MOTION FOR ORDER EXCLUDING EXPERT TESTIMONY OF N. THOMAS SHEAHAN;
MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES AND DECLARATION OF ROBERT G. KUHS IN SUPPORT THEREOF

the ground that Bolthouse has unreasonably failed to submit an expert witness declaration setting forth a brief narrative statement of the general substance of the testimony that its expert is expected to give at the Phase 2 Trial.

This motion is based on this motion, the memorandum of points and authorities in part II hereof, the declaration of Robert G. Kuhs in part III hereof, the records and papers on file herein, and on such other and further evidence as may be presented at the hearing on the motion.

Dated: August 29, 2008

KUHS & PARKER

By

Róbert G. Kuhs,

Attorney for Tejon Ranchcorp

#### II. POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

### A. Introduction.

The Phase 2 Trial is currently set for October 6, 2008. The sole issue before the court is whether there exists one or more basins within the Antelope Valley Adjudication Area ("AVAA"). This court ordered the parties to make a written disclosure of experts on August 15, 2008 pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure section 2034.260. Tejon and other parties filed expert disclosure declarations consistent with section 2034.260; Bolthouse did not. Richard G. Zimmer filed a declaration designating one expert, N. Thomas Sheahan. Nowhere in the declaration, however, does Mr. Zimmer disclose what opinions Mr. Sheahan will offer at trial. Furthermore, the expert did not produce a written report summarizing his anticipated opinions at trial.

By letter dated August 22, 2008, Tejon requested that Bolthouse make a disclosure in compliance with section 2034.260 or risk exclusion at trial. Bolthouse refused to make such disclosure. Accordingly, Tejon brings this motion to exclude from the Phase 2 Trial any opinion not expressly disclosed in Bolthouse's expert witness declaration.

# B. When A Party Fails to Disclose the Substance of an Expert's Testimony, Exclusion From Trial is Mandatory.

One of the principal purposes of civil discovery is to do away with the "sporting theory of litigation - namely, surprise at trial." (Chronicle Pub. Ca. v. Superior Court (1960) 54 Cal.2d 548, 561.) The purpose is accomplished by giving "greater assistance to the parties in ascertaining the truth and in checking and preventing perjury," and by providing "an effective means of detecting and exposing false and fraudulent and sham claims and defenses." (Greyhound Corp. v. Superior Court (1961) 56 Cal.2d 355, 376.) In other words, pretrial discovery is designed to take the "game" out of pretrial preparation. (Ibid.) To fulfill this goal, the legislature developed a comprehensive scheme for the orderly exchange of expert witness information.

The exchange of retained expert witness information must include a declaration. The declaration must contain a "brief narrative statement of the general substance of the testimony that the expert is expected to give." (Code Civ. Proc., § 2034.260(c)(2) [emphasis added].) The purpose of the expert witness disclosure is to give "fair notice of what an expert will say at trial." (Bonds v. Roy (1999) 20 Cal.4th 140, 146.) "This allows the parties to assess whether to take the

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

expert's deposition, to fully explore the relevant subject area at any such deposition, and to select an expert who can respond with a competing opinion on that subject area." (Id. at pp. 146-147.) "In short, the statutory scheme as a whole envisions timely disclosure of the general substance of the expert's expected testimony so that the parties may properly prepare for trial." (Id. at p. 148.)

Here, the expert witness declaration of Mr. Zimmer gives absolutely no notice of what the expert will say at trial. Mr. Zimmer states:

> "Mr. Sheahan may give testimony regarding the hydrogeologic characteristics of the basin related to the existence or non-existence of sub-basins and any and all other issues which may be relevant to the case."

The declaration contains absolutely no expression of Mr. Sheahan's opinion. As a result, Tejon and the other parties to this action are left to guess as to what opinions Mr. Sheahan will actually express at trial, whether such opinions are consistent or inconsistent with the opinions expressed by Tejon's experts, whether Tejon should declare a rebuttal expert, and if so on what subject. Indeed, the declaration is completely ambivalent on the central issue for trial, whether there are separate basins within the AVAA.

