

1 SHAWN D. HAGERTY, Bar No. 182435  
shawn.hagerty@bbklaw.com  
2 BEST BEST & KRIEGER LLP  
655 West Broadway  
3 15th Floor  
San Diego, California 92101  
4 Telephone: (619) 525-1300  
Facsimile: (619) 233-6118

EXEMPT FROM FILING FEES PURSUANT  
TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 6103

5 CHRISTOPHER MARK PISANO, Bar No. 192831  
christopher.pisano@bbklaw.com  
6 BEST BEST & KRIEGER LLP  
300 South Grand Avenue  
7 25th Floor  
8 Los Angeles, California 90071  
Telephone: (213) 617-8100  
9 Facsimile: (213) 617-7480

Electronically FILED by  
Superior Court of California,  
County of Los Angeles  
10/04/2023 5:24 PM  
David W. Slayton,  
Executive Officer/Clerk of Court,  
By J. Covarrubias, Deputy Clerk

10 Attorneys for Defendant and Cross-Complainant  
CITY OF SAN BUENAVENTURA

11  
12 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
13 COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

14  
15 SANTA BARBARA CHANNELKEEPER, a  
California non-profit corporation,

Case No. 19STCP01176

16 Petitioner,

Judge: Hon. William F. Highberger

17 v.

**NOTICE OF RULING**

18 STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL  
19 BOARD, et al,

Date: September 27, 2023  
Time: 3:30 p.m.  
Dept.: 10

20 Respondents.

21 CITY OF SAN BUENAVENTURA, et al.,

Action Filed: Sept. 19, 2014  
Trial Date: TBD

22 Cross-Complainant,

23 v.

24 DUNCAN ABBOTT, an individual, et al.,

25 Cross-Defendants.  
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NOTICE OF RULING

On September 27, 2023, the parties appeared at the order to show cause hearing and further status conference, the Honorable William F. Highberger, Judge presiding. The parties stated their appearances on the record, and/or they are reflected on LA Court Connect records. The Court made the following orders and determinations:

1. The Court heard the order to show cause regarding why the current stay which extends to Sept. 30, 2023 should not be further extended to March 30, 2024. The Court ordered the stay extended for six (6) months to March 30, 2024. A true and correct copy of the September 27, 2023 order is attached hereto as Exhibit A.
2. The Court entered a minute order, dated September 27, 2023. A true and correct copy of the minute order is attached hereto as Exhibit B.
3. The Court set a further status conference for March 13, 2024 at 10:00 a.m, with Defendant and Cross-Complainant City of San Buenaventura to file a joint status report by March 6, 2024.

Dated: October 4, 2023

BEST BEST & KRIEGER LLP

By:   
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 SHAWN D. HAGERTY  
 CHRISTOPHER M. PISANO  
 Attorneys for Defendant and Cross-Complainant  
 CITY OF SAN BUENAVENTURA

# **EXHIBIT A**

EXEMPT FROM FILING FEES PURSUANT  
TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 6103

1 SHAWN D. HAGERTY, Bar No. 182435  
shawn.hagerty@bbklaw.com  
2 BEST BEST & KRIEGER LLP  
655 West Broadway, 15th Floor  
3 San Diego, California 92101  
Telephone: (619) 525-1300  
4 Facsimile: (619) 233-6118

5 CHRISTOPHER M. PISANO, Bar No. 192831  
christopher.pisano@bbklaw.com  
6 BEST BEST & KRIEGER LLP  
300 South Grand Avenue, 25th Floor  
7 Los Angeles, California 90071  
Telephone: (213) 617-8100  
8 Facsimile: (213) 617-7480

9 Attorneys for Defendant and Cross-Complainant  
10 CITY OF SAN BUENAVENTURA

11 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
12 COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

13 SANTA BARBARA CHANNELKEEPER, a  
California non-profit corporation,

14 Petitioner,

15 v.

16 STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL  
17 BOARD, et al,

18 Respondents.

19 CITY OF SAN BUENAVENTURA, et al.,

20 Cross-Complainant,

21 v.

22 DUNCAN ABBOTT, an individual, et al.,

23 Cross-Defendants.  
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Case No. 19STCP01176

Judge: Hon. William F. Highberger

**[PROPOSED] ORDER TO CONTINUE  
THE STAY SIX MONTHS TO MARCH  
30, 2024**

Date: September 27, 2023

Time: 3:30 p.m.

