judicial determinations. Moreover, the public and the courts have an interest in an effective and expeditious resolution of cases.").<sup>4</sup>

Here, the Wood class has represented in court that it is in settlement negotiations with the Public Water Suppliers. (See generally excerpt from May 6, 2009 Hearing Transcript at 9:10-25, 10:25-11:14 (addressing settlement discussions between Wood Class and Public Water Suppliers to the exclusion of other landowners) [attached as Ex. M to Sloan Decl.].) Any settlement arrived at in these negotiations would necessarily affect the rights of all other landowners claiming rights to use the water in the Basin. Allowing these negotiations to move forward in the absence of all other water rights holders would prejudice any landowner's ability to represent its interests in the current adjudication.<sup>5</sup>

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#### 4. The Public Water Suppliers' Lawsuit Should Be Dismissed Because Joinder of the Willis and Wood Classes Is Not Feasible.

As indispensable parties, the Willis and Wood Classes must be joined with the Public Water Suppliers' action. The law is clear that where an absentee is found by the court to be needed for a just adjudication of the case, "the court must order his joinder if feasible." Kraus v. Willow Park Public Golf Course, 73 Cal. App. 3d 354, 365 (Cal. App. 1st Dist. 1977); Cal. Civ. Proc. Code § 389(a).

22 <sup>5</sup> The face of the Cross-Complaint also contemplates a broad defendant class; however, the subsequent procedural facts indicate that the Willis and Wood classes have not been named as cross-23 defendants. (See, e.g., Richard Wood's Notice of Motion and Motion for Order Allocating Costs of Court-Appointed Expert Witness at 4:3-6) ("While Wood is cognizant that the Court has articulated 24 an intention to allocate the expert costs across both the water purveyors and landowner parties, the landowners are not parties to the Wood action.") [attached as Ex. F to Sloan Decl.].) If the Court 25 properly finds that the Willis and Wood classes must be cross-defendants in the "comprehensive adjudication," the Court should not entertain settlement negotiations until all parties claiming water 26 rights to the Basin are included. Any arrangement for a determination of water rights in a comprehensive adjudication must include the consent and participation of all parties in order to be 27 binding on any party. 28

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Since California Code of Civil Procedure section 389 is modeled after the Federal Rule of Civil Procedure, Rule 19, "[i]t is therefore appropriate to use federal precedents as a guide to application of the statute." Countrywide Home Loans, 69 Cal. App. 4th at 792; see also, County of San Joaquin v. State Water Res. Control Bd., 54 Cal. App. 4th 1144, 1152 (1997).

Here, however, the joinder of both the Willis and Wood classes to the already unwieldy Public Water Suppliers' adjudication is not feasible. Indeed, the Wood Class has expressed a desire to stay out of this action rather than be a member of a "mal-formed class."<sup>6</sup> The obstacles to class formation and joinder are evident. For example, despite the passage of nearly a year since the Wood class was certified, the following problems still exist with respect to the Wood class: (1) the class list for notification purposes supposedly contains thousands of parcels that are owned by people who do not fall under the small pumper class definition (i.e., mutual water company shareholders and public water supplier customers); (2) the proposed class list includes pumpers and non-pumpers of water; (3) according to the Wood class counsel, the number of proposed members in the Wood class jumped from 7,500 to 15,000 just weeks ago; (4) shareholder lists have not yet been obtained from the mutual water companies to determine what persons are improperly on the small pumper class list; and (5) public water supplier customers may be on the small pumper class list. (*See* Pls.' *Ex Parte* Application for Order Staying Class Notice [attached as Ex. I to Sloan Decl.].) The present difficulties with the Wood class alone clearly demonstrate that joinder of the classes to the Public Water Suppliers' lawsuit is not feasible.

Given the conflicting and competing interests between the Willis and Wood classes and the cross-defendants to the Public Water Suppliers' litigation, a defendant class could never be certified due to inadequacy of representation and notice concerns. *See Simons v. Horowitz*, 151 Cal. App. 3d 834, 844-45 (1984). Further, practical efficiency considerations make compulsory joinder a near impossibility.