The testimony of Mr. Sheahan should also be excluded for another reason. The expert witness declaration must contain "(a) representation that the expert will be sufficiently familiar with the pending action to submit to a meaningful oral deposition concerning the specific testimony, including any opinion and its basis, that the expert is expected to give at trial." (Code Civ. Proc., § 2034.260(c)(4).) Mr. Zimmer failed to do so and specifically acknowledges that Mr. Sheahan will not be sufficiently familiar with the pending action to submit to a meaningful oral deposition: "...it will be

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

necessary for further investigation and work to be accomplished by Mr. Sheahan, along with review and critique of the deposition and/or trial testimony of other experts, in order to fully evaluate and give meaningful and appropriate testimony at Phase 2." (See Ex. A.) In other words, Mr. Sheahan is not prepared to submit to a meaningful deposition. Since Mr. Sheahan cannot currently submit to a meaningful oral deposition, and no time frame is given as to when, if at all, he will be in a position to do so, his testimony, must in fairness be excluded from trial.

In short, Bolthouse has failed to disclose the general substance of their expert's testimony in any fashion whatsoever. By letter dated August 22, 2008, Tejon requested that Bolthouse make a supplemental disclosure or risk exclusion at trial. (Ex. B.) Bolthouse refused to do so. (Ex. C.) As a result, Tejon and other parties to this action are prejudiced since we cannot determine from the declaration, whether Mr. Sheahan's deposition should be taken, how to prepare for cross-examination and whether we should prepare rebuttal testimony. "When an expert is permitted to testify at trial on a wholly undisclosed subject area, opposing parties similarly lack a fair opportunity to prepare for cross-examination or rebuttal. It makes little practical difference whether the party proferring the expert testimony failed to submit an expert witness declaration or submitted an inaccurate one." (Bonds v. Ray, supra, 20 Cal.4th at p. 147.) Exclusion from trial is appropriate.

#### C. Conclusion.

Based on the foregoing, Tejon respectfully requests that the court enter an

26

27

28

order excluding the testimony of N. Thomas Sheahan in the form attached hereto as **Exhibit D**.

Dated: August 29, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

**KUHS & PARKER** 

By 4

Robert G. Kuhs,

Attorney for Tejon Ranchcorp

### III. DECLARATION OF ROBERT G. KUHS

- I, ROBERT G. KUHS, declare as follows:
- I am an attorney at law duly admitted to practice before all courts of the
   State of California and a partner of Kuhs & Parker, counsel for Tejon.
- 2. Attached as **Exhibit A** is a true and correct copy of the **Expert Witness**Declaration submitted by Bolthouse.
- 3. Attached as **Exhibit B** is a true and correct copy of my August 22, 2008 letter to Mr. Zimmer requesting that he promptly supplement his declaration and further warning that absent such supplemental declaration, Tejon would move to exclude the testimony of his expert at trial.
- Attached as Exhibit C is a true and correct copy of Mr. Zimmer's
   August 25, 2008 response.