Dept.: 10

Action Filed: Sept. 19, 2014

Trial Date: Not Set

**PROPOSED ORDER**

On September 27, 2023 at 3:30 p.m., the parties appeared in Department 10 of the above-captioned Court on the Order to Show Cause why the stay in this action should not be extended six month to March 30, 2024. The Order to Show Cause was supported by a Joint Application filed by Defendant and Cross-Complainant City of San Buenaventura (Ventura) and Cross-Defendants Casitas Municipal Water District (Casitas), the City of Ojai (Ojai), the East Ojai Group,<sup>1</sup> Ventura River Water District (VRWD), Meiners Oaks Water District (MOWD), the Wood-Claeyssens Foundation (Foundation), Ventura County Watershed Protection District (Watershed Protection), and the Rancho Matilija Mutual Water Company (Rancho Matilija). The appearances of the parties are as noted in the record. Having read and considered all of the pleadings, supporting declarations, and evidence admitted, and having heard argument of counsel, and good cause appearing therefore, the Court finds that a continuance of the stay is necessary to allow the parties to continue to negotiate terms of a potential global or partial settlement with Mediator David Ceppos. Therefore, the stay in this case is continued for all purposes consistent with the original stay for six (6) months to March 30, 2024.

IT IS HERBY SO ORDERED.

09/27/2023



JUDGE WILLIAM F. HIGHBERGER

<sup>1</sup> The East Ojai Group consists of Cross-Defendants The Thacher School; Friend's Ranches, Inc.; Topa Ranch & Nursery, LLC; Finch Farms, LLC; Red Mountain Land & Farming, LLC; Thacher Creek Citrus, LLC; The Finch Family Trust; James P. Finch, Robert Calder Davis, Jr.; Robert Calder Davis, Jr., Trustee of Trust Owned Properties; Sharon H. Booth, Trustee of The Survivor's Trust Created Under Declaration of Trust of Richard G. Booth and Sharon H. Booth Dated July 10, 1980; David Robert Hamm; Ojai Oil Company; Ojai Valley School; Reeves Orchard, LLC; and Ojai Valley Inn.

# **EXHIBIT B**

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

**Civil Division**

Central District, Spring Street Courthouse, Department 10

**19STCP01176**

**SANTA BARBARA CHANNELKEEPER vs STATE WATER  
RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD, et al.**

September 27, 2023

3:30 PM

Judge: Honorable William F. Highberger  
Judicial Assistant: R. Aspiras  
Courtroom Assistant: R. Sanchez

CSR: Ann Cavin, # 13189  
ERM: None  
Deputy Sheriff: None

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**APPEARANCES:**

For Plaintiff(s): No Appearances

For Defendant(s): No Appearances

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**NATURE OF PROCEEDINGS:** Further Status Conference; Order to Show Cause Re: why the current stay which extends to Sept. 30, 2023 should not be further extended to allow for further mediation efforts and related factual investigation; Hearing on Motion for Order to Continue the Stay Six Months to March 30, 2024

**APPEARANCES:**

For Plaintiff(s): Daniel Cooper (via LACourtConnect)

For Defendant(s): Chris Pisano

For Defendant(s) (via LACourtConnect): Claude R. Baggerly, Daniel Cooper, Andrew Eberle, Shawn Hagerty, Bradley Herrema, Noah Golden-Krasner, Jeremy Jungreis, Justin Lynch, Neal Maguire, Marc N. Melnick, Nathan Metcalf, Brian E. Moskal, Jeanne Zolezzi

Pursuant to Government Code sections 68086, 70044, California Rules of Court, rule 2.956, and the stipulation of appearing parties, Ann Cavin, CSR # 13189, certified shorthand reporter is appointed as an official Court reporter pro tempore in these proceedings, and is ordered to comply with the terms of the Court Reporter Agreement. The Order is signed and filed this date.

The matter is called for hearing.

The Court and counsel confer regarding the motion, and there being no opposition, the Court rules as follows:

Motion for Order to Continue the Stay Six Months to March 30, 2024 is Granted.

Order to Continue the Stay Six Months to March 30, 2024 is signed and filed this date.

Further Status Conference is scheduled for 03/13/2024 at 10:00 AM in Department 10 at Spring

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

**Civil Division**

Central District, Spring Street Courthouse, Department 10

**19STCP01176**

September 27, 2023

**SANTA BARBARA CHANNELKEEPER vs STATE WATER**

3:30 PM

**RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD, et al.**

Judge: Honorable William F. Highberger

CSR: Ann Cavin, # 13189

Judicial Assistant: R. Aspiras

ERM: None

Courtroom Assistant: R. Sanchez

Deputy Sheriff: None

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Street Courthouse.

Joint status report is due on 03/06/2024.

City of Buena Ventura to give notice.