Where a party who is necessary to the action under section 389(a) cannot be joined to the suit,
the court must determine whether "in equity and good conscience the action should proceed among
the parties before it, or should be dismissed without prejudice." Cal. Civ. Proc. Code § 389(b).
There are four factors that the court must consider: (1) to what extent a judgment rendered in the
person's absence might be prejudicial to him or those already parties; (2) the extent to which, by

- <sup>6</sup> Specifically, the Wood Class stated that "[t]he interests of the small pumper are better served outside this adjudication or individually represented, rather than inside a mal-formed class." (Pl. *Ex Parte* Application for Order Staying Class Notice at 6 [attached as Ex. G to Sloan Decl.].)
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protective provisions in the judgment, by the shaping of relief, or other measures, the prejudice can be lessened or avoided; (3) whether a judgment rendered in the person's absence will be adequate; (4) whether the plaintiff or cross-complainant will have an adequate remedy if the action is dismissed for non-joinder. Id. The decision whether to proceed with the action in the absence of the Willis and Wood classes is within the court's discretion, as governed by Civil Procedure Code section 389(b). Sierra Club, Inc. v. Cal. Coastal Comm'n, 95 Cal. App. 3d 495, 500 (1979).

The California Supreme Court has explained that indispensable parties typically exist in cases where a number of persons have undetermined interests in the same property, such as this current water rights dispute:

> Typical are the situations where a number of persons have undetermined interests in the same property, or in a particular trust fund, and one of them seeks, in an action, to recover the whole, to fix his share, or to recover a portion claimed by him. The other persons with similar interests are indispensable parties. The reason is that a judgment in favor of one claimant for part of the property or fund would necessarily determine the amount or extent which remains available to the others. Hence, any judgment in the action would inevitably affect their rights.

Bank of Cal., 16 Cal. 2d at 521 (emphasis added). As discussed above, a judgment rendered in the absence of the Willis and Wood classes in this case—a "comprehensive adjudication" of rights to use and pump water from the Basin—would prejudice the ability of landowners both within and outside the classes to protect their water rights. The very relief that the Public Water Suppliers seek in this lawsuit would directly affect and injure the interests of both party and non-party landowners. The judgment would plainly be subject to later collateral attack by the non-joined parties and would thus be inadequate. See Sierra Club, 95 Cal. App. 3d at 502 (holding that a developer of a real estate project was an indispensable party to an action brought by a third party to set aside a permit authorizing the project, and affirming dismissal of the suit for failure to join the developer).

24 Furthermore, counsel for the Public Water Suppliers pointed out the prejudice that would be 25 faced by absent parties during this Court's April 14, 2009 hearing: "The concern that all of us-26 many of us have in this case is that, like, any basin it is a zero sum gain. So when you start allocating water to one group of individuals, that may necessarily require that there are other individuals who 28 111

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may go without." (Excerpt from April 24th Hearing Transcript at 13:10-14) [attached as Ex. N to Sloan Decl.].)

Therefore, pursuant to California Civil Procedure Code section 389(b), this Court should grant Defendants' motion to dismiss for failure to join the Willis and Wood classes as indispensable parties.

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### The Dismissal of the Public Water Suppliers' Lawsuit for Failure to Join Indispensable Parties Is Further Supported by the McCarran Amendment

