Page 1 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA 1 2 FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES 3 DEPARTMENT 10 HON. WILLIAM F. HIGHBERGER, JUDGE 4 5 SANTA BARBARA CHANNELKEEPER, 6 PLAINTIFF, 7 VS. ) CASE NO. ) 19STCP01176 8 STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD, ET AL., 9 DEFENDANTS. 10 11 12 13 REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS 14 FEBRUARY 27, 2020 15 16 APPEARANCES: 17 FOR THE PLAINTIFF: COOPER & LEWAND-MARTIN, INC. 18 BY: DANIEL COOPER, ESQ. 19 (APPEARED VIA COURT CALL) 1004 O'REILLY AVENUE 20 SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94129 415.360.2962 21 DANIEL@COOPERLEWAND-MARTIN.COM 2.2 FOR THE CROSS-DEFENDANT THE CITY OF OJAI: 23 BARTKIEWICZ, KRONICK & SHANAHAN, P.C BY: JENNIFER T. BUCKMAN, ESQ. 24 (APPEARED VIA COURT CALL) 1011 22ND STREET 25 SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95816 916.446.4254 26 JTB@BKSLAWFIRM.COM 27 AURORA BOWSER, CSR NO. 12801, 28 OFFICIAL REPORTER PRO TEMPORE

Page 2 APPEARANCES CONTINUED: 1 2 FOR THE CROSS-DEFENDANT CITY OF SAN BUENAVENTURA: 3 BEST, BEST & KRIEGER LLP BY: SHAWN D. HAGERTY, ESQ. 4 655 WEST BROADWAY 15TH FLOOR 5 SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101 619.525.1300 6 SHAWN. HAGERTY@BBKLAW.COM 7 FOR THE DEFENDANT CITY OF SAN BUENAVENTURA: 8 BEST BEST & KRIEGER LLP BY: CHRISTOPHER M. PISANO, ESO. 300 SOUTH GRAND AVENUE 9 25TH FLOOR LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90071 10 213.617.8100 11 CHRISTOPHER.PISANO@BBKLAW.COM 12 FOR THE CROSS-DEFENDANTS BECKER, JANET BOULTEN, MICHAEL BOULTEN, MICHAEL CALDWELL, JOE CLARK: 13 BLATZ LAW FIRM 14 BY: PAUL B. BLATZ, ESQ. (APPEARED VIA COURT CALL) 15 206 NORTH SIGNAL STREET SUITE G. 16 OJAI, CALIFORNIA 93023 805.418.3110 17 BLATZLAWFIRM@GMAIL.COM 18 FOR THE CROSS-DEFENDANT THE WOOD-CLAEYSSENS FOUNDATION, TAYLOR RANCH: 19 BROWNSTEIN HYATT FARBER SCHRECK 20 BY: BRADLEY J. HERREMA, ESQ. 2049 CENTURY PARK EAST 21 SUITE 3550 LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90067 22 310.500.4600 BHERREMA@BHFS.COM 23 FOR THE CROSS-DEFENDANT CASITAS MUNICIPAL WATER 24 DISTRICT: 25 RUTAN & TUCKER LLP BY: DAVID B. COSGROVE, ESQ. 26 611 ANTON BOULEVARD SUITE #1400 27 COSTA MESA, CALIFORNIA 92626 714.641.3419 28 DCOSGROVE@RUTAN.COM

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CASE NUMBER: 19STCP01176 1 2 CASE NAME: SANTA BARBARA CHANNELKEEPER 3 VS. STATE WATER RESOURCES 4 CONTROL BOARD THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2020 5 LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 6 DEPARTMENT: 10 HON. WILLIAM F. HIGHBERGER 7 (AS HERETOFORE NOTED.) APPEARANCES: 8 REPORTER: AURORA BOWSER, CSR NO. 12801 9 TIME: 1:47 P.M. 10 11 ---000---THE COURT: STCP01176, SANTA BARBARA 12 13 CHANNELKEEPER VERSUS STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL 14 BOARD. DO I HAVE COUNSEL FOR SANTA BARBARA CHANNELKEEPER WITH US ON THE PHONE THIS AFTERNOON? 15 16 MR. COOPER: YES, YOUR HONOR. THIS IS DANIEL 17 COOPER FOR CHANNELKEEPER. 18 THE COURT: GREETINGS. HERE IN COURT IN 19 PERSON SITTING AT THE COUNSEL TABLE? 20 MR. HAGERTY: YOUR HONOR, SHAWN HAGERTY FOR 2.1 THE CITY OF SAN BUENAVENTURA. WITH ME TODAY IS CHRIS 22 PISANO, MY COLLEAGUE. 23 MR. COSGROVE: GOOD AFTERNOON, YOUR HONOR. 24 DAVID COSGROVE WITH RUTAN & TUCKER FOR CASITAS 25 MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT. 26 MR. HERREMA: GOOD AFTERNOON, YOUR HONOR. 27 BRAD HERREMA FROM BROWNSTEIN HYATT FARBER AND SCHRECK

ON BEHALF OF THE WOOD-CLAEYSSENS FOUNDATION.

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MR. MELNICK: GOOD AFTERNOON, YOUR HONOR.

MARC MELNICK FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE ON

BEHALF OF THE STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD.

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MR. KRASNER: GOOD AFTERNOON, YOUR HONOR.

NOAH GOLDEN KRASNER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND
WILDLIFE.

THE COURT: GREETINGS. COUNSEL ON THE PHONE,
IF YOU FIND OCCASION THAT YOU WANT TO SPEAK, PLEASE
GIVE YOUR NAME. AND IF MULTIPLE PEOPLE SPEAK ON THE
PHONE, YOU'LL PROBABLY HAVE TO GIVE YOUR NAME EACH
TIME.

BUT I DON'T THINK WE NEED TO SPEND THE TIME IT WOULD TAKE TO CHECK IN ON THE RECORD FOR THOSE OF YOU JOINING US ON THE PHONE, SINCE YOUR NAMES WILL APPEAR IN THE MINUTE ORDER.

I HAVE REVIEWED THE JOINT REPORT FILED BY THE CITY OF SAN BUENAVENTURA ON FEBRUARY 20TH. IT'S UNILATERAL IN SOME SENSE. BUT IT DOES SHOW INTERACTION WITH ALL THE OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES. SO IN THAT SENSE, IT'S JOINT.

I WILL LET SOMEBODY CORRECT ME IF I'M WRONG,
BUT I BELIEVE THE THREE REQUESTS THAT I'VE GOTTEN, TWO
FROM VENTURA CITY, AND ONE FROM OJAI, FOR EXTENSIONS OF
DEADLINES TO FILE CERTAIN PAPERWORK, ARE UNOPPOSED.

AND THE REQUEST OF THE CITY OF OJAI, I
BELIEVE, IS REDUNDANT TO -- OTHERWISE IDENTICAL TO THE
REQUEST FROM THE CITY OF VENTURA. DO YOU AGREE,
MR. HAGERTY?

1 MR. HAGERTY: YES, YOUR HONOR.

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THE COURT: DO I HAVE COUNSEL ON THE PHONE FOR CITY OF VENTURA?

MR. HAGERTY: CITY OF OJAI, YOUR HONOR?

THE COURT: CITY OF OJAI.

MS. BUCKMAN: YES, YOUR HONOR.

THE COURT: NAME?

MS. BUCKMAN: JENNIFER BUCKMAN SPECIALLY APPEARING FOR CITY OF OJAI.

THE COURT: FAIR ENOUGH. DO YOU CONCUR WITH WHAT I JUST SAID ABOUT THE STATUS OF THE EX PARTIES, MA'AM?

MS. BUCKMAN: WE DO, YOUR HONOR.

THE COURT: OKAY. ALL THREE EX PARTES ARE THEREFORE GRANTED. I BELIEVE WE HAD --

MR. OSIAS: THIS IS DAVID OSIAS. HAVE WE LOST THE COURT?

THE COURT: NO. I WENT DOWN TO COUNSEL TABLE
TO SIGN THE PAPERWORK I NEED TO SIGN. I NOW HAVE IT.
MR. HAGERTY, THE EX PARTE FOR VENTURA SEEMS TO SEEK THE
SAME RELIEF AS THE EX PARTE FOR THE CITY OF OJAI.
SHOULD I BE SIGNING BOTH OF THEM TO ACCOMPLISH THE

SHOULD I BE SIGNING BOTH OF THEM TO ACCOMPLISH THE DESIRE TO RESOLVE?

MR. HAGERTY: YOUR HONOR, THERE IS A SLIGHT DIFFERENCE, THAT I DON'T THINK IS MATERIAL, BUT I THINK IS IMPORTANT TO CLARIFY. OUR PREFERENCE WOULD BE THAT YOU USE THE ONE WE SUBMITTED.

THE DIFFERENCE IS THAT WE THINK IT'S JUST MORE

EFFICIENT TO HAVE A DATE CERTAIN. AND WE'VE PROPOSED A DATE CERTAIN IN THE DOCUMENTS THAT WE'VE SUBMITTED.

THAT IS SEPTEMBER 8TH, 2020, WHICH WOULD BE SIX MONTHS
FROM THE DATE THAT RESPONSES WERE OTHERWISE DUE.

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OJAI IS A LITTLE DIFFERENT. AND I THINK IT
WOULD BE THE MOST EFFICIENT TO HAVE A DATE CERTAIN.
BECAUSE OTHERWISE, WE WOULD GET MULTIPLE REQUESTS IN
TERMS OF WHEN SERVICE OCCURRED AND HOW MUCH TIME PEOPLE
HAVE.

SO IT WOULD BE OUR PREFERENCE IF -- AND WE SUPPORT OJAI'S REQUEST AS WELL. BUT WE JUST THINK IT WOULD BE MORE EFFICIENT TO HAVE A SPECIFIC DATE OF SEPTEMBER 8TH, 2020, WHICH IS WHAT WE'VE ASKED FOR.

THE COURT: MS. BUCKMAN, FOR THE CITY OF OJAI,

ARE YOU AGREEABLE IF I SIMPLY ADOPT VENTURA'S FORM, BUT

LET THAT ESSENTIALLY MANIFEST THE SAME RELIEF THAT YOU

WANTED?

MS. BUCKMAN: YES, YOUR HONOR. WE ARE AMENABLE TO THAT.

THE COURT: OKAY. SO THE MINUTE ORDER WILL INDICATE THAT THE COURT GRANTS THE EX PARTE REQUEST OF OJAI. BUT THE ORDER THAT'S SIGNED FOR THE BENEFIT OF VENTURA ON ITS MOTION, WILL CONTROL IN LIEU OF THE ORDER SUBMITTED BY OJAI, IN ORDER TO ALLOW THE EX PARTE TO BE FILED.

IN LIEU OF SIGNING WHERE THE ORDER WOULD
OTHERWISE BE SHOWN, I WILL IN LIEU OF MY SIGNATURE SAY
"SEE ORDER ON CONCURRENT EX PARTE. GRANTED EX PARTE OF

1 CITY OF" -- DO YOU TAKE OFFENSE IF I JUST SAY
2 "VENTURA"?

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MR. HAGERTY: NO. WE PREFER THAT, FOR SIMPLICITY OF THE MOMENT.

THE COURT: BUT THEY DON'T CHOOSE TO LEGALLY RENAME THEMSELVES?

MR. HAGERTY: CORRECT.

THE COURT: SO IN LIEU OF SIGNATURE I SAY,

"SEE ORDER ON CONCURRENT EX PARTE OF CITY OF VENTURA

GRANTED TODAY ON THE OJAI APPLICATION, WHICH CAN

OTHERWISE BE FILED."

