William J. Brunick, Esq. [SB No. 46289] Exempt from filing fee pursuant to bbrunick@bmklawplc.com Gov't. Code Section 6103 Leland P. McElhaney, Esq. [SB No. 39257] lmcelhaney@bmklawplc.com BRUNICK, McELHANEY& KENNEDY PLC 1839 Commercenter West San Bernardino, California 92408-3303 5 MAILING: P.O. Box 13130 San Bernardino, California 92423-3130 (909) 889-8301 Telephone: (909) 388-1889 Facsimile: Attorneys for Cross-Complainant, 8 ANTELOPE VALLEY-EAST KERN WATER AGENCY SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA 10 FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – CENTRAL DISTRICT 11 12 Coordination Proceeding Judicial Council Coordination Proceeding 13 No. 4408 Special Title (Rule 1550(b)) ANTELOPE VALLEY Santa Clara Case No. 1-05-CV-049053 **GROUNDWATER CASES** 15 The Honorable Jack Komar, Dept.17 16 Included Actions: DECLARATION OF LELAND McELHANEY IN SUPPORT OF 17 **OVERLIERS' RESPONSE TO PUBLIC** Los Angeles County Waterworks District WATER SUPPLIERS' OPPOSITION No. 40 vs. Diamond Farming Company, a 18 TO WOOD CLASS MOTION FOR corporation, Superior Court of California, COSTS AND ATTORNEY FEES County of Los Angeles, Case No. 19 BC325201; 20 Los Angeles County Waterworks District Date: April 1, 2016 No. 40 vs. Diamond Farming Company, a Time: 1:30 p.m. 21 Dept.: TBD, San Jose corporation., Superior Court of California, County of Kern, Case No. S-1500-CV-254-22 348: 23 Wm. Bolthouse Farms, Inc. vs. City of Lancaster, Diamond Farming Company, a 24 corporation, vs. City of Lancaster, Diamond Farming Company, a corporation vs. Palmdale Water District, Superior Court of California, County of Riverside, Case Nos. 26 RIC 353840, RIC 344436, RIC 344668. 27

DECLARATION OF LELAND MCELHANEY IN SUPPORT OF OVERLIERS' RESPONSE TO PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIERS' OPPOSITION TO WOOD CLASS MOTION FOR COSTS AND ATTORNEY FEES

Leland P. McElhaney declares and states:

- 1. I am an attorney at law duly licensed to practice in all courts of the State of California, and a principal in the law firm of Brunick, McElhaney & Kennedy PLC, counsel of record for cross-complainant, the Antelope Valley East Kern Water Agency in these consolidated proceedings. I have personal knowledge of all of the matters set forth herein and, if called as a witness, I could and would testify competently thereto.
- 2. Attached as Exhibit A hereto is a true copy of STIPULATION FOR ENTRY OF JUDGMENT AND PHYSICAL SOLUTION, with some but not all signature pages attached thereto.
- 3. Attached as Exhibit B hereto is a true copy of the Court's February 19, 2010 Consolidation Order.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct, and that this declaration was executed in San Bernardino, California, on March $\frac{24}{2}$, 2016.

Leland P. McElhaney

EXHIBIT A

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – CENTRAL DISTRICT

Coordination Proceeding Special Title (Rule 1550 (b))

ANTELOPE VALLEY GROUNDWATER CASES

Judicial Council Coordination Proceeding No. 4408

[Assigned to The Honorable Jack Komar, Judge Santa Clara County Superior Court, Dept. 17]

Santa Clara Court Case No. 1-05-CV-049053

STIPULATION FOR ENTRY OF JUDGMENT AND PHYSICAL SOLUTION

- 1. The undersigned Parties ("Stipulating Parties") stipulate and agree to the entry of the proposed Judgment and Physical Solution ("Judgment"), attached hereto as Exhibit 1 and incorporated herein by reference, as the Judgment in this Action. This Stipulation is expressly conditioned, as set forth in Paragraph 4 below, upon the approval and entry of the Judgment by the Court.
- 2. The following facts, considerations and objectives, among others, provide the basis for this Stipulation for Entry of Judgment ("Stipulation"):
 - a. The Judgment is a determination of all rights to Produce and store Groundwater in the Basin.
 - b. The Judgment resolves all disputes in this Action among the Stipulating Parties.