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

Dated: August 25, 2008

Robert G. Kuhs

C:\WPDATA\WCK\Tejon Ranch\Motion for Order Excluding Testimony of Sheahan.wpd

1	RICHARD G. ZIMMER - SBN 107263 T. MARK SMITH - SBN 162370		
2	CLIFFORD & BROWN		
3	A Professional Corporation Attorneys at Law		
4	Bank of America Building 1430 Truxtun Avenue, Suite 900 Bakersfield, CA 93301-5230		
5	(661) 322-6023		
6	Attorneys for Bolthouse Properties, LLC		
7	SUPERIOR COURT	C OF CALIFORNIA	
8			
9	COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA		
10	*	* *	
11		) Judicial Council Coordination ) Proceeding No. 4408	
12	ANTELOPE VALLEY GROUNDWATER	) ) CASE NO. 1-05-CV-049053	
13		) }	
14	INCLUDED ACTIONS:	) ) WRITTEN EXCHANGE OF REQUIRED	
15	LOS ANGELES COUNTY WATERWORKS DISTRICT NO. 40 v. DIAMOND FARMING COMPANY, et al.,	EXPERT WITNESS INFORMATION PURSUANT TO C.C.P. §2034.210	
16	Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC325201		
17	LOS ANGELES COUNTY WATERWORKS		
18	DISTRICT NO. 40 v. DIAMOND FARMING COMPANY, et al.,		
19	Kern County Superior Court Case No. S-1500-CV-254348	, ) ) DATE: July 24, 2006	
20		) TIME: 10:00 a.m.	
21	DIAMOND FARMING COMPANY, and W.M. BOLTHOUSE FARMS, INC., v. CITY OF LANCASTER, et al.,	) DEPT: D-1 )	
22	Riverside Superior Court	Location:	
23	Case No. RIC 344436 [c/w case no. RIC 344668 and 353840]	) LOS ANGELES SUPERIOR COURT	
24	ROSAMOND COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT,	111 North Hill Street Los Angeles, CA 90012	
25	CROSS-COMPLAINANT,		
26			

TO ALL PARTIES AND TO THEIR ATTORNEYS OF RECORD:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that BOLTHOUSE PROPERTIES, LLC, hereinafter ("BOLTHOUSE") makes the following written exchange of required expert witness information pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure § 2034.210.

#### RETAINED

- 1. N. Thomas Sheahan, Principal Hydrogeologist, Geomatrix Consultants, Inc., 250 E. Rincon, Suite 204, Corona, CA 92879.
- 2. That in addition to the above, BOLTHOUSE reserves the right to call as expert witnesses any or all of the experts who have been, or may subsequently be, designated by any of the parties to this case.
- 3. That in addition to the above, BOLTHOUSE reserves the right, pursuant to Section 2034.280 of the Code of Civil Procedure, as well as any other constitutional, statutory and/or common law rights he may have, to later name other experts before the trial or call to testify at trial experts not named, whose testimony may be utilized to rebut the contentions and testimony of the parties, the parties' experts or other persons or experts that may testify.

21 | ///

22 | ///

23 | ///

24 ///

25 | ///

26 | ///

Should BOLTHOUSE ascertain the name of any additional expert witness, other than rebuttal witnesses, prior to trial, BOLTHOUSE will immediately identify said expert and make him/her available for deposition upon reasonable notice and at a time and place convenient for all parties. DATED: August 15, 2008 CLIFFORD & BROWN By: T\_MARK SMITH, ESQ. Attorneys for BOLTHOUSE PROPERTIES, LLC 

# DECLARATION OF RICHARD G. ZIMMER

2

3

б

7 8

9

10

11

12 13

14 15

16 17

18

19 20

21

22 23

24

25

26

I, RICHARD G. ZIMMER, declare:

- That I am an attorney at law licensed to practice in 1. the State of California and a member of the law firm of Clifford & Brown.
- 2. That I am primarily responsible for the handling of the above-captioned matter on behalf of BOLTHOUSE PROPERTIES, LLC. I am familiar with the case and make this expert witness declaration pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure § 2034.260(c):

#### N. THOMAS SHEAHAN 3.

- Α. Geomatrix Consultants, Inc., 250 E. Rincon, Suite 204, Corona, CA 92879.
- Mr. Sheahan is a Hydrogeologist. A copy of his В. curriculum vitae is attached hereto as Exhibit "A" which sets forth his qualifications in more detail;
- Given the fact that virtually no discovery has been accomplished and that it appears that different parties still may have different ideas about what matters are truly at issue in Phase 2, it would be impossible to accurately define the scope of Mr. Sheahan's testimony. However, it does appear, based upon the Court's comments, that sub-basins will be the subject of the Phase 2 Trial. Mr. Sheahan may give testimony regarding hydrogeologic characteristics of the basin related to existence or non-existence of sub-basins and any and all other issues which may be relevant to the case.