AND THEN ON THE VENTURA REQUEST, I WILL TICK
THE BOX FOR ORDER IN THE CAPTION PAGE. SO SINCE I'M
AGREEABLE TO IT. AND WE'LL SIGN THAT UNDER TODAY'S
DATE.

ANY OTHER BLANKS NEED TO BE FILLED IN, MR. HAGERTY?

MR. HAGERTY: NO, YOUR HONOR.

THE COURT: TURNING NOW TO THE PAPERWORK ON
THE EX PARTE AS TO THE PROOF OF SERVICE, WHICH IS FOR
THE BENEFIT OF THE CITY OF OJAI. MARCH 2 IS THE NEW
COMPLIANCE DEADLINE?

MR. HAGERTY: YOUR HONOR, THE CURRENT DEADLINE. YES. AND WE'RE ASKING FOR MAY 1, YOUR HONOR.

THE COURT: WHERE DOES THAT MANIFEST IN THE FORM?

MR. HAGERTY: IT SHOULD BE THE NEXT PAGE.

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THE COURT: OKAY. SO THE THREE EX PARTES ARE RESOLVED.

MR. HAGERTY: FIRST, YOUR HONOR, THERE ARE FOUR OTHER RELATIVELY MINOR ITEMS THAT I CAN TICK THROUGH VERY QUICKLY, IF IT PLEASE THE COURT.

THE COURT: ARE SOME OF THEM GOING TO BE INCORPORATED IN THE PROPOSED ORDER AFTER STATUS CONFERENCE?

MR. HAGERTY: YES, YOUR HONOR.

THE COURT: SO FAR EVERYTHING SEEMS
REASONABLE, SUBJECT TO THE NITPICKS THAT I PUT UP ON
THE POSTING YESTERDAY ABOUT THE NEED TO GIVE A
USER-FRIENDLY COURT-APPROVED ANSWER FOR NAMED RIPARIAN
OWNERS, A CAPTION TITLE THAT IS NOT IDENTICAL TO THE
"FORM ANSWER" THAT IS ALLOWED TO THE PARTIES NOT YET
NAMED BUT SERVED AS INTERESTED GROUNDWATER OWNERS; SO
THAT THE INTAKE PROCESS IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE CAN
READILY DISTINGUISH BETWEEN THE TWO TYPES OF LITIGANTS
WHO ARE APPEARING.

MR. HAGERTY: WE AGREE, YOUR HONOR. AND OUR PROPOSAL WOULD BE, AFTER THE HEARING TODAY, WE WOULD SUBMIT A PROPOSED ORDER. INCLUDED WITH THAT, WOULD BE A PROPERLY-CAPTIONED FORM, SO THAT THE COURT HAS IT BEFORE IT TAKES ACTION.

AND THEN WE WOULD POST THAT ON OUR WEBSITE.

WE ALREADY HAVE THE FORM ANSWER POSTED. IT WOULD BE A

SEPARATE POSTING. SO IT WOULD BE VERY CLEAR THAT IF

YOU WERE A RIPARIAN AND WISH TO USE A FORM ANSWER, THIS 1 IS THE ONE YOU WOULD USE. SO WE WOULD TAKE CARE OF ALL THAT THROUGH THE ORDER.

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THE COURT: ANYBODY OBJECT? NO OBJECTION FOR THE RECORD.

MR. OSIAS: I'M SORRY, YOUR HONOR.

THE COURT: SPEAK UP. WHO IS THIS?

MR. OSIAS: YOUR HONOR, THIS IS DAVID OSIAS FOR A PARTY THAT HAS NOT YET APPEARED.

THE COURT: MR. OSIAS, YOU'RE SPECIALLY APPEARING, OR YOU'RE JUST AN INTERESTED MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC?

MR. OSIAS: NO. NO. I HAVE A CLIENT WHO IS NOT YET MAKING APPEARANCE IN THE CASE.

THE COURT: I'M NOT ASKING YOU TO GIVE A NAME. SO THAT'S ALL RIGHT. I WON'T CONSTRUE THIS AS AN APPEARANCE.

MR. OSIAS: THANK YOU. MY QUESTION MERELY IS, IF THE LANDOWNER IS UNCERTAIN WHETHER THE RIGHTS WOULD ULTIMATELY BE CLASSIFIED AS OVERLYING GROUNDWATER OR, RIPARIAN, DOES THE CHOICE HAVE A FORM HAVE ANY SIGNIFICANCE FOR THEM, OR IS IT MERELY FOR FILING PURPOSES?

THE COURT: DO YOU HAVE A SENTIMENT, MR. HAGERTY, BEFORE I SPEAK?

MR. HAGERTY: YOUR HONOR, I WOULD BE HAPPY TO TALK TO MR. OSIAS. I'VE TALKED TO HIM ALREADY. CERTAIN WE CAN WORK OUT THE DETAILS OF THE APPROPRIATE FORM TO USE.

SO I'M NOT SURE WE NEED TO FULLY RESOLVE THAT HERE. BUT I'M HAPPY TO WORK WITH HIM ON THAT.

THE COURT: I WOULD VOLUNTEER THESE COMMENTS,

MR. OSIAS. THE UNIVERSE OF NEW CROSS-DEFENDANTS WHO'VE

BEEN NAMED IS A DEFINED SET. IT'S A LONG CAPTION PAGE,

BUT THOSE NAMES ARE OUT THERE.

MR. OSIAS: RIGHT.

THE COURT: AND IF THE CLIENTS WHO ARE REPRESENTING FINDS HIMSELF, HERSELF, OR ITSELF IN THAT LIST, THEY SHOULD NOT USE THE "FORM ANSWER" INTENDED FOR PEOPLE WHOSE RIGHTS ARE LIMITED TO GROUNDWATER, AND INSTEAD SHOULD GIVE US A FORM THAT MATCHES THE STATUS OF THE NAMED PARTY.

IF YOU HAVE A CLIENT WHO HAS NOT BEEN LISTED,
BECAUSE THE CITY OF VENTURA DID NOT RECEIVE THAT PERSON
TO HAVE RIPARIAN RIGHTS, AND INSTEAD GAVE NOTICE TO
THAT PERSON ONLY AS A GROUNDWATER-ONLY INTERESTED OR
POTENTIALLY INTERESTED PARTY THOUGH NOT NAMED; BUT THAT
PARTY BELIEVES THAT DUE TO A TRICKLE OF WATER THAT RUNS
ACROSS OR ON THE EDGE OF HIS, HER, OR ITS FEE SIMPLE,
THAT THERE ARE IN TRUTH RIPARIAN RIGHTS AT ISSUE.

I GUESS ONE WOULD PROBABLY -- I DON'T KNOW

THAT YOU HAVE TO MAKE A MOTION TO INTERVENE. BUT IN

THE USE OF A FORM ANSWER, WOULD YOU WANT TO SAY

SOMETHING THAT CLEARLY SCREAMS OUT, I THINK I'M A

RIPARIAN OWNER AND WAS LEFT OFF THE CAPTION, IDEALLY TO

MR. HAGERTY, AND ASKING HIM TO AMEND THE CAPTION TO

NAME YOUR CLIENT.

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DOES THAT ANSWER YOUR QUESTION, MR. OSIAS?

MR. OSIAS: IT DOES. I ACTUALLY HAD A SIMPLE
PROPOSAL ALONG YOUR LINES, WHICH IS WE'LL USE THE FORM
ANSWER THAT'S DESIGNATED; BUT IF WE NEED TO RESERVE
ANYTHING, WE'LL ADD A SENTENCE AT THE END SAYING
"RESERVING THE RIGHT TO AMEND SHOULD FACTS PROVE
OTHERWISE" -- OR WHATEVER.

I WILL WORK THAT OUT WITH --

THE COURT: WHICH PRESUMABLY BE ON ACCOUNT OF
THE FACT THAT BELIEVE YOU ACTUALLY HAVE SOME RIPARIAN
RIGHTS AT RISK AND ARE NOT A GROUNDWATER-ONLY
INTERESTED PARTY.

MR. OSIAS: RIGHT. IF IT TURNS OUT TO BE THE CASE. WE'RE STILL INVESTIGATING A LITTLE BIT. BUT I APPRECIATE TAKING UP ENOUGH OF YOUR TIME TODAY.

THE COURT: NO PROBLEM. ANYBODY ELSE WHO WISHES TO SPEAK?

MR. BLATZ: YOUR HONOR, RYAN BLATZ FOR A NUMBER OF CROSS-DEFENDANTS.

JUST TO FOLLOWUP ON THAT QUESTION, LOTS OF PROPERTIES WERE SERVED WITH BOTH A NOTICE AND A SUMMONS. SO IT'S BEEN A LITTLE INCONSISTENT AND CONVOLUTED, AS FAR AS THE FORM ANSWER WITH THAT. I WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT WE'RE STREAMLINING EVERYTHING ON OUR END TO MAKE IT EASIEST FOR THE COURT AS POSSIBLE.

BUT FOR THOSE INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE BEEN SERVED BOTH, WOULD THEY NEED TO FILE SEPARATE ANSWERS; OR IF

THEY BELIEVE THEY HAVE BOTH RIGHTS, THE RIPARIAN AND GROUNDWATER, WOULD THEY JUST FILE AS ONE? OR IS THERE A WAY THE COURT WOULD DESIRE THE FORM ANSWER TO BE WRITTEN TO MAKE SURE IT'S DONE AS EFFICIENTLY AS POSSIBLE?

THE COURT: BEAR WITH ME. DO YOU WANT TO GO FIRST, MR. HAGERTY?

MR. HAGERTY: I WOULD, SORT OF, HAVE THE SAME RESPONSE. RYAN BLATZ AND I CAN TALK ABOUT THIS AND WORK OUT THE DETAILS. WE TRY TO BE VERY CAREFUL. BUT IT'S NOT A PERFECT WORLD OF NOTICING PEOPLE. IF PEOPLE WERE BOTH OVERLYING AND RIPARIAN, THEN THEY SHOULD HAVE BEEN SERVED.

THE COURT: ONLY?

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MR. HAGERTY: CORRECT, YOUR HONOR. WE WANTED TO AVOID THE CONFUSION THAT MR. BLATZ HAS INDICATED MAY HAVE OCCURRED. AGAIN, WE'RE OPEN. WE HAVE PEOPLE WHO WILL HAPPILY TALK TO MR. BLATZ. I THINK WE CAN WORK OUT AN ARRANGEMENT.

EITHER OF THE FORM ANSWERS, AS THE COURT KNOWS, PRESERVES EVERYONE'S RIGHTS. THEY ARE INTENDED JUST TO ALLOW FOR AN APPEARANCE TO BE MADE WITH PUTTING EVERYTHING AT ISSUE.

SO REGARDLESS OF WHICH ANSWER YOU'RE GOING TO FILE, YOUR CLIENTS ARE GOING TO HAVE THEIR INTEREST PRESERVED. I'M HAPPY TO WORK WITH ANY OF THE COUNSEL ON THESE DETAILS AND CLARIFY ISSUES.

OBVIOUSLY, AS THE CASE MOVES FORWARD, YOUR

HONOR, WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO BE SUBSTITUTING PARTIES
IN; BECAUSE PROPERTIES HAVE TRANSFERRED IN THE INTERIM
FROM THE FILING OF THE CROSS-COMPLAINT. AND THERE'S
GOING TO BE A LOT OF CLEANUP. AND RATHER THAN
BURDENING THE COURT WITH SOME OF THIS, WE'RE HAPPY JUST
TO WORK IT OUT WITH COUNSEL.

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THE COURT: I WOULD OFFER THE FOLLOWING

COMMENTS: AND I DON'T OWN ANY LAND IN VENTURA COUNTY,

BUT I'LL USE MY NAME FOR CONVENIENCE AND SETTING FORTH

THE HYPOTHETICAL OR TWO.