- c. The Stipulating Parties represent a substantial part of the total Production within the Basin.
- d. There exists now and has existed for many years an Overdraft on the Groundwater supply within the Basin.
- e. It is apparent to the Stipulating Parties that protection of the rights of the Stipulating Parties and protection of the public interest within the Basin require the development and imposition of a Physical Solution.
- f. The Physical Solution contained in the Judgment is in furtherance of the mandate of the State Constitution and the water policy of the State of California.
- g. Entry of the Judgment will avoid the time, expense, and uncertainty associated with continued litigation.
- h. The Judgment will create incentives, predictability and long-term certainty necessary to promote beneficial use of the Basin's Groundwater resources to the fullest extent practicable and for the greatest public benefit.
- The Judgment will create opportunities for state and local funding as may be available to promote greater development and beneficial use of the Basin's Groundwater resources.
- j. The Judgment will aid in securing a reliable and cost-effective water supply to serve the Stipulating Parties' constituencies and communities.
- 3. Defined terms in the Judgment shall have the same meaning in this Stipulation.
- 4. The provisions of the Judgment are related, dependent and not severable. Each and every term of the Judgment is material to the Stipulating Parties' agreement. If the Court does not approve the Judgment as presented, or if an appellate court overturns or remands the Judgment entered by the trial court, then this Stipulation is *void ab initio* with the exception of Paragraph 6, which shall survive.
- 5. The Stipulating Parties will cooperate in good faith and take any and all necessary and appropriate actions to support the Judgment until such time as this Judgment is entered by the Court, and appeals, if any, are final, including:
 - a. Producing evidentiary testimony and documentation in support thereof;

- Defending the Judgment against Non-Stipulating Parties, including, as appropriate, providing evidence of the Stipulating Parties' prescriptive and self-help rights.
- 6. Each Stipulating Party has agreed to this Stipulation without admitting any factual or legal provisions of this Stipulation or the proposed Judgment. In the event that this Stipulation is void, or if trial is necessary against any Non-Stipulating Party to determine issues provided for in the Judgment, the resulting factual or legal determinations shall not bind any Stipulating Party or become law of the case.
- 7. As consideration and as a material term of this Stipulation, the Stipulating Parties hereby declare that they are not aware of any additional Person pumping Groundwater, or landowner owning property in the Basin, that is not either named as a Party in the Action, included in the Non-Pumper Class or Small Pumper Class, or a Defaulting Party.
- 8. The Stipulating Parties, in order to protect the Basin from over-pumping, have stipulated and agreed to the terms of the Judgment and have agreed to substantial cuts to water allocation compared with what they claim under California law, and in the case of the United States, also under federal law. In return, the Stipulating Parties have agreed to provisions in the Physical Solution which are only available by stipulation. These provisions include, without limitation, the right to transfer Production Rights and the right to Carry Over rights from year to year, as set forth in the Judgment.

 Non-Stipulating Parties, or any other Parties contesting the Judgment, shall not be entitled to the benefit of these provisions, and shall have only the rights to which they may be entitled by law according to proof at trial.
- 9. The Stipulating Parties agree to request the Court to order the representatives of the Non-Pumper Class and the Small Pumper Class to identify any Persons which have opted out of the Classes and provide the identities of any opt-outs to District No. 40 within twenty (20) days of the Court's order approving this Stipulation. District No. 40 will assure that all Persons opting out of the Classes have been named, served, and defaulted or otherwise adjudicated, and will provide a report to the Court and the Stipulating Parties.

- 10. As consideration for this Stipulation between the Stipulating Parties, District No. 40 specifically agrees to the following:
 - a. District No. 40 agrees to identify all landowners in the Basin, to confirm that each landowner was served, and to confirm that each landowner is a part of the Non-Pumper Class, the Small Pumper Class, the Stipulating Parties, a Defaulting Party, or a Party that has appeared, as the case may be. District No. 40 will file a report containing this information with the Court and with all Parties.
 - District No. 40 agrees to take all available steps and procedures to prevent any
 Person that has not appeared in this Action from raising claims or otherwise contesting
 the Judgment.
- reasonable Small Pumper Class attorneys' fees and costs through the date of the final Judgment in the Action, in an amount either pursuant to an agreement reached between the Public Water Suppliers and the Small Pumper Class or as determined by the Court. The Public Water Suppliers reserve the right to seek contribution for reasonable Small Pumper Class attorneys' fees and costs through the date of the final Judgment in the Action from each other and Non-Stipulating Parties. Any motion or petition to the Court by the Small Pumper Class for the payment of attorneys' fees in the Action shall be asserted by the Small Pumper Class solely as against the Public Water Suppliers (excluding Palmdale Water District, Rosamond Community Services District, City of Lancaster, Phelan Piñon Hills Community Services District, Boron Community Services District, and West Valley County Water District) and not against any other Party.
- 12. In consideration for the agreement to pay Small Pumper Class attorneys' fees and costs as provided in Paragraph 11 above, the other Stipulating Parties agree that during the Rampdown established in the Judgment, a drought water management program ("Drought Program") shall be implemented as provided in Paragraphs 8.3, 8.4, 9.2 and 9.3 of the Judgment.
- 13. The Stipulating Parties do not object to the award of an incentive to Richard Wood, the Small Pumper Class representative, in recognition of his service as Class representative. The Judgment shall provide that Richard Wood has a Production Right of up to five (5) acre-feet per year for

