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VENTURA RIVER WATER DISTRICT and  
MEINERS OAKS WATER DISTRICT

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**  
**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – CENTRAL DISTRICT**  
**SPRING STREET COURTHOUSE**

SANTA BARBARA CHANNELKEEPER, )  
a California non-profit corporation, )  
 )  
Petitioner, )  
 )  
vs. )  
 )  
STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL )  
BOARD, a California State Agency; CITY OF )  
SAN BUENAVENTURA, a California )  
municipal corporation, )  
 )  
Respondents. )

Case No.: 19STCP01176  
Judge: Honorable William F. Highberger  
CROSS-DEFENDANTS' VENTURA RIVER  
WATER DISTRICT AND MEINERS OAKS  
WATER DISTRICT OPPOSITION TO  
MOTION REQUESTING THE COURT TO  
APPOINT A SCIENTIFIC ADVISOR FOR  
HYDROGEOLOGY

Date: June 21, 2021  
Time: 1:30 p.m.  
Place: S10  
Action Filed: September 19, 2014  
Trial Date: Not Set

CITY OF SAN BUENAVENTURA, a )  
California municipal corporation, )  
 )  
Cross-Complainant )  
 )  
vs. )  
 )  
DUNCAN ABBOTT, an individual; et al. )  
 )  
Cross-Defendants. )


1 Cross Defendants Claude and Patricia Baggerly has requested that the Court appoint a scientific  
2 advisor for Hydrogeology. Movant argues that the appointment and funding of a scientific  
3 advisor would increase the knowledge of the court and help the court to “understand the science  
4 and make for better decisions and rulings”. For the reasons stated in the Opposition filed by the  
5 City of San Buenaventura, Cross-Defendants oppose such a motion and join in the opposition  
6 filed by the City of Buenaventura.

7  
8 A court appointed expert is not needed at this time in the litigation; experts hired by the parties  
9 will provide the court with well-reasoned and sound opinions that this court is well equipped to  
10 sort through, evaluate and use to support its decision. An additional court appointed expert would  
11 simply create another opinion for the court to wade through – an opinion not as experienced in  
12 the issues currently before the court as the parties’ experts. Most importantly, in addition to  
13 delaying the proceedings, because a qualified expert will be difficult to find, and take time to get  
14 up to speed on the specific issues before the court, appointment of an expert would impose an  
15 additional financial burden on the parties, who are already paying for their experts to work on  
16 these issues.

17  
18 Finally, such a request is premature. The court should first evaluate the opinions submitted by  
19 the parties’ existing experts. If the court finds itself unable to evaluate the expert opinion, it can  
20 then determine whether or not it needs outside assistance.

21  
22 DATED: June 1, 2021

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26 Attorneys for Cross-Defendants  
27 VENTURA RIVER WATER DISTRICT  
28 and MEINERS OAKS WATER DISTRICT