8 The members of the Willis and Wood classes must be considered indispensable parties to the 9 Public Water Suppliers' lawsuit for the additional reason that their joinder is required by the 10 McCarran Amendment in order for the Court to retain subject matter jurisdiction over the United 11 States, a large water rights holder within the Basin. See 43 U.S.C. § 666. 12 As this Court is well aware, the McCarran Amendment provides for a limited waiver of the 13 sovereign immunity of the United States enabling states to adjudicate federal water rights under 14 certain circumstances. The McCarran Amendment provides, in relevant part: 15 Consent is hereby given to join the United States as a defendant in any suit (1) for the adjudication of rights to the use of water of a river 16 system or other source, or (2) for the administration of such rights, where it appears that the United States is ... a necessary party to such 17 suit. 18 43 U.S.C. § 666. It is well established that this waiver "is limited to comprehensive adjudications of all of the water rights of various users of a specific water system," Gardner v. Stager, 103 F.3d 886, 19 20 888 (9th Cir. 1996), and is only applicable in a "general adjudication" of all of the rights of various 21 owners, not the private rights of selected landowners. See Dugan v. Rank, 372 U.S. 609, 618 (1963). 22 Indeed, the Senate Report on the McCarran Amendment clearly set forth Congress' intent to limit the 23 waiver of sovereign immunity to comprehensive adjudications: 24 S. 18 is not intended . . . to be used for any other purpose than to allow the United States to be joined in a suit wherein it is necessary to 25 adjudicate all of the rights of various owners on a given stream. This is so because unless all the parties owning or in the process of acquiring 26 water rights on a particular stream can be joined as *parties defendant*, any subsequent decree would be of little value. 27 28 14

*United States v. Dist. Ct. in and for Eagle County, Colo.*, 401 U.S. 520, 525 (1971) (quoting S. Rep. No. 82-755, at 9 (1951) (emphasis added)). Thus, the McCarran Amendment's limited waiver of sovereign immunity is only available for the comprehensive adjudication of all water rights in a stream system.

Here, it is indisputable that unless the members of the Willis and Wood classes are considered to be parties to the Public Water Suppliers' lawsuit, the McCarran Amendment's comprehensiveness requirement will not be satisfied. As certified, both classes are made up of landowners claiming overlying rights to groundwater within the Basin. (*See* Order Certifying Small Pumpers Class Action; Plaintiff Willis' Second Order Modifying Definition of Plaintiff Class.) Therefore, their absence from the Public Water Suppliers' action seeking an adjudication of rights within the Basin would render the McCarran Amendment's waiver of sovereign immunity inapplicable. Thus, because the Willis and Wood classes cannot be joined as indispensable parties, and the United States will no longer be a party to the Public Water Suppliers' lawsuit given the failure of the suit to satisfy the McCarran Amendment's comprehensiveness requirement, the McCarran Amendment further supports dismissal of this action.

### IV. CONCLUSION

All parties—including the Public Water Suppliers, the Willis and Wood classes, and the United States—apparently agree that *all* overlying landowners within the Basin are necessary parties to this comprehensive groundwater adjudication. As the Public Water Suppliers' lawsuit is the only lawsuit seeking a comprehensive adjudication, and is the only one required to satisfy the McCarran Amendment, all necessary parties must be named in the Public Water Suppliers' case. Therefore, both overlying landowner classes must be named as cross-defendants by the Public Water Suppliers.

Because it is not feasible to join the classes as indispensable parties, Defendants respectfully request that the Court dismiss the action. Alternatively, the Court should order the Public Water Suppliers to take all necessary steps to properly name and serve the classes as cross-defendants in their "comprehensive adjudication."