reasonable and beneficial use on his parcel, free of a Replacement Water Assessment. This Production Right shall not be transferable and is otherwise subject to the provisions of the Judgment. If the Court approves this award of an additional two (2) acre-feet of water, such award shall be in lieu of any monetary incentive payment.

- 14. The Stipulating Parties agree that an orderly procedure for obtaining the Court's approval of the Judgment is a material term to this Stipulation. The Parties agree that the Case Management Order attached hereto as Appendix 1 is an appropriate process for obtaining such approval.
- 15. The Stipulating Parties agree that this Stipulation shall bind and benefit them, and will be binding upon and benefit all their respective heirs, successors-in-interest and assigns.
- Each signatory to this Stipulation represents and affirms that he or she is legally authorized to bind the Stipulating Party on behalf of whom he or she is signing. The Stipulating Parties understand that this Stipulation and the Judgment are not effective as to the Small Pumper Class until the Court grants approval of a settlement agreement in Wood v. Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 40 et al.

1	LOS ANGELES COUNTY WATERWORKS DISTRICT NO. 40
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4	Gail Farber Director of Public Works
5	Director of Fublic Works
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7	Mark J. Saladino, County Counsel
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9	By: Warren R. Wellen
10	Principal Deputy County Counsel
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12	Approved as to form by: Eric L. Garner
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	3	FRANK S. DONATO, Director, Div. 3	
	4	, DIV, D	/ /
	5	BRUNICK, McELHANEY & KENNEDY	Date: 1/13/2015
	6		, .
	7	BY: Wu J PZ.	
	8	WILLIAM J. BRUNICK Attorneys for Cross-Complainent,	
	9	ANTELOPE VALLEY-EAST KERN WATER AGENCY	
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STIPULATION FOR ENTRY OF JUDGMENT AND PHYSICAL SOLUTION

JOHN C. CRUDEN Assistant Attorney General Environment & Natural Resources Division By: Date: 2-23-15 LEE LEININGER, Trial Attorney JAMES DUBOIS, Trial Attorney United States Department of Justice Environment and Natural Resources Division 999 18th Street, South Terrace, Suite 370 Denver, Colorado, 80202 Attorneys for Cross-Defendant United States of America

EXHIBIT B

ORIGINAL FILED

FEB 2 4 2010

LOS ANGELES
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SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Coordination Proceeding Special Title (Rule 1550(b))

ANTELOPE VALLEY GROUNDWATER CASES

Included Actions:

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Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 40 v. Diamond Farming Co. Superior Court of California County of Los Angeles, Case No. BC 325 201

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

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, consolidated actions, Case Nos. RIC 353 840, RIC 344 436, RIC 344 668

Rebecca Lee Willis v. Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 40 Superior Court of California, County of Los Judicial Council Coordination Proceeding No. 4408

ORDER TRANSFERRING AND CONSOLIDATING ACTIONS FOR ALL PURPOSES

Hearing Date(s): February 5, 2010

October 13, 2009 August 17, 2009

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Location: Joe a.m. Department 1, LASC

Judge: Honorable Jack Komar

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Coordination Proceeding Special Title (Rule 1550(b))

ANTELOPE VALLEY GROUNDWATER CASES

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Hearing Date(s): February 5, 2010 October 13, 2009

August 17, 2009

Time: 9:00 a.m. Location: Departme

ocation: Department 1, LASC

Judge: Honorable Jack Komar

Antelope Valley Groundwater Litigation (JCCP 4408)
Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. BC 325 201
Order Transferring and Consolidating Actions for All Purposes

The City of Palmdale, Rosamond Community Services District, Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 40, Littlerock Creek Irrigation District, Palm Ranch Irrigation District, California Water Service Company, Quartz hill District, City of Lancaster, and Palmdale Water District (collectively, "Public Water Suppliers") filed Motions to consolidate all of the coordinated matter presently pending before the Court. The motions were heard on August 17, 2009 and, at the conclusion of the hearing, the Court orally stated its intent to grant the motions and directed the parties to meet and confer concerning a form of order and to present to the Court a proposed order granting the motion. Subsequently, proposed orders and written arguments were filed and a hearing on the form of the order was held on February 5, 2010.