IF A PARTY HAS BEEN NAMED AS A

CROSS-DEFENDANT, I WOULD WANT THAT PARTY TO AVOID THE

USE OF A FORM ANSWER. THE FORM ANSWER FOR ME IS

INTENDED TO FLAG, WHAT I'LL CALL, A WALK-ON, SOMEBODY

WHO IS NOT YET NAMED IN THE CAPTION OF THE OPERATIVE

CROSS-COMPLAINT, BUT WHO IS GIVEN THE LEGAL RIGHT UNDER

THE STREAMLINE GROUNDWATER ADJUDICATION ACT TO JOIN THE

FIST FIGHT.

BUT FOR OUR CLERICAL PURPOSES, THE FACT THAT
THEY ARE NEW PARTIES TO THE CASE, BY THEIR WILLING
PARTICIPATION, IS A PROCEDURALLY IMPORTANT PART OF OUR
INTAKE. AND THE USE OF THE FORM ANSWER ONLY BY THAT
LIMITED UNIVERSE -- ACTUALLY "LIMITED" IS PROBABLY THE
WRONG WORD TO USE -- THAT LARGE UNIVERSE OF POTENTIAL
PARTIES SHOULD BE VERY MUCH LIMITED TO THAT UNIVERSE.

SO IF SOMEBODY WAS SERVED AS TO A SINGLE PARCEL WITH BOTH A SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT, AND WITH THE NOTICE OF THE PENDENCY OF THE ACTION, AND THE CAPTION

OF THE AMENDED COMPLAINT SHOWS THAT THEY ARE NAMED,
THEY SHOULD NOT USE A FORM ANSWER.

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BUT THEY MAY USE THE ANTICIPATED ALTERNATIVE

COURT-APPROVED RESPONSIVE PLEADING THAT WILL HAVE

VERBIAGE THAT AVOIDS THE SHORT PHRASE "FORM ANSWER," SO

THAT IT IS IMMEDIATELY DISTINGUISHABLE EVEN BY AN

ENTRY-LEVEL CLERK OF THIS COURT WHEN THE PAPER IS IN.

NOW, WHAT'S MORE COMPLICATED IS -- LET ME BACK UP AND ASK THIS, MR. HAGERTY. REMIND ME IN THE SERVICE PROCESS, IF I WAS A PURE GROUNDWATER INTERESTED POTENTIAL PARTY, NOT RIPARIAN, AND NOT NAMED, BUT I ONLY GET THE SUMMARY NOTICE AND THE FORM ANSWER, ARE YOU THROWING IN THE MAILING COPY OF THE ACTUAL PLEADING, A COPY OF THE SUMMON IN SOME KIND OF THOROUGHNESS?

MR. HAGERTY: YOUR HONOR, WE HAD SOME BACK AND FORTH ON THAT, BECAUSE THE STATUTE ISN'T ENTIRELY CLEAR. INITIALLY, OUR HOPE WAS JUST TO FILE THE NOTICE.

THE COURT: NOT FILE, SERVE.

MR. HAGERTY: SERVE THE NOTICE. BUT ON FURTHER REVIEW, I THINK WE ALL AGREE THAT THE STATUTE IN THE RELEVANT PART REQUIRED US TO INCLUDE THE CROSS-COMPLAINT.

THE COURT: JUST THE SUMMONS OR THE CROSS-COMPLAINT?

MR. HAGERTY: CROSS-COMPLAINT.

THE COURT: DO YOU THINK THE SUMMONS SHOWED UP

IN THE ENVELOPE?

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MR. HAGERTY: DAKOTAH BENJAMIN SHOULD BE ON THE LINE. HE WOULD KNOW SPECIFICALLY IF THE SUMMONS WAS INCLUDED. I DON'T THINK IT WAS, YOUR HONOR.

MR. BENJAMIN: GOOD AFTERNOON, YOUR HONOR.

THE COURT: IS THIS DAKOTAH BENJAMIN?

MR. BENJAMIN: DAKOTAH BENJAMIN FOR THE CITY
OF VENTURA. THE SUMMONS WAS NOT INCLUDED IN THE NOTICE
PACKET. AND THE PEOPLE THAT WERE SERVED WITH A SUMMONS
DID NOT RECEIVE THE FORM ANSWER. SO IT SHOULD BE
PRETTY CLEAR.

IN REGARDS TO PEOPLE THAT MAY HAVE RECEIVED BOTH, THAT'S LIKELY THE RESULT OF OWNING MULTIPLE PARCELS.

THE COURT: I WAS GOING TO MOVE ON TO THAT IN A MINUTE.

IN MANY WAYS, IF WILLIAM HIGHBERGER
HYPOTHETICALLY OWNED TWO PARCELS IN THE WATERSHED, ONE
RIPARIAN AND ONE NOT -- OR FOR THAT MATTER BOTH
RIPARIAN OR NEITHER RIPARIAN. BUT WHEN HIGHBERGER IS
COMING TO COURT TO LITIGATE, HIGHBERGER'S INTEREST IS
THE PARTY, NOT THE PARCEL.

BUT HIGHBERGER, WHEN HE SHOWS UP IN COURT, CAN LITIGATE HIS RIGHTS AS TO BOTH PARCELS I THINK WITH A SINGLE ANSWER, FRANKLY. IT LEADS TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE CHALLENGE, PROBABLY AS MUCH OR MORE FOR THE CITY OF VENTURA AS IT IS FOR THE SUPERIOR COURT, TO SEE IF YOU HAVE AN APPEARANCE FOR TWO DIFFERENT PARCELS, BOTH OF

WHICH ARE ASSOCIATED WITH THE NAME WILLIAM HIGHBERGER,
BASED, I GUESS, ON THE PLEADING THAT HIGHBERGER
SUBMITS.

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ALTHOUGH, IF HIGHBERGER SUBMITS TO THE

JURISDICTION OF THE COURT BY ANSWERING AND ONLY LISTS

ONE OF THE TWO PARCELS, HIGHBERGER IS SUBMITTING TO THE

JURISDICTION OF THE COURT BY FILING SOME KIND OF AN

ANSWER.

AND WITH THAT, BY INFERENCE, I THINK PUTTING HIS LEGAL RIGHTS AS TO BOTH PARCELS AT RISK, BECAUSE YOU'RE SUBMITTING TO THE PLENARY JURISDICTION OF THE COURT.

BUT IT'S A CLERICAL CHALLENGE. AND IF
HIGHBERGER WANTS TO APPEAR AS TO ONE PARCEL AND NOT THE
OTHER, FOR GOD KNOWS WHAT REASON, I GUESS HE BETTER
HAVE A LAWYER TRYING TO MAKE A SPECIAL APPEARANCE AS TO
ONE OF THE TWO PARCELS.

ALTHOUGH, HOW YOU TAKE HIGHBERGER AND HALF IN FRONT OF THE COURT FOR JURISDICTIONAL PURPOSES, AND HALF NOT, IS A PASSING MYSTERY TO ME. HOPEFULLY, WE WON'T HAVE TO DEAL WITH THAT QUESTION.

MR. HAGERTY: YOUR HONOR, THERE ARE A LOT OF COMPLEXITIES HERE. BUT IN ONE WAY IT CAN BE PRETTY SIMPLE. BECAUSE AS THE COURT ANSWERED THE QUESTIONS, IT'S EXACTLY RIGHT. IF YOU HAVE THE SUMMONS, YOU HAVE TO RESPOND AND PARTICIPATE LIKE ANYONE ELSE WHO RECEIVES -- IS SERVED WITH A COMPLAINT.

THE COURT: AND PLEASE DO NOT USE THE WORD

"FORM ANSWER."

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MR. HAGERTY: CORRECT. WITH REGARD TO THE NOTICE, IT IS THE ELECTION OF THE PARTY WHO RECEIVES THE NOTICE WHETHER TO PARTICIPATE OR NOT. THE COURT'S JURISDICTION, WHICH IS CRUCIAL TO THE CITY, IS COMPLETE WHEN THE NOTICING PROCESS IS PROPERLY COMPLETED. AND FOR OUR PURPOSES, THAT'S THE RELEVANT THING.

YES. WE WILL CLOSELY TRACK ALL OF THESE
ISSUES. AND WE OFFER, AGAIN, TO WORK WITH ALL COUNSEL,
BECAUSE IT WILL BE COMPLICATED. AND WE ADMIT THAT.
WE'RE HERE TO WORK WITH COURT AND COUNSEL.

BUT FROM THE NOTICING PERSPECTIVE, FOR THE OVERLIERS, THAT IS ACTUALLY PRETTY SIMPLE IN THE SENSE THAT YOU HAVE TO AFFIRMATIVELY COME IN AND PARTICIPATE, IF YOU WISH TO. BUT OUR JURISDICTION FROM THE COURT PERSPECTIVE, IS DONE WHEN WE COMPLETE THE NOTICING.

THE COURT: MR. BLATZ, HAVE I ANSWERED YOUR QUESTION?

MR. BLATZ: YES, YOUR HONOR. AND I THINK WHAT IS EVEN TUCKED IN THERE THAT MAY BE IMPORTANT FOR A NUMBER OF THE CLIENTS, IS WHAT YOU SAID, WHICH IS THAT THEY MAY BE ABLE TO FILE A SINGLE ANSWER FOR MULTIPLE PROPERTIES. AND THE REAL QUESTION IS WHETHER THERE'S MULTIPLE FILING FEES FOR THAT.

THE COURT: I CAN'T IMAGINE WHY IF IT'S
LITERALLY WILLIAM F. HIGHBERGER, A SINGLE MAN, OWNING
TWO OR SIX OR 28 PROPERTIES, WHEN HIGHBERGER FILES HIS
ANSWER AND SUBMITS TO THE JURISDICTION OF THE COURT,

WHETHER HE CHOOSES TO LIST ALL 28 PROPERTIES BECAUSE
HE'S THE SOLE OWNER OF 28 PROPERTIES, HE'S PUTTING HIS
LEGAL RIGHTS AS TO ALL 28 OF HIS PROPERTIES AT ISSUE
FOR ONLY ONE FILING FEE. THAT'S THE GOOD NEWS.

IF HIGHBERGER OWNS SOMETHING OUTRIGHT AS A SEPARATE. AND THEN OWNS A DIFFERENT PARCEL AS COMMUNITY PROPERTY WITH HIS SPOUSE. AND A THIRD PROPERTY IS OWNED BY A CHAPTER S-CORPORATION THAT HE OWNS, BUT THE TITLE OF THAT IS HIGHBERGER VINEYARDS LLC.

WHEN THE SPOUSE APPEARS, THAT'S A SECOND

APPEARANCE FEE. AND WHEN THE LLC APPEARS, THAT'S A

SEPARATE APPEARANCE FEE. AND I WON'T TRY TO ANSWER THE

QUESTION WHAT HAPPENS IF HIGHBERGER SEPARATELY APPEARS

AS TRUSTEE OF A FAMILY TRUST, WHICH IS A QUITE

FORESEEABLE CIRCUMSTANCE IN WHICH PARCELS MAY, IN FACT,

BE ENTITLED TO TRUSTS, WHO TO MY UNDERSTANDING DON'T

APPEAR IN THEIR OWN RIGHT BUT APPEAR THROUGH THE SINGLE

OR CO-TRUSTEES WHO HAVE THE RIGHTS TO REPRESENT THE

INTEREST OF THE TRUST.

SO IF HIGHBERGER APPEARS BOTH IN HIS OWN RIGHT AND AS A TRUSTEE, IS THAT TWO APPEARANCE FEES? I DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION AT THE MOMENT.

MR. BLATZ: THANK YOU, YOUR HONOR.