It also should be noted that since virtually no

discovery has been accomplished and since the allegations of the various parties with regard to the Phase 2 issues is not known, it will be necessary for further investigation and work to be accomplished by Mr. Sheahan, along with review and critique of the depositions and/or trial testimony of other experts, in order to fully evaluate and give meaningful and appropriate testimony at Phase 2. Mr. Sheahan's testimony will include all potential issues raised by other experts in depositions and/or at trial, including analysis of any and all further documents, writings, studies, etc. which may be necessary to properly evaluate said issues and any other issue which becomes relevant at Phase 2.

- D. Mr. Sheahan's hourly fee for providing testimony is \$600.00 per hour, a minimum of four (4) hours per day;
- E. The expert identified in this declaration has agreed to testify at the trial and will be sufficiently familiar with the pending action to submit to a meaningful oral deposition concerning that expert's testimony, including any opinion and its basis that said expert is expected to give at trial.

I declare, under penalty of perjury, that the foregoing is true and correct of my own personal knowledge, except as to those matters stated to be based upon information and belief, and as to such matters, I am informed and believe that they are true and correct.

24 \\\

25 | \\\

26 | \\\

# Kuhs & Parker

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

WILLIAM C. KUHS JAMES R. PARKER, JR. ROBERT G. KUHS

P. O. BOX 2205

BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA 93303

(661) 322-4004

1200 TRUXTUN AVENUE, SUITE 200 BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA 93301

> TELECOPIER NO. (661) 322-2906

OUR FILE NO.

August 22, 2008

1291.01

Richard G. Zimmer Clifford & Brown 1430 Truxtun Avenue, Suite 900 Bakersfield, CA 93301-5230

Ro.

Antelope Valley Groundwater Cases Judicial Council Proceeding No. 4408

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

Expert Witness Disclosure

Dear Mr. Zimmer:

We are in receipt of Bolthouse Properties, LLC ("Bolthouse") expert witness disclosure statement. The disclosure is not adequate.

The expert witness declaration must include (a) "a brief narrative statement of the general substance of the testimony that the expert is expected to give." (Code Civ. Proc., § 2034.260(c)(2).) The purpose of the expert witness discovery statute is to give "fair notice of what an expert will say at trial." (Bonds v. Roy (1999) 20 Cal.4th 140, 146.) "This allows the parties to assess whether to take the expert's deposition, to fully explore the relevant subject area and any such deposition, and to select an expert who can respond with a competing opinion on that subject area." (Id. at pp. 146-147.)

The sole issue before the court during the Phase 2A trial is whether there are subbasins within the Antelope Valley adjudication area. We cannot determine from your declaration or any material incorporated by reference therein, what opinion, if any, Mr. Sheahan will express, whether we should take his deposition, and whether we should prepare rebuttal testimony.

The purpose of this letter is to request that Bolthouse properly submit a supplemental declaration which includes a brief narrative statement of the general

## Kuhs & Parker

Richard G. Zimmer August 22, 2008 Page 2

substance of Mr. Sheahan's testimony as required. Absent such compliance, will move to exclude Mr. Sheahan's opinion. (Code Civ. Proc., § 2034.300.)

Very truly yours,

Robert G. Kuhs

RGK/lel

cc: Counsel and Parties

C:\WPDATA\WCK\Tejon Ranch\Zimmer letter.wpd

STEPHEN T. CLIFFORD
JAMES E. BROWN
ROBERT D. HARDING
ARNOLD ANCHORDOQUY
PATRICK J. OSBORN
MICHAEL L. O'DELL
GROVER H. WALDON
JOHN R. SZEWCZYK
STEPHEN H. BOYLE†
JAMES B. WIENS
RICHARD G. ZIMMER
CHARLES D. MELTON
T. MARK SMITH

OF COUNSEL
ANTHONY L. LEGGIO

† LLM TAXATION

# Clifford S Brown

A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

BANK OF AMERICA BUILDING 1430 TRUXTUN AVENUE, SUITE 900 BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA 93301-5230