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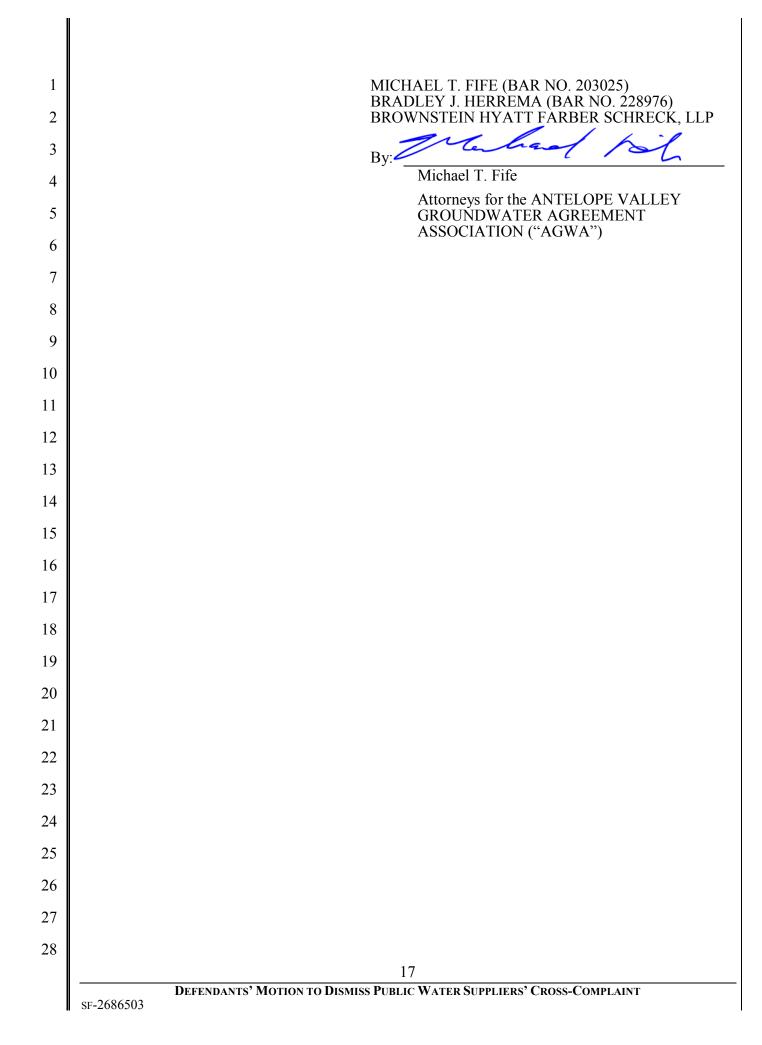
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	DEFENDANTS' MOTION TO DISMIS	SS PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIERS' CROSS-COMPLAINT

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1	NOTIO	CE OF MOTION
2	TO ALL PARTIES AND THEIR AT	TORNEYS OF RECORD:
3	PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that this M	otion to Dismiss has been set for hearing on June 19,
4	2009, at 2:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as co	ounsel can be heard, in Department 17C of the Santa
5	Clara County Superior Court.	
6	This Motion to Dismiss and Memorar	ndum of Points and Authorities in support thereof are
7	directed to the First-Amended Cross-Compla	int of Public Water Suppliers for Declaratory and
8	Injunctive Relief and Adjudication of Water	Rights for failure to join indispensable parties, filed on
9	January 10, 2007. This Motion is brought pu	rsuant to California Code of Civil Procedure section 38
10	and 43 U.S.C. section 666 (the McCarran An	nendment).
11	This Motion will be based on this Not	tice of Motion, the Memorandum of Points and
12	Authorities in support thereof, the Declaration	n of William Sloan, and on such oral argument of
13	counsel and further evidence as may be prese	nted at the hearing on the Motion.
14	Dated: May 28, 2009	EDGAR B. WASHBURN
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	2 DEFENDANTS' MOTION TO DISMISS PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIERS' CROSS-COMPLAINT
	SF-2686503

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	DEFENDANTS' MOTION TO DISMISS PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIERS' CROSS-COMPLAINT SF-2686503

1	PROOF OF SERVICE		
2	I declare that I am employed with the law firm of Morrison & Foerster LLP, whose address is		
3	425 Market Street, San Francisco, California 94105-2482. I am not a party to the within cause, and I		
4	am over the age of eighteen years.		
5	I further declare that on May 28, 2009, I served a copy of the attached DEFENDANTS'		
6	NOTICE OF MOTION AND MOTION TO DISMISS PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIERS' CROSS-		
7	COMPLAINT by electronically posting a true copy thereof to Santa Clara County Superior Court's		
8	electronic filing website for complex civil litigation cases (Judge Jack Komar, Dept. 17C $-$		
9	http://www.scefiling.org) with respect to Judicial Council Coordination Proceeding No. 4408		
10	(Antelope Valley Groundwater matter).		
11	I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing		
12	is true and correct and that this document was executed at San Francisco, California, on May 28,		
13	2009.		
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16	Catherine L. Berté Catherine S. Berté		
17	(typed) (signature)		
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	PROOF OF SERVICE		
	SF-2686503		