THERE ARE A NUMBER OF PROPERTIES THAT HAVE

BEEN SERVED TO THE INDIVIDUALS, EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE

HELD IN TRUST. AND A LOT OF INCONSISTENCIES, EVEN IN

LIKE THE NOTICE, WHERE IT'S NOT INCLUDING THE NUMBER OF

NAMES OF THE PEOPLE WHO RECEIVED THE NOTICE, BUT WEREN'T ACTUALLY LISTED IN THE NOTICE PAPERWORK.

BUT RATHER THAN TAKE EVERYONE'S TIME TO DEAL WITH THIS, I'VE ALREADY STARTED THIS CONVERSATION WITH MR. HAGERTY. AND HE'S BEEN VERY COOPERATIVE IN WORKING WITH ME. SO I'M HAPPY TO CONTINUE TO WORK WITH HIM AS NECESSARY TO GET THIS FIGURED OUT.

THE COURT: I AM HOPING THAT OUR

PUBLICLY-MAINTAINED RECORDS FOR THIS CASE WILL BE AS

ACCURATE AS POSSIBLE, THOUGH THE CASE PRESENTS DAUNTING

CHALLENGES.

SO I HAVE BEEN TRYING TO CLOSELY WATCH THE PROGRESS OF THINGS. I HAVE ALREADY NOTICED THAT WHEN FORM ANSWERS ARE RECEIVED, AND THEN THE CHARACTER OF THE PARTY APPEARING IS FLAGGED USING A LIMITED UNIVERSE OF POTENTIAL ALTERNATIVE LABELS, SUCH AS PLAINTIFF OR DEFENDANT OR CROSS-DEFENDANT, THAT OUR STAFF IS REGRETTABLY, TO MY OBSERVATION, USED THREE PARTY CHARACTERIZATIONS, ONLY ONE OF WHICH IS CORRECT.

IT WOULD BE CORRECT, AS I'VE SEEN, TO
CHARACTERIZE THE NEWLY-APPEARING PARTY FILING A FORM
ANSWER AS A CROSS-DEFENDANT. AGREE, MR. HAGERTY?

MR. HAGERTY: YES.

THE COURT: REGRETTABLY I HAVE SEEN, HOWEVER,
THAT THE CLERKS HAVE ALTERNATIVELY, AS TO CERTAIN FORM
ANSWERS, CHARACTERIZED THEM AS SUBMISSION BY
"CROSS-RESPONDENT," WHICH IS, IN A HYPER-TECHNICAL
SENSE, NOT PRECISELY CORRECT. THIS IS NOT A PETITION.

IT'S A COMPLAINT.

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AND IN OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES, CHARACTERIZE THE NEWLY-APPEARING PARTY AS SIMPLY A "RESPONDENT," WHICH IS EQUALLY INCORRECT.

ALTHOUGH IN FAIRNESS TO THE CLERK'S OFFICE, SINCE THE ORIGINATING PLEADING IN THIS CONSOLIDATED ACTION WAS A PETITION OF THE NONPROFIT SANTA BARBARA CHANNELKEEPER.

AND THE DOCKET NUMBER IS THEREFORE THE ONE CHARACTERIZED BY THE FILING OF PETITIONS THE ADDITIONAL ACTIONS THAT GOT ADDED TO THE CASE AS CROSS-ACTIONS INCLUDE MORE TRADITIONAL PLEADINGS OR THE CHARACTERIZATION OR OF PARTIES ARE THOSE OF CROSS-COMPLAINANTS AND CROSS-DEFENDANT.

CORRECT, MR. HAGERTY?

MR. HAGERTY: YES, YOUR HONOR.

THE COURT: I ALSO, FROM MY INQUIRIES, AM GIVEN TO UNDERSTAND THE INTAKE OTHERWISE SEEMS TO BE GOING OKAY, AS LIMITED AS IT IS SO FAR; BUT THAT APPARENTLY THERE WAS SOME FURTHER EFFORT TO TIDY UP THE EXCEL SPREADSHEET WITH A GAZILLION ADDITIONAL NAMED CROSS-DEFENDANTS.

AND ONLY WHEN THE TIDYING UP IS FINALLY DONE, THAT WE HOPE THAT IT WILL MAGICALLY BE ENTERED INTO OUR DATABASE, WHICH WILL THEN FOR THE FIRST TIME POPULATE THE NAMES OF THE CROSS-DEFENDANTS, WHO OTHERWISE ARE BEING MANUALLY ENTERED AS WE GET SOME OF THE EARLY

RESPONSIVE PLEADINGS FROM THE NAMED CROSS-DEFENDANTS.

MR. HAGERTY: YES, YOUR HONOR. AND WE HAVE TODAY TO PROVIDE TO THE COURT A THUMB DRIVE THAT HAS THAT INFORMATION.

THE COURT: OKAY. COUNSEL SHOULD THEREFORE BE AWARE THAT FOR NAMED CROSS-DEFENDANTS, WHO HAVE GIVEN US -- FOR NAMED CROSS-DEFENDANTS WHO HAVE SHOWN UP BEFORE THIS UPLOAD OCCURRED, THAT OF NECESSITY, STAFF HAS ENTERED THOSE PARTY NAMES.

BUT AS AND WHEN THIS ELECTRONIC RECORD IS
UPLOADED IN THE AGGREGATE, WE WILL THEREFORE HAVE EVERY
REASON TO EXPECT THAT THERE WOULD BE DUPLICATE ENTRIES
AS TO THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE FAVORED US WITH EARLY
APPEARANCE AS CROSS-DEFENDANTS.

THIS IS LIMITED TO THE NAMES?

MR. HAGERTY: YES.

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THE COURT: BECAUSE THIS EXCEL LIST WILL NOT SHED ANY LIGHT ON WHO THE POTENTIAL WALK-ONS ARE, AND NOR SHOULD IT. CORRECT?

MR. HAGERTY: YOUR HONOR, I DON'T KNOW. I'M
NOT -- WE DID WANT TO GIVE THE COURT THE UNIVERSE OF
THE NOTICED PARTIES, BECAUSE THE COURT WAS CONCERNED
ABOUT HOW YOU WOULD PROCESS THE FORM ANSWER WHEN IT
WASN'T A NAMED PARTY.

SO MY UNDERSTANDING IS WE PROVIDED ALL OF THE INFORMATION, AND WE'VE WORKED CLOSELY WITH THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR TO DO THAT. IT'S A LITTLE TECHNICAL --

THE COURT: SO WE MAY, SORT OF, ON THE SIDE KNOW WHO TO EXPECT THE UNIVERSE OF WALK-ONS.

MR. HAGERTY: YES. BECAUSE OTHERWISE, THE COURT WASN'T ABLE TO -- THE ADMINISTRATOR WASN'T ABLE TO PROCESS IT AT ALL.

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THE COURT: HOPEFULLY EXPEDITE IT AND AVOID TYPOGRAPHICAL ERROR, AND DATA LIKE THE PARCEL NUMBER THAT MAY OR MAY NOT SHOW UP ON THE HANDWRITTEN PAPERWORK THAT WE ARE GIVEN.

MR. HAGERTY: YES, YOUR HONOR.

THE COURT: OKAY. MOVING AHEAD. IT WAS A POINT OF CURIOSITY.

HAVE ANY OF THE GOVERNMENT ENTITIES OR OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES HAD OCCASION TO HAVE PUBLIC MEETINGS YET IN THE GENERAL VICINITY OF THE --

MR. HAGERTY: YOUR HONOR, THERE'S BEEN -- IF
THE QUESTION IS HAS THIS BEEN AN ISSUE OF PUBLIC DEBATE
AND DEALT WITH AT PUBLIC HEARINGS, ABSOLUTELY.

THE COURT: NOT SO MUCH PUBLIC HEARINGS, BUT WHAT I THOUGHT WERE GOING TO BE EDUCATIONAL MEETINGS FOR INTERESTED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC IN THE GENERAL VICINITY OF THE WATERSHED.

MR. HAGERTY: YES. WE'VE HAD THREE PUBLIC MEETINGS. ONE WAS IN THE OJAI AREA. ONE WAS IN THE VENTURA AREA. AND THEN ONE WAS, SORT OF, IN BETWEEN. THEY HAVE BEEN EXTRAORDINARILY WELL ATTENDED.

THE COURT: EVERYBODY WALKED OUT ALIVE?

MR. HAGERTY: I DIDN'T HAVE THE PLEASURE OF

BEING THERE, BECAUSE I PROBABLY WOULDN'T HAVE WALKED

OUT ALIVE. BUT THE CITY OF VENTURA WAS REPRESENTED.

ACTUALLY, FOR SOME OF THE MEETINGS, OTHER COUNSEL WERE GRACIOUS ENOUGH TO CONTRIBUTE. AND WE HAVE DONE OUR BEST TO GET OUT ACCURATE INFORMATION.

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IT CERTAINLY IS AN ISSUE OF GRAVE CONCERN FOR A LOT OF PEOPLE. IT'S AN ISSUE OF CONCERN FOR ALL THE COMMUNITIES. BUT THOSE MEETINGS HAVE OCCURRED. IN ADDITION, THERE HAVE BEEN OTHER MEETINGS OF COMMUNITY GROUPS AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES WHERE THE CITY AND OTHERS HAVE PROVIDED INFORMATION ABOUT THE ADJUDICATION.

THE COURT: SO LET ME GO BACK THEN TO THIS
LODGED PROPOSED ORDER AFTER STATUS CONFERENCE. GIVEN
THAT THE PAPERWORK TO BE USED BY NAMED CROSS-DEFENDANTS
HAS TO BE EDITED, DO YOU THINK I SHOULD BE MARKING THIS
UP AND NOW SIGNING IT TODAY, MR. HAGERTY? OR DO YOU
PREFER I WAIT UNTIL YOU GIVE ME A TIDIED-UP VERSION
THAT HAS EVERYTHING ALL BEAUTIFUL?

MR. HAGERTY: WE WOULD SUBMIT A TIDIED-UP ONE WITH REVISED ALTERNATIVE ANSWER FOR RIPARIANS TO USE ATTACHED TO THAT. THAT WOULD BE OUR PREFERENCE. IT WOULD ADDRESS THE COURT-APPROVED ANSWER ISSUE THAT WE JUST TALKED ABOUT.

AND THEN WE WOULD HOPE IT WOULD ADDRESS ALSO
THE EXTENSION BY SIX MONTHS OF THE TIME TO SERVE THE
INITIAL DISCLOSURES FOR PARTIES WHO HAVE APPEARED.

THE COURT: IS THERE ANY OBJECTION TO THAT REQUEST? HEARING NONE. THAT'S FINE.

MR. HAGERTY: THEN ALSO THE DISCLAIMER ISSUE

1 THAT THE COURT PROVIDED GUIDANCE ON.

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THE COURT: THE \$25 FEE IN LIEU OF 465 OR 435 IS FINE, BUT NOT FREE.

MR. HAGERTY: THANK YOU, YOUR HONOR. AND NOT BUNDLING. WE'LL MAKE THAT CLEAR IN THE ORDER.

THE COURT: BUT IF IT'S HUSBAND AND WIFE AS CO-OWNERS OF THE DISCLAIMING PROPERTY, FINE.

MR. HAGERTY: YES, YOUR HONOR.

THE COURT: IF IT'S HIGHBERGER ON THE 28

PARCELS, I THINK FOR THAT I PROBABLY WANT 28 STIPS. BU

I GUESS THAT'S JUST BECAUSE I'M GREEDY. I DON'T KEEP

THE MONEY, BY THE WAY.

MR. HAGERTY: YES, YOUR HONOR.