TELEPHONE NO. (661) 322-6023 • FACSIMILE NO. (661) 322-3508

JEREMY J. SCHROEDER
WINIFRED THOMSON HOSS
SHELLY S. MAURER
DANIEL T. CLIFFORD
CHRISTOPHER J. HAGAN
BRENDA A. ENDERLE
VICTORIA M. TRICHELL
RYAN A. LEGGIO
NICHOLAS J. STREET
TIMOTHY M. OSBORN
MARC E. DENISON

KATHY R. SMITH

www.clifford-brownlaw.com

August 25, 2008

2455-2

Robert G. Kuhs, Esq. Kuhs & Parker 1200 Truxtun Avenue, Suite 200 Bakersfield, CA 93301

Re:

Antelope Valley Groundwater Litigation

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

Judicial Council Coordination Proceeding No. 4408

Dear Mr. Kuhs:

The following correspondence is in reference to your correspondence dated August 22, 2008. As you know, the Court, within the past few weeks, decided for the first time that the Phase 2 Trial would be for the purpose of determining whether there are any sub-basins in the area of adjudication. Since sub-basins was not an issue in the Riverside case, nor an issue of any significance in the Technical Committee, and since we only recently received the reports of other experts regarding potential sub-basins, it is difficult to provide you with any additional information as you have requested.

Generally speaking, I believe our expert is of the opinion that the area of adjudication is a hydraulically connected common water source. However, until other experts indicate what they plan to testify about, I do not know whether we will use our expert, Tom Sheahan, or not, or if so, on what particular issues.

Give me a call if you have any further questions or comments. I hope this helps.

Very truly yours.

Richard G. Zimmer

RGZ/nm

cc: Counsel and Parties

BL/BOLTHOUSE/ANTELOPE/SANTA CLARA/KUHS-01

Exhibit D

considered the papers submitted and oral argument of counsel, and good cause appearing therefor,

## IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

	1.	N. Thomas Sheahan is excluded from offering any opinion in the Phase 2
Trial.		
Dated	l:	, 2008

Judge of the Superior Court

C:\WPDATA\WCK\Tejon Ranch\Sheahan Order.wpd

#### PROOF OF SERVICE

I, Lidia E. Luna, declare:

I am employed in the County of Kern, State of California. I am over the age of 18 and am not a party to the within action; my business address is Kuhs & Parker, 1200 Truxtun Avenue, Suite 200, Bakersfield, California 93301.

On August 29, 2008, I caused the foregoing document(s) described as: MOTION IN LIMINE FOR ORDER EXCLUDING EXPERT TESTIMONY OF N. THOMAS SHEAHAN; MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES; AND DECLARATION OF ROBERT G. KUHS IN SUPPORT THEREOF to be served on the parties in this action, as follows::

- (X) (BY ELECTRONIC SERVICE) by posting the document(s) listed above to the Santa Clara County Superior Court website: <a href="www.scefiling.org">www.scefiling.org</a> regarding the Antelope Valley Groundwater matter.
- () (BY U.S. MAIL) I am readily familiar with the firm's practice of collection and processing of documents for mailing. Under that practice, the above-referenced document(s) were placed in seal envelope(s) addressed to the parties as noted above, with postage thereon fully prepaid and deposited such envelope(s) with the United States Postal Service on the same date at Bakersfield, California, addressed to:
- () (BY FEDERAL EXPRESS) I served a true and correct copy by Federal Express or other overnight delivery service, for delivery on the next business day. Each copy was enclosed in an envelope or package designated by the express service carrier; deposited in a facility regularly maintained by the express service carrier or delivered to a courier or driver authorized to receive documents on its behalf; with delivery fees paid or provided for; addressed as shown on the accompanying service list.
- ( ) (BY FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION) I am "readily familiar" with the firm's practice of facsimile transmission of documents. It is transmitted to the recipient on the same day in the ordinary course of business.
- (X) (STATE) I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the above is true and correct.
- ( ) (FEDERAL) I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct.

Lidia E. Luna