All of the included actions are complex and were ordered coordinated under the provisions of Code of Civil Procedure Section 401.1. To the extent the actions were filed, or were being heard in courts other than this Court, the Order of Coordination required the transfer of the cases to this court for all purposes.

The Complaints and Cross-Complaints all include, in one form or other, declaratory relief causes of action seeking determinations of the right to draw ground water from the Antelope Valley basin. These claims are central to every action pending before the Court. In a single aquifer, all water rights are said to be correlative to all other water rights in the aquifer. A determination of an individual party's water rights (whether by an action to quiet title or one for declaratory relief) cannot be decided in the abstract but must also take into consideration all other water rights within a single aquifer. All actions pending, therefore, of necessity involve common issues of law and fact relating to the determination of the relative rights to withdraw water from the Antelope Valley Groundwater Basin in the Antelope Valley and all parties to the litigation claiming water rights are necessary parties to the Court adjudicating a binding determination of those rights. Thus, it appears to the Court that consolidation is not only

¹ In an earlier phase of the proceedings, the court found as a matter of fact that the area within the jurisdictional boundaries of the valley constituted a single aquifer.

necessary but desirable. Entering separate judgments would not permit the court to enforce the judgments once they are entered without transferring each case back to this Court.

It is argued by several parties that consolidating the cases will require litigating against parties they did not sue and would subject them to potential costs and fees in actions to which they were not parties. However, the only cause of action that would affect all parties to the consolidation are the declaratory relief causes of action which seek a declaration of water rights (by definition, correlative rights). If the basin is in overdraft (a fact still to be established), the Court in each declaratory relief proceeding would of necessity have to look at the totality of pumping by all parties, evaluate the rights of all parties who are producing water from the aquifer, determine whether injunctive relief was required, and determine what solution equity and statutory law required (including a potential physical solution). All other causes of action could only result in remedies involving the parties who were parties to the causes of action. Costs and fees could only be assessed for or against parties who were involved in particular actions.

Consolidation will allow for the entry of single statements of decision in subsequent phases specifying the identity of the parties who are subject to the particular provisions and a single judgment resulting in a comprehensive adjudication of rights to water from the Antelope Valley Groundwater Basin which, among other things, is intended to satisfy the requirements of the McCarran Amendment, 43 U.S.C. § 666.

The United States is the largest land owner in the Antelope Valley and claims reserved water rights under federal law. The United States was made a party defendant in this action so that the declaratory relief actions could result in a complete adjudication. No party objected to the participation of the United States in these coordinated actions. There is jurisdiction over the United States only if authorized by Congress. The McCarran Amendment provides a limited waiver of immunity for joinder in *comprehensive* adjudications of all rights to a given water source. In order for there to be a *comprehensive* adjudication all parties who have a water rights claim must be joined in the action and the judgment must bind all the parties. Without consolidation there is risk that the United States might attempt to withdraw from the

proceedings for lack of a comprehensive judgment. It may be that coordination itself might permit a single comprehensive judgment but consolidation would eliminate any risk of uncertainty. Consolidation of the water rights claims will result in a comprehensive adjudication and a judgment that will affect all the parties. Complete consolidation will permit these matters to proceed as an *inter se* adjudication of the rights of all the parties to these consolidated cases to withdraw groundwater from the Antelope Valley Groundwater Basin.

While there is a dearth of case law on the issue of consolidation in coordinated cases, it does seem that Code of Civil Procedure Section 1048 applies in these cases and authorizes a consolidation that will result in a final judgment. The California Rules of Court 3.451 requires active management by the coordination trial judge and specifically provides for separate and joint trials of causes of action and issues, as the court in its discretion might order.

Pursuant to Rule 3.545(d) of the Rules of Court, certified copies of the judgments bearing the original case numbers of the cases must be entered in the courts where the cases were being heard immediately prior to coordination and unless the coordination judge orders otherwise, the judgments are enforced in those original jurisdictions. However, Rule 3.545(d) empowers the court to provide for the court in which post judgment proceedings will occur and to provide for the court in which any ancillary proceedings will be heard. In this case, that court should be the coordination court in order to ensure proper enforcement of the judgment or judgments.

This order of consolidation will not preclude any parties from settling any or all claims between or among them, as long as any such settlement expressly provides for the Court to retain jurisdiction over the settling parties for purposes of entering a judgment resolving all claims to the rights to withdraw groundwater from the Antelope Valley Groundwater Basin as well as the creation of a physical solution if such is required upon a proper finding by the Court. Upon appropriate motion and the opportunity for all parties in interest to be heard, the Court may enter a final judgment approving any settlements, including the *Willis* and *Wood* class settlements, that finally determine all cognizable claims for relief among the settling parties for purposes of incorporating and merging the settlements into a comprehensive single

judgment containing such a declaration of water rights and a physical solution. Any such settlement can only affect the parties to the settlement and cannot have any affect on the rights and duties of any party who is not a party to any such settlement. Complete consolidation shall not preclude or impair any class' right to seek the entry of a final judgment after settlement.