AND THEN THE FINAL ISSUE, AND THIS IS ONE THAT COULD BE IN THE ORDER, BUT I'M NOT SURE IT HAS TO BE THERE. BUT THERE DEFINITELY IS AN ISSUE THAT WE'VE ENCOUNTERED WITH FILE & SERVEXPRESS.

THE COURT: WHY DON'T WE JUST ADD IT TO THE ORDER? THEY SAID THEY WANT SOMETHING FROM --

MR. HAGERTY: YES. THAT WILL BE GREAT. WE WILL ADD IT TO THE ORDER.

THE COURT: AND THE PRO PERS WILL PAY STANDARD FEES, OR ARE THEY GETTING COURTESIES?

MR. HAGERTY: THEY HAVE BEEN PAYING STANDARD FEES, UNLESS THEY REQUEST A WAIVER.

THE COURT: AND IF THEY CAN GET A WAIVER THAT THE COURT RECOGNIZES, THEN FILE & SERVE FOLLOWS ON AND GIVE THEM THE SAME BENEFIT?

MR. HAGERTY: I HONESTLY DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER
TO THAT QUESTION. I DON'T KNOW IF DAKOTAH BENJAMIN,
WHO IS ON THE LINE, IF HE HAS AN ANSWER TO THAT.

MR. BENJAMIN: YES. GOOD AFTERNOON, YOUR HONOR.

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WITH A COURT ORDER GRANTING A FEE WAIVER, A
PRO PER CAN TAKE THAT TO FILE & SERVEXPRESS, AND THEY
WILL ALSO RECEIVE REDUCED FEES THROUGH THAT.

THE COURT: NOW, I CONFESS THAT -- BECAUSE I
THINK I WOULD -- WELL, IF YOU HAVE A FACIALLY OBVIOUS
FEE WAIVER, IT WILL BE PROCESSED AND GRANTED, AND I
WOULD NEVER SEE IT. SO MAYBE FEE WAIVERS HAVE BEEN
GRANTED.

I DON'T RECOLLECT SEEING ANY FEE WAIVERS IN
THE CASE, MAYBE BECAUSE THESE ARE ALL MATTERS WHERE THE
CROSS-DEFENDANTS ARE GOING TO HAVE SOME INTEREST,
MORTGAGE OR OTHERWISE, IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REAL
ESTATE TITLE TO THEM, DIRECTLY OR THROUGH A TRUST.

THAT DOESN'T IMMEDIATELY CRY OUT AS POVERTY.

BUT IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT SOMEBODY OF LIMITED MEANS

HAS INHERITED A FULLY MORTGAGED PROPERTY AND HAS QUITE

A STATUS IN THIS CASE, BUT IS OTHERWISE IN VERY THIN

FINANCIAL CONDITION. SO IT'S CERTAINLY NOT TO SAY THAT

A FEE WAIVER IS NECESSARILY DEAD ON ARRIVAL. THIS

DOCKET DOESN'T HAVE THE CHARACTERISTIC OF POVERTY THAT

SOME DOCKETS DO.

MR. HAGERTY: I THINK WE WILL INCLUDE IN THE ORDER THE ISSUE OF FILE & SERVEXPRESS. WE ALSO --

UNLESS THE COURT OR PARTIES HAVE AN OBJECTION, THERE HAVE BEEN ANSWERS THAT HAVE BEEN FILED THAT HAVE NOT BEEN SERVED BECAUSE OF THIS ISSUE. WE'RE HAPPY TO PUT THOSE OUT THROUGH FILE & SERVEXPRESS, JUST SO EVERYONE CAN SEE THEM.

THE COURT: WHAT DID OUR ADVANCE NOTICE TELL PEOPLE TO DO?

MR. HAGERTY: IT TOLD THEM TO FILE THE DOCUMENT. AND IT GAVE THEM THE DIFFERENT OPTIONS FOR FILING. SO PEOPLE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH THAT.

THE COURT: WERE THEY TOLD TO MAIL IT TO YOUR OFFICE, BECAUSE YOU'RE THE CROSS-COMPLAINANT?

MR. HAGERTY: YES.

BUT NOT ALL OF THEM, YOUR HONOR.

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THE COURT: DO YOU SEEM TO BE GETTING WHAT YOU EXPECT, THAT MATCHES WHAT YOU TAKE TO DO THE FILINGS?

MR. HAGERTY: WE HAVE RECEIVED MOST OF THEM,

BUT IMMEDIATELY THE ISSUE OF NOT BEING ABLE TO USE FILE & SERVEXPRESS TO SERVE CAME UP AND WE HAVE --

THE COURT: GOING FORWARD, IT WILL BE A NIGHTMARE.

MR. HAGERTY: YES, YOUR HONOR. AND THIS SHOULD RESOLVE THE ISSUE.

THE COURT: OKAY. WE DON'T HAVE ANY NEXT

DATES IN THIS CASE. WHEN MIGHT I ANTICIPATE HAVING THE

SCIENCE DAY, WHICH COUNSEL FELT WOULD BE GOOD FOR ME?

MR. HAGERTY: YOUR HONOR, THERE IS PENDING A JUNE 1 CMC THAT WAS SET A LONG TIME AGO.

THE COURT: ONE MOMENT.

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(DISCUSSION HELD OFF THE RECORD.)

THE COURT: BACK ON THE RECORD.

I AM ADVISED THAT THE NOTICE THAT HAS BEEN MAILED IN LARGE NUMBER TO THE INTERESTED GROUNDWATER OWNERS GIVES THEM NOTICE OF A CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE ON JUNE 1 AT 1:30 P.M. CORRECT?

MR. HAGERTY: YES, YOUR HONOR.

THE COURT: WE WILL ADD THAT TO OUR OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL CALENDAR, IN RECOGNITION THAT MANY PEOPLE HAVE ALREADY BEEN ADVISED OF THIS EVENT.

MR. HAGERTY: YOUR HONOR, AS TO SCIENCE DAY, WE'RE HAPPY TO ADDRESS THE STATUS AS IT IS RIGHT NOW, IF THE COURT WISHES.

THE COURT: ONE SECOND. IS THERE ANY REASON
TO THINK THAT THE EVENT HELD IN JUNE SHOULD BE HELD IN
VENTURA COUNTY? DID WE NOTICE IT FOR THIS COURTROOM?

MR. HAGERTY: I'M SORRY, YOUR HONOR. IT'S NOTICED FOR THIS COURTROOM. YES.

THE COURT: THEN WE SHOULD LEAVE IT HERE. WE HAVE THE TRAIN STATION SERVED BY METRO LINK. SO THERE'S RELATIVELY GOOD TRANSIT ACCESS FROM VENTURA COUNTY. I WOULDN'T CHANGE THE LOCUS AFTER YOU'VE SENT OUT ALL THAT NOTICE. CONTINUE.

MR. HAGERTY: SO AS TO SCIENCE DAY, WE'VE PROVIDED THE COURT WITH AN UPDATE THROUGH THE STATEMENTS. BUT TO GIVE YOU A MORE RECENT UPDATE, WE'VE MADE PROGRESS WITH REGARD TO THE PRESENTATION

RELATED TO HYDROLOGY.

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AND AS OF THIS MORNING, WE BELIEVE THAT

PORTION OF IT HAS BEEN SUBSTANTIALLY AGREED TO. THE

PARTIES ARE ALL STRUGGLING WITH THE ECOLOGY, BIOLOGY

PORTION. WE'VE TRADED MULTIPLE PRESENTATIONS. WE'VE

HAD SEVERAL CONFERENCE CALLS. WE CONTINUE TO TRY TO

WORK IT OUT.

BUT WE REMAIN APART ON SOME KEY ISSUES. AND WHETHER WE CAN GET THERE OR NOT, I THINK IS A LEGITIMATE OPEN QUESTION.

THE COURT: SO IF YOU DON'T, WE JUST CANCEL THE SCIENCE DAY?

MR. HAGERTY: WELL, WHAT WE WOULD SUGGEST,
YOUR HONOR, IS THAT IF THE PARTIES COULD WORK FOR A
COUPLE MORE WEEKS. WE WOULD SAY TWO TO THREE, BECAUSE
WE DON'T WANT TO SPEND TOO MUCH TIME IF WE CAN'T GET
THERE. BUT WE DO THINK IT'S WORTH TRYING TO SEE
WHETHER WE CAN GET THERE.

AND THEN WE WOULD SUGGEST THAT WE JOINTLY REPORT BACK TO THE COURT ON WHAT THE STATUS IS, AND PROVIDE SOME ALTERNATIVES FOR A PATH FORWARD.

IT COULD BE THAT WE SAY WE TRIED AND IT DIDN'T WORK. BUT THERE COULD BE OTHER ALTERNATIVES THAT THE PARTIES MAY WISH TO PROPOSE. WE WOULD LIKE TO LEAVE THAT OPEN, TO SEE IF WHETHER WITH ADDITIONAL DIALOG, WE CAN AGREE ON A PATH FORWARD.

THE COURT: ANYBODY DISAGREE WITH MR. HAGERTY?
OKAY. LET ME FILL YOU IN ON MY CALENDAR AND

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OTHER COMMITMENTS. I AM HERE THROUGH FRIDAY, MARCH
20TH, INSOFAR AS YOU HAVE PROBLEMS AND WANT TO USE THE
MESSAGE BOARD OR OTHERWISE TO INTERACT WITH THE COURT.

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UNLESS THE COVID-19 GETS IN THE WAY, MY WIFE AND I HOPE TO BE FLYING VIA LONDON TO ROME TO SICILY, FROM MARCH 21 TO APRIL 8TH. A SHORT SOJOURN IN ROME ON THE WAY BACK.

SO AT THE MOMENT THAT APPEARS TO STILL BE AVAILABLE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC WITH MODES OF TRANSPORTATION OPERATIVE. IF PLANS CHANGE, THAT DOESN'T NECESSARILY MEAN I'M GOING TO COME TO WORK.

I'LL HAVE TO FIND A DIFFERENT DESTINATION.

I'M DUE BACK ON APRIL 9. I HAD AGREED, AT JUDGE FREEMAN'S REQUEST, TO TAKE AN ASBESTOS TRIAL. THAT'S A 15-COURT DAY TRIAL THAT IS NOW SCHEDULED TO START APRIL 14. AND BECAUSE I'M DARK ON APRIL 20TH AND MAY 1, THAT SHOULD RUN THROUGH APPROXIMATELY MAY 8TH.

THAT IS TO SAY THAT IF I'M ACTUALLY ENGAGED IN THAT ASBESTOS TRIAL AND THE FOUR DEFENDANTS DON'T ALL SETTLE, THOSE WOULD BE POOR CHOICES FOR SCIENCE DAY.

BUT THEN AGAIN, WHEN THE PARTIES KNOW THEY HAVE AN OPEN COURT ON A DATE CERTAIN FOR TRIAL, A CERTAIN PERCENTAGE IN LITIGATION MAGICALLY SETTLES, BUT NOT ALL.

AND YOU CAN CALL THE COURTROOM STAFF AND SEE

IF THINGS EVOLVED ON THAT CASE. IT'S CALLED CARMICHAEL

VERSUS MICHELIN OF NORTH AMERICA.

I AM UNAVAILABLE MAY 12 TO 14 FOR A CONFERENCE IN SAN DIEGO. I'M UNAVAILABLE MAY 18 TO 20 FOR A

CONFERENCE IN SAN FRANCISCO. I'M UNAVAILABLE MAY 15 FOR A FACILITIES-RELATED MEETING IN SACRAMENTO. I'M UNAVAILABLE MAY 22 THROUGH 26. I'M GOING TO YELLOWSTONE TO CELEBRATE MY 70TH BIRTHDAY.

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I'M UNAVAILABLE THE AFTERNOON OF MAY 28 AND ALL DAY MAY 29 FOR MY LAW SCHOOL REUNION BACK EAST. I AM AVAILABLE JUNE 1, WHICH IS FORTUNATE.