Therefore it is ordered as follows:

Except as otherwise stated below the motion to transfer and to consolidate for all purposes is **GRANTED**.

- To the extent not previously transferred as a result of the Judicial Council's
 order of coordination, all matter presently pending under the Judicial Council
 Coordination Proceeding No. 4408 are ordered transferred from the Riverside
 County Superior Court and Kern County Superior Court to the Los Angeles
 County Superior Court, the Honorable Jack Komar, judge presiding by special
 assignment.
- 2. The following actions are consolidated for all purposes because declaratory relief concerning rights to the ground water in the single aquifer is central to each proceeding:
 - a. Wm. Bolthouse Farms, Inc. v. City of Lancaster, et al., Riverside County Superior Court, Case No. RIC 353840;
 - b. *Diamond Farming Co.*, et al. v. City of Lancaster, et al., Riverside County Superior Court, Case No. RIC 3444436;
 - c. Diamond Farming Co. v. Palmdale Water District, et al., Riverside County Superior Court, Case No. RIC 344668;
 - d. Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 40 v. Diamond Farming Co., et al., Kern County Superior Court, Case No. S-1500-CV-254-348;
 - e. Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 40 v. Diamond Farming Co., et al., Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. BC 325201;
 - f. Rebecca Lee Willis, et al. v. Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 40, et al., Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. BC 364553;

- g. Richard A. Wood, et al. v. Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 40, et al., Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. BC 391869; and
- h. And all cross-complaints filed in any of the above-referenced actions.
- 3. The action entitled *Sheldon R. Blum, Trustee for the Sheldon R. Blum Trust v. Wm. Bolthouse Farms, Inc.*, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 1-05-CV-049053, is not consolidated, but shall remain related and coordinated with the actions and cross-actions referenced in paragraph 3 above.
- 4. The Court has ordered a Case Management Conference at which it will hear arguments concerning the order in which common issues will be heard and to set the matter for further trial. It is the Court's present intent to first schedule trial on the common issues relating to declaratory relief which will include the determination of overall condition of groundwater basin:
 - 1. Safe Yield

2. Overdraft

- 5. The determination of rights to withdraw groundwater, and claims to prescription, issues affecting appropriation, municipal/domestic priority, rights to imported water/storage rights, return flow rights, reasonable and beneficial use of water, recycled water, quiet title, export of water, determination of federal reserved right to water and physical solution may follow.
- 6. The following described causes of action for damages and other declaratory relief will proceed after the determination of the issues identified in paragraphs 4 and 5 above. Any waiver of immunity by the United States under the McCarran Amendment does not extend to these claims; jurisdiction over the United States does not attach to these claims or causes of action alleging these claims, and any determination on these claims shall not bind or otherwise adversely affect the rights of the United States:
 - a) Conversion
 - b) Nuisance

- c) 42 U.S.C. § 1983
- d) Takings/Inverse Condemnation
- e) Trespass
- 7. Any claim to declaratory relief regarding basin boundaries has been determined by the Court by Order dated November 6, 2008. To the extent any current party was not a party at the time of the determination of this issue, that party may seek to reopen or, consistent with the order, move to amend the basin boundary.

SO ORDERED.

FEB 1 9 2010

Hon Jack Komar

Judge of the Superior Court

PROOF OF SERVICE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO I am employed in the County of

I am employed in the County of the San Bernardino, State of California. I am over the age of 18 and not a party to the within action; my business address is 1839 Commercenter West, San Bernardino, California.

On March 25, 2016, I served the foregoing document(s) described as: **DECLARATION OF LELAND McELHANEY IN SUPPORT OF OVERLIERS' RESPONSE TO PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIERS' OPPOPSITION TO WOOD CLASS MOTION FOR AWARD OF COSTS AND ATTORNEY FEES on the interested parties in this action served in the following manner:**

XX BY ELECTRONIC SERVICE AS FOLLOWS by POSTING the document(s) listed above to the Santa Clara website in the action of the *Antelope Valley Groundwater Litigation*, Judicial Council Coordination Proceeding No. 4408, Santa Clara Case No. 1-05-CV-049053.

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

Executed on March 25, 2016, at San Bernardino, California.

P. Jo Anne Quihuis