MR. HAGERTY: YOUR HONOR, I THINK WITH THOSE DATES, THE LOGICAL THING FROM OUR PERSPECTIVE, WOULD BE TO JUST GIVE YOU A REPORT BEFORE YOUR MARCH 20TH DEPARTURE.

THE COURT: IN MANY WAYS, THE REALISTIC THING IS IF YOU HOPE TO DO THE SCIENCE DAY BEFORE THE COURT IS KNEE HIGH, IS TO TRY TO GET IT DONE BY MARCH 20TH. STOP YOUR HAGGLING AND GET SOMETHING TOGETHER AND ACTUALLY DO SOMETHING THE WEEK OF MARCH 16 OR THE WEEK OF MARCH 9TH.

I'LL MOVE THINGS AROUND TO FIT YOU IN. BUT IF
YOU WANT TO KEEP HAGGLING ABOUT WHATEVER POWER POINT
SLIDE IS HOLDING YOU APART -- IT'S YOUR IDEA, NOT MINE.
IF THAT WAS A GOOD IDEA ORIGINALLY, IT STILL SHOULD BE
A GOOD IDEA.

YOU'RE HAGGLING SO MUCH, YOUR AVAILABLE OPTION IS SLOWLY RECEDING OVER THE HORIZON. THE PEOPLE WHO THOUGHT IT WAS A GOOD IDEA, YOU SHOULD PUT YOUR HAGGLES ASIDE AND COME UP WITH SOMETHING. SHOULD I TAKE A BREAK AND LET YOU GUYS GO OUT AND SEE IF -- ARE YOU HAGGLING MOSTLY WITH THE AG'S REPS, OR SOMEONE ELSE?

MR. HAGERTY: YOUR HONOR, I THINK THE PARTIES

ARE JUST DECIDING WHETHER WE CAN GET TO A POINT WHERE

IT WOULD BE A VALUE TO THE COURT. PEOPLE JUST HAVE

DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES ON A COUPLE OF ISSUES THAT WE'VE

YET BEEN ABLE TO BRIDGE.

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IT WOULD NOT HELP TO GIVE US A BREAK AND TALK.

WE ARE TALKING. WE CONTINUE TO TALK. WE JUST MAY NOT

GET THERE. I THINK WE WOULD BE ABLE TO TELL YOU VERY

SOON WHETHER WE CAN GET THERE OR NOT.

MAYBE MR. COSGROVE HAS SOME THOUGHTS.

MR. COSGROVE: THANK YOU. DAVID COSGROVE FOR CASITAS.

FROM OUR STANDPOINT, SOONER ON SCIENCE DAY IS PROBABLY BETTER. I THINK WE ARE DOWN TO HAVING PRETTY WELL-DEFINED WHAT THE DIFFERENCES IN THE PRESENTATIONS ARE. THE GROUP OF --

THE COURT: YOU GOT THE JUNIOR WATER USERS, JUNIOR IN TIME?

MR. COSGROVE: WELL, CERTAINLY I'M NOT GOING TO SAY THAT ON THE RECORD. I HAVE CASITAS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT.

THE COURT: THE AGE OF THE DAM THAT SUPPORTS

CASITAS' RESERVOIR IS NEWER THAN THE AGE OF THE

SUBTERRANEAN DAM THAT VENTURA PUT IN PLACE IN 1905?

MR. COSGROVE: I BELIEVE THAT THAT IS THE

CASE.

THE COURT: OKAY. YOU DIDN'T CONCEDE ANYTHING.

MR. COSGROVE: THE POINT BEING, YOUR HONOR,
THAT THE GROUP OF CONSUMPTIVE USERS HAS BEEN WORKING.
AND I THINK WE'VE PRETTY MUCH GALVANIZED POSITIONS ON
BOTH THE HYDROLOGY AND THE BIOLOGY PRESENTATION THAT WE
THINK ARE APPROPRIATE. WHERE THE NEGOTIATION IS, IS
WITH THE COUNTERPARTS AT THE STATE, BOTH THE STATE
BOARD AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILD LIFE.

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SO A LOT OF EFFORT HAS GONE INTO THIS. I
THINK WE PRETTY MUCH KNOW WHERE THE DIFFERENCES LIE.
IT'S JUST A QUESTION OF WHETHER THERE'S A COMPROMISE
OUT THERE THAT WILL GET THE BENEFITS THAT WE ORIGINALLY
IDENTIFIED, OR WHETHER THE PARTIES FEEL THAT THAT
COMPROMISE IS NOT WORTH THOSE BENEFITS.

AND SOONER ON THAT IS BETTER THAN LATER,
BECAUSE A LOT OF EFFORT AND NO SMALL AMOUNT OF EXPENSE
IS GOING INTO TRYING TO GENERATE THAT. AND I KNOW, AT
LEAST FROM MY CLIENT'S PERSPECTIVE, THEY WOULD LIKE
A-GO OR NO-GO ON SCIENCE DAY PRETTY QUICK. BECAUSE IF
IT'S NO-GO, WE WOULD LIKE TO BE MOVE ON TO OTHER
PRODUCTIVE PURSUITS.

THE COURT: I WOULD URGE YOU TO LET ME REBOOK
YOU FOR SOMETIME THE WEEK OF MARCH 9 OR WEEK OF MARCH
16. BUT I'M WILLING TO OFFER YOU -- BECAUSE THIS, FROM
A BOOKING POINT OF VIEW, IS GETTING CLOSE TO THE LAST
PRACTICAL OPPORTUNITY, UNLESS YOU WOULD LIKE TO GET
BACK TO THE COURT WITHIN SEVEN TO 10 DAYS AT THE VERY
LATEST.

MR. HAGERTY: I THINK MY PREFERENCE WOULD BE

TO LET US TALK AND GET BACK TO YOU AT LEAST ON A DATE.

IF THE COURT HAS THAT AVAILABILITY, WE CAN WORK WITH

THE CLERK.

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THE COURT: IT'S NOT EVERY MORNING AND
AFTERNOON THAT PERIOD. BUT AT THE MOMENT, I CAN PUSH
THINGS AROUND AND MAKE AVAILABILITY ESSENTIALLY FOR A
HALF-DAY EVENT, WHICH IS ALL I THINK YOU WANT.

MR. HAGERTY: CORRECT. IT'S A HALF DAY. YES.

GIVEN THAT THERE'S MULTIPLE PARTIES WHO WE NEED TO TALK TO AND WORK OUT, I'D PREFER THAT WE SUGGEST A DATE TO YOU OR REPORT BACK THAT WE'RE NOT GOING TO GET THERE.

THE COURT: SO I DO WANT TO GIVE YOU ANOTHER STATUS CONFERENCE SOONER THAN JUNE 1. RELATIVE TO MY COMINGS AND GOINGS, AND WHAT YOU PERCEIVE TO BE GOING ON IN THE CASE, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR TARGET DATE FOR WHEN YOU THINK WE OUGHT TO HAVE THE NEXT STATUS CONFERENCE, MR. HAGERTY?

MR. HAGERTY: LET'S SEE. OUR PROOFS WILL BE FILED MAY 1. MAYBE IN MAY, YOUR HONOR. I'M TRYING TO THINK OF YOUR AVAILABILITY THOUGH.

THE COURT: WHAT ABOUT FRIDAY, MAY 8TH?

MR. HAGERTY: THAT WOULD BE FINE WITH THE

CITY, YOUR HONOR.

THE COURT: I THINK THAT'S HOPEFULLY AFTER THE ASBESTOS TRIAL, OR AT LEAST WHEN THE JURY DELIBERATING, WHICH IS ALMOST AS GOOD.

ANY OBJECTION TO A STATUS CONFERENCE ON

FRIDAY, MAY 8TH AT 1:30 P.M. HEARING NONE, THAT WILL BE THE ORDER OF THE COURT, WITH AN UPDATED REPORT FROM CITY OF VENTURA DUE MAY 1. OTHER PARTIES ARE ALLOWED TO JOIN IN. OTHER PARTIES ARE ALLOWED TO FILE THEIR OWN RESPONSE OR UNILATERAL REPORTS BY MAY 1.

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BUT I'LL LET YOU TAKE THE LEAD AND TRY TO GET A CONSENSUS DOCUMENT, MR. HAGERTY.

MR. HAGERTY: THANK YOU, YOUR HONOR.

THE COURT: NEW QUESTION: DO I REMEMBER THAT SOME NEUTRAL HAD HAD A CHANCE TO TAKE A SWING AT HELPING YOU SETTLE THE CASE?

MR. HAGERTY: YES, YOUR HONOR. JUDGE KOMAR HELPED US WITH THE FIRST MEDIATION.

THE COURT: HAS HE DONE ANYTHING WITH YOU FOR THE LAST THREE MONTHS?

MR. HAGERTY: NO, YOUR HONOR.

THE COURT: A DIFFERENT QUESTION: HOW ARE SETTLEMENTS TALKS GOING, NOTWITHSTANDING THE AVOIDANCE OF SPENDING MONEY ON JACK KOMAR? I DON'T MEAN THAT NEGATIVELY. IN SO FAR AS YOU DOING OLD-SCHOOL LAWYER NEGOTIATING, ARE YOU MAKING ANY PROGRESS?

MR. HAGERTY: YES, YOUR HONOR. WITH A CAVEAT THAT -- I'LL JUST PREEMPT THE STATE FROM GETTING UP AND SAYING THEY HAVEN'T HEARD ANYTHING FROM US.

THE CONSUMPTIVE USERS, WHICH AT LEAST IN OUR VIEW, IS THE APPROPRIATE PARTY TO BE TALKING RIGHT NOW. BECAUSE AS THE COURT RECALLS, WE HAVE AN INTERIM SETTLEMENT WITH CHANNELKEEPER.

THAT DOESN'T SETTLE ALL ISSUES, BUT IT SETTLES
THE PAST ISSUES WITH CHANNELKEEPER. AND WE'LL CONTINUE
TO TALK WITH CHANNELKEEPER ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS OVER THE
SUMMER, WHICH IS A CONCERN TO CHANNELKEEPER. WE'VE
RECOGNIZED THAT.

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AND WE HAVEN'T ENGAGED IN ANY DETAILED

DISCUSSIONS WITH THE STATE AT THIS POINT IN TIME. AND

WE KNOW THAT THEY WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THOSE DISCUSSIONS.

AND WE WILL HAVE THOSE DISCUSSIONS.

BUT RIGHT NOW, THE CONSUMPTIVE USERS GROUP IS
WORKING VERY HARD -- AND WE'VE REPORTED WHAT OUR
ACTIVITIES ARE -- TO COME TO AN AGREEMENT ON OUR SIDE,
WHICH IS REALLY THE LYON SHARE OF THE WORK HERE. I
MEAN, THE STATE OBVIOUSLY HAS CRITICAL INTERESTS.
CHANNELKEEPER HAS CRITICAL INTERESTS. WE DON'T
DOWNPLAY THAT AT ALL.

BUT IN TERMS OF WHO WILL BE IMPLEMENTING THE SETTLEMENT, WHO REALLY IS AT ISSUE IN TERMS OF THE WATER USE, WE ARE WORKING VERY HARD TO COME UP WITH AN APPROACH. WHEN WE'RE COMPLETED, WHICH WE HOPE WILL BE -- I'LL USE THE TERM SOON. THAT'S A RELATIVE TERM IN THIS WORLD. WE WILL DISCUSS IT WITH THE STATE. WE WILL DISCUSS IT WITH THE CHANNELKEEPERS.

AND THEN ULTIMATELY, YOUR HONOR, AS WE'VE TALKED BEFORE, IT'S THE COURT'S CONSTITUTIONAL DUTY. AND WE WILL TALK TO YOU ABOUT THAT, AND PROVIDE YOU BRIEFING ABOUT IMPLEMENTING A PHYSICAL SOLUTION.

SO, YES, WE'RE MAKING WHAT I WOULD CHARACTER

AS VERY, VERY GOOD PROGRESS. IT'S NOT AS CLEAR TO THE STATE. AND THERE'S JUST THINGS WE NEED TO WORK OUT ON OUR SIDE BEFORE WE'RE READY TO DO THAT.

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I WILL SAY THOUGH, AND I'VE TALKED TO THE STATE ABOUT THIS, IS THAT WHAT WE'RE WORKING ON REALLY ISN'T A MYSTERY. THE DETAILS ARE, BUT THE FRAMEWORK IS CLEAR. WE'VE TALKED WITH BOTH CHANNELKEEPER AND THE STATE ABOUT THE FRAMEWORK THAT WE'RE WORKING ON. I ADMIT THAT THEY HAVEN'T SEEN THE DETAILS. AND WE CAN'T SHARE THOSE AT THE MOMENT. BUT WE ARE WORKING VERY HARD TO MAKE THAT HAPPEN.

THE COURT: MR. COSGROVE, ANYTHING TO ADD?

MR. COSGROVE: ONLY TO SAY THAT THERE'S A LOT

OF CAT HERDING INVOLVED IN TRYING TO HAMMER OUT

WORKABLE PHYSICAL SOLUTION THAT WILL SERVE THE FISHERY

AND OBSERVE THE VARIOUS BENEFICIAL USES, THE POLITICAL

AND FINANCIAL DEMANDS THAT THAT VERY DIVERSE GROUP OF

CONSUMPTIVE USERS HAVE.

SO WE ARE WORKING VERY HARD TO TRY TO MESH
THOSE INTO SOMETHING THAT EVERYBODY CAN GET BEHIND
BEFORE WE ENGAGE WITH THE STATE ON THE SPECIFICS, IN
ORDER TO MAKE THAT NEGOTIATION A LITTLE MORE EFFICIENT.

THE COURT: OKAY. WHAT ELSE, IF ANYTHING?

MR. MELNICK: YOUR HONOR, CAN I JUST SAY A FEW
WORDS ABOUT THE SETTLEMENT?

THE COURT: GO AHEAD. THIS IS MR. KRASNER?
MR. MELNICK: NO. I'M MARC MELNICK.

THE COURT: OKAY. MR. MELNICK. STATE WATER

RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD?

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MR. MELNICK: RIGHT. WE APPRECIATE THE EFFORT THAT THE CONSUMPTIVE USERS HAVE BEEN MAKING TOWARDS THEIR PROPOSED SETTLEMENT. WE ARE QUITE CONCERNED ABOUT THEM GOING AND TALKING IN THE CORNER AMONGST THEMSELVES AND NOT TALKING TO ANYBODY ELSE; BECAUSE YOU KNOW HOW ECHO CHAMBERS HAPPEN. AND --

THE COURT: THEY ARE FIGHTING AMONGST

THEMSELVES TO FIGURE HOW TO ALLOCATE 90 PERCENT OF THE

AVERAGE FLOW; THEN FIGURE OUT WHETHER OR NOT THE STATE

AND THE ORIGINAL PLAINTIFF WOULD BE SATISFIED WITH THAT

REDUCED DEMAND ON THE WATERSHED.

GIVEN THAT AS AMONGST THEMSELVES WITH THE DIFFERENT AGE OF THEIR RIGHTS AND PUBLIC INTEREST IN EACH OF THE USERS CONTINUING ABILITY TO TAKE SOME MEANINGFUL AMOUNT OF WATER, THAT THEY HAVE TO JOSTLE EACH OTHER TO ASSUME A POSITION THAT IS PLAUSIBLE AND REASONABLE.

MR. MELNICK: I HOPE THAT'S THE CASE, YOUR HONOR. I THINK THERE'S OTHER THINGS THAT MIGHT POSSIBLY BE GOING ON. WE'VE JUST BEEN --

THE COURT: I DIDN'T SEE ANY SALINIZATION
PLANTS OR SEWER PLANTS. I DISCOVERED APPARENTLY THE
EXISTING SEWER PLANT IS LOCATED IN A PLACE WHERE
PUMPING WATER UPSTREAM OF A REFILL RIVER IS
IMPRACTICAL, IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE.

MR. MELNICK: I THINK THE QUESTION FROM OUR STANDPOINT, IS WHETHER THEY ARE JUST MOVING WATER

AROUND OR THEY ARE TRYING TO SOLVE THE CORE PROBLEM.

THE COURT: WHICH IS, MORE WATER NEEDS TO BE LEFT IN THE NATURAL STREAMS.

MR. MELNICK: RIGHT.

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THE COURT: AT LEAST IN THE LOW WATER SEASONS OF THE YEAR.

MR. MELNICK: AT LEAST.

SO WE'VE BEEN ASKING THEM TO TALK TO US. I
WON'T SAY WE'VE BEGGED, BUT WE'VE BEEN ASKING. WE JUST
WANT TO START HAVING CONVERSATIONS. WE DON'T WANT THEM
TO SPEND ALL THIS TIME NEGOTIATING AMONGST THEMSELVES
ON SOME FOOL'S ERRAND.

AND, YOUR HONOR, I THINK IN ADDITION TO MY
CLIENT AND MR. GOLDEN KRASNER'S CLIENT AND MR. COOPER'S
CLIENT, THERE'S A LARGE POPULATION OF VERY ANGRY PEOPLE
IN THIS COUNTY ABOUT THIS LAWSUIT.

AND THEY ARE GOING TO HAVE TO CONVINCE THEM AS WELL THAT THIS IS A GOOD SOLUTION THAT THEY ARE COMING UP WITH.

THE COURT: WELL, THE POLITICAL ENTITIES,
INCLUDING MUTUAL WATER DISTRICT PUBLICLY OWNED HAVE TO
RESPOND TO IRATE VOTERS.

MR. MELNICK: YES.

THE COURT: SO OBVIOUSLY WHAT THE CITY OF OJAI CITY OR THE CITY OF VENTURA CAN AGREE TO, DEPENDS A LITTLE BIT ON WHAT THE LIKELY POLITICAL IMPACT IS. THE CASITAS WATER DISTRICT HAS PEOPLE ACCOUNTABLE DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY WITH VOTERS.

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SO DO I INFER THAT THE ISSUANCE OF NOTICE OF
THE PENDENCY OF THE LAWSUIT IS INTENDED TO MAKE THE
LANDOWNERS IRATE AT PEOPLE WORRIED ABOUT THE HEALTH OF
THE FISH.

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MR. MELNICK: I'M THE ONLY ONE IN THIS ROOM
WHO WENT TO THOSE THREE COMMUNITY MEETINGS. AND THERE
WERE A LOT OF ANGRY PEOPLE THERE.

THE COURT: WHO WERE THEY ANGRY AT? TELL ME WHO YOU PERCEIVE.

MR. MELNICK: MOSTLY AT THE CITY OF VENTURA FOR SUING THEM.

THE COURT: SO THEY WEREN'T NECESSARILY MAD AT THE FISH, BUT THEY WERE MADE AT THE CITY OF VENTURA.

MR. MELNICK: RIGHT. IT'S A WHOLE RANGE OF PEOPLE.

THE COURT: NOBODY LIKES TO GET SUED.

MR. MELNICK: RIGHT. SO JUST MY POINT, YOUR HONOR, IS JUST THAT WE NEED TO HAVE THESE CONVERSATIONS. WE WANT TO HAVE THOSE CONVERSATIONS.

AND I WORRY THAT THIS SETTLEMENT IS JUST BEING CREATED IN AN ECHO CHAMBER.

THE COURT: I'M DELIGHTED TO HAVE YOU TALK TO MR. HAGERTY IN MY PRESENCE. IS THERE SOMETHING THAT YOU AND MR. MELNICK THINK THAT I HAVE THE POWER TO DO THAT YOU WANT ME TO DO?

MR. MELNICK: NO. I JUST WANT YOU TO BE AWARE THIS IS THE DYNAMIC THAT'S GOING ON.

THE COURT: OKAY. ANYBODY ELSE WISH TO BE

HEARD ON THE PHONE?

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MR. COOPER: YES, YOUR HONOR. THIS IS MR. COOPER FOR CHANNELKEEPER.

THE COURT: CONTINUE.

MR. COOPER: AND I WOULD AGREE WITH

MR. MELNICK IN TERMS OF THAT WE'VE BEEN WAITING QUITE A

WHILE -- BEEN PROMISED FOR QUITE A WHILE, THEN WAITING

OUITE A WHILE FOR THE SETTLEMENT PROPOSAL.

AND I WOULD DISAGREE WITH MR. HAGERTY THAT WE UNDERSTAND THE FRAMEWORK. WE DON'T UNDERSTAND THE FRAMEWORK. WE'VE HEARD SOME BASIC CONCEPTS DURING THE SETTLEMENT PROCESS. BUT WE REALLY DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS IS GOING TO LOOK LIKE OR HOW IT'S EVEN -- EVEN THE DATA IT RELIES ON OR DECIDES WHAT FLOWS WOULD BE APPROPRIATE IN THE RIVER FOR THE FISH AND OTHER BENEFICIAL USES.

AND AS MR. HAGERTY NOTED, WE'RE GOING TO COME UP ON THE DRY SEASON HERE, LATE SUMMER, EARLY FALL, WHICH IS TYPICALLY WHEN -- FROM OUR PERSPECTIVE ANYWAY -- THE CITY DRIES OUT THE RIVER IN REACH 4, KILLING THE FISH.

SO WE BETTER START TALKING SOON, IN OUR VIEW, YOUR HONOR, IF WE'RE GOING TO GET SOMETHING WORKED OUT, OR ELSE WE'RE GOING TO BE IN MOTION PRACTICE IN ADVANCE OF THE FALL, TO MAKE SURE THAT THIS COURT AT LEAST CONSIDERS ORDERING SUFFICIENT WATER FOR FISH THIS DRY SEASON.

I THINK WE ALL -- THIS HAS BEEN A LONG TIME COMING. WE NEED TO GET A MOVE ON. I REALLY ECHO

MR. MELNICK'S CONCERN THAT THE CONSUMPTIVE USERS ARE ALL NEGOTIATING; AND THEN THEY ARE GOING TO COME TO US AND IT'S GOING TO BE A NONSTARTER.

SO THE SOONER WE CAN GET TALKING, IN MY VIEW,
THE BETTER, IF WE EXPECT TO MAKE PROGRESS TOWARDS
RESOLVING THIS WITHOUT LITIGATION.

THE COURT: AGAIN, THE SAME QUESTION I PUT TO MR. MELNICK, IS THERE SOME ORDER YOU THINK I CAN OR SHOULD MAKE, MR. COOPER, AT THIS TIME?

MR. COOPER: WELL, I THINK THE COURT SHOULD

JUST BE AWARE THAT AT THAT STATUS CONFERENCE IN MAY, IF

WE HAVEN'T WORKED SOMETHING OUT, CHANNELKEEPER WILL BE

SEEKING A BRIEFING SCHEDULE ON WHETHER OR NOT THE

REGIME, EITHER EXISTING REGIME AT CURRENT PUMPING

LEVELS THAT THE CITY HAS BEEN DOING, ARE REASONABLE OR

WASTEFUL OF WATER FOR THE 2020 -- FALL OF 2020.

SO THAT WOULD BE -- I JUST WANT TO PUT YOU ON NOTICE, YOUR HONOR, THAT THAT'S COMING, AND ALSO THE OTHER PARTIES. SO THAT IF WE CAN'T GET SOMETHING MOVING HERE PRETTY SOON, THAT'S WHERE THIS IS HEADING, FROM OUR PERSPECTIVE.

THE COURT: OKAY. A RELATED QUESTION: HOW

MANY MONTHS STORAGE DOES THE CITY OF VENTURA HAVE AFTER

THE WATER IS LIFTED FROM THE MAIN LOCATION IN THE

RIVER?

DOES IT HAVE ANY MEANINGFUL STORAGE OR ANY ALTERNATIVE BELOW GROUND RESERVOIR OR ABOVE GROUND STORAGE, BY WAY OF RESERVOIR OR OTHERWISE?

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MR. HAGERTY: FROM ITS WITHDRAWALS FROM THE RIVER, IT'S A VERY MINIMAL STORAGE. LAKE CASITAS, WHICH IS THE LARGEST STORAGE AREA IN THIS PART OF THE COUNTY, ESSENTIALLY IS THE STORAGE AREA.

THE COURT: DOES VENTURA CITY GET TO SHARE THE BENEFIT OF USING LAKE CASITAS?

MR. HAGERTY: YES, YOUR HONOR. WE PURCHASE WATER AND HAVE A LONG-STANDING RELATIONSHIP WITH LAKE CASITAS AND CASITAS WATER DISTRICT.

THE COURT: DO YOU PUT IT IN THERE FOR STORAGE AND THEN TAKE IT OUT LATER, OR YOU BUY SOME OF THEIR RIGHTS?

MR. HAGERTY: CASITAS DIVERTS AND ALSO OBTAINS WATER FROM THE WATERSHED THAT FEEDS INTO LAKE CASITAS. AND THEN WE HAVE AN AGREEMENT THAT ALLOWS US TO PURCHASE WATER. THERE ARE OTHER ARRANGEMENTS TOO THAT ARE FAIRLY COMPLICATED, YOUR HONOR.

TO ANSWER YOUR SPECIFIC QUESTION, AS IT
RELATES TO THE RIVER, THE CITY HAS VERY LIMITED
STORAGE. NONE OF THIS IS NEW, YOUR HONOR. I'VE TALKED
TO MR. COOPER. I'VE TALKED TO MR. MELNICK. WE WILL
CONTINUE TO DO THAT.

THIS IS VERY HARD. AND I COMPLETELY
UNDERSTAND THEIR POSITIONS. I'VE ALREADY TALKED TO
MR. COOPER ABOUT WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE SUMMER. WE
KNOW HIS POSITION. WE'VE INDICATED WHAT WE ARE WILLING
TO DO AND TO TALK ABOUT.

I'M NOT SURE THIS IS BENEFICIAL, JUST TO PUT

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THAT ON THE TABLE, YOUR HONOR --

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THE COURT: PICKING AT SCABS HERE.

MR. HAGERTY: YEAH. I THINK SO. IT MAY
DEVOLVE INTO A FIGHT. THAT MAY HAPPEN. WE DON'T WANT
THAT TO HAPPEN. OUR GOAL IS TO MAKE IT NOT HAPPEN. WE
BELIEVE WE'VE SHOWN VERY GOOD FAITH WITH WORKING WITH
CHANNELKEEPER BY ENTERING INTO THE INTERIM SETTLEMENT.

THERE IS A FLOW REGIME THAT WE'VE AGREED TO IN THAT SETTLEMENT. IT DOES END SOON. BUT WE'VE ALREADY TALKED TO CHANNELKEEPER ABOUT OPENING UP DISCUSSIONS RELATED TO EXTENDING THAT WITHOUT MAKING A COMMITMENT, BECAUSE THAT'S AN IMPORTANT ISSUE FOR THE CITY. BUT WE'RE OPEN TO THAT.

WE'VE ALSO TALKED A LOT WITH MR. MELNICK ABOUT TIMING. AND WE UNDERSTAND HIS CONCEPT OF AN ECHO CHAMBER. BUT THERE'S A LOT OF WORK ON OUR SIDE STILL TO DO. WE WOULD JUST ASK THE PARTIES TO UNDERSTAND THAT. THEY ARE GOING TO MAKE THEIR DECISIONS. THEY ARE GOING TO TAKE THEIR ACTIONS. BUT I'M NOT SO SURE THIS IS THE BEST FORM TO HAVE THESE CONVERSATIONS, YOUR HONOR.

THE COURT: IS MY MEMORY CORRECT THAT, AT LEAST THIS PORTION OF VENTURA COUNTY LACKS ANY CONNECTION TO THE STATE WATER PROJECT?

MR. HAGERTY: CORRECT. ALTHOUGH THE CITY HAS
A PROJECT WHERE IT'S SEEKING TO CONNECT. IT HAS
ALLOCATION, AS DOES CASITAS. WE HAVE APPROVED THE
PROJECT, BUT WE ARE BEING --

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THE COURT: SO IT HAS AN UNUSED ALLOCATION FROM THE STATE WATER PROJECT?

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MR. HAGERTY: IT HAS AN ALLOCATION THAT -UNUSED IS PROBABLY A LITTLE -- IT'S BEING USED BY
OTHERS.

THE COURT: SOLD TO METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT, SOLD TO THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES?

MR. HAGERTY: WE HAVE AN EXISTING ALLOCATION
THAT WE CAN ACCESS IF WE CAN MAKE THE CONNECTION. WE
HAVE APPROVED A PROJECT TO TIE INTO AND BUILD THAT OUT.

WE ARE CURRENTLY BEING SUED UNDER CEQA FOR THAT PROJECT. BECAUSE THERE ARE SOME GROUPS WHO DON'T LIKE THE IDEA OF TYING INTO THE STATE WATER PROJECT. SO THAT'S WHY THESE THINGS ARE VERY COMPLICATED. IT WILL TAKE US A LOT OF TIME TO WORK THESE ISSUES OUT.

AND WE WILL JUST CONVEY TO THE COURT AND CONVEY TO THE PARTIES, WE ARE WORKING AS HARD AS WE CAN. IT'S IN OUR INTEREST TO ACHIEVE PHYSICAL SOLUTION TO THIS ISSUE AND ALSO TO SOME OTHER ISSUES THAT ARE PENDING.

THIS IS SOMETHING THAT WE ARE WORKING HARD AT.

IT IS ABSOLUTELY -- MR. MELNICK IS RIGHT, AS I

COMMUNICATED EARLIER, THE COMMUNITIES ARE VERY UPSET

FOR THE FACT THAT THE CITY PROVIDED ALL THESE NOTICES.

THAT'S NOT A MYSTERY. THAT'S NOT NEW INFORMATION.

THEY ARE DEALING WITH IT.

THIS IS A HARD SITUATION. WE'RE WORKING HARD
TO SOLVE IT. AND WE'RE OPEN TO CONTINUING TO WORK WITH

ALL THE PARTIES TO ACHIEVE A SUCCESS HERE.

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THE COURT: I WANT TO MOVE TO A DIFFERENT TOPIC THAT HAS TO DO WITH ADMINISTRATIVE CHALLENGES THAT WILL BE PRESENTED, EVEN ASSUMING THAT THE SETTLEMENT TALKS COME TO FRUITION. YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING LIKE 1700 NEWLY NAMED CROSS-DEFENDANTS, CORRECT, MR. HAGERTY?

MR. HAGERTY: IT'S 1300. YES, YOUR HONOR.

THE COURT: SO 1300. IS THERE A WAY TO GET TO A FINAL CONSENSUS SETTLEMENT BY JUDGMENT IF WE DON'T HAVE ALL 1300 OF THOSE NAMED PARTIES WITH DISCLAIMERS OR APPEARANCES OR DEFAULTS?

MR. HAGERTY: TO GET TO THE JUDGMENT, WE HAVE
TO CLEAR UP ALL THOSE ISSUES, YOUR HONOR. BUT PART OF
THE REASON WHY WE ASKED FOR THE EXTENSION, IS THAT
THERE ARE MANY PARTIES WHO MAY BE WILLING TO EITHER
HAVE A DISCLAIMER OR HAVE A DEFAULT TAKEN AGAINST THEM;

OR OTHERWISE SUBJECT THEMSELVES TO THE

JUDGMENT, IF THEY UNDERSTAND AND SEE WHAT THE JUDGMENT

WILL LOOK LIKE, WHICH IS -- WHAT MR. MELNICK TALK ABOUT

IS TRUE. WE WILL HAVE TO EXPLAIN THIS TO THE COMMUNITY

AND DEMONSTRATE TO THE COMMUNITY THAT THIS IS SOMETHING

THEY CAN LIVE WITH AND IS ULTIMATELY IN THEIR INTEREST.

BUT TECHNICALLY, YES. THE JUDGMENT WILL HAVE
TO RESOLVE ALL OF THESE ISSUES. THERE WILL BE
DEFAULTS, THERE WILL BE DISCLAIMERS, PEOPLE WILL ANSWER
AND HOPEFULLY CONCUR AND STIPULATE TO THE JUDGMENT. IT
MAY BE THAT PEOPLE OBJECT. AND THERE'S A PROCESS BY

WHICH THE COURT WILL HAVE TO HEAR THOSE OBJECTIONS.

THE COURT: SO IN THE INTERIM, MR. HAGERTY,
YOU AND YOUR STAFF AT BEST, BEST AND KRIEGER ARE GOING
TO HAVE TO BE VERY METHODICAL IN TRACKING THE STATUS OF
EACH OF THOSE NAMED CROSS-DEFENDANTS AND WHETHER THEY
HAVE APPEARED BY AN ANSWER, OR OTHERWISE GIVEN YOU A
WRITTEN FINAL DISCLAIMER, OR WHETHER OR NOT ON SOME
DATE CERTAIN BEEN ABLE TO TAKE THE DEFAULT.

MR. HAGERTY: CORRECT, YOUR HONOR.

THE COURT: AS TO THE PERSONS WHO'S INTERESTED AND LIMITED TO THOSE WHO ARE GROUNDWATER USERS, POTENTIAL GROUNDWATER USERS, ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS PROVE TO THE COURT'S SATISFACTION THAT YOU GAVE NOTICE TO A HUNDRED PERCENT OF ALL THOSE PARTIES?

MR. HAGERTY: CORRECT, YOUR HONOR.

THE COURT: NOT 94 PERCENT OR 96 PERCENT OR 99.2 PERCENT, BUT A HUNDRED PERCENT OF THOSE PARTIES.

MR. HAGERTY: WHAT IT WOULD DO, YOUR HONOR, IS AS TO THE PARTIES WHO WE CAN DEMONSTRATE RECEIVED THE NOTICE, OR AS YOU RECALL, AND AS THE COURT POINTED OUT AT I THINK OUR FIRST APPEARANCE, THERE'S A POSTING PROCESS THAT WE WILL HAVE TO GO THROUGH AT SOME LEVEL.

AS TO ALL THOSE PARTIES, JURISDICTION WILL EXTEND TO THOSE PARTIES, REGARDLESS OF IF THEY APPEAR OR NOT, AS LONG AS WE CAN DEMONSTRATE THAT THE NOTICE WAS PROVIDED. THAT'S WHAT THE STATUTE SAYS.

THE COURT: I HAVE TO DETERMINE THAT YOU'VE
GIVEN A HUNDRED PERCENT NOTICE, AT LEAST BY POSTING, OF

ALL THOSE INTERESTED PARTIES BEFORE JUDGMENT IS ENTERED.

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MR. HAGERTY: YOU WILL HAVE TO MAKE THE DETERMINATION THAT WE FOLLOWED THE NOTICE AND PROCEDURES IN THE STATUTE.

THE COURT: AND THAT YOU NOW HAVE RETURN

RECEIPT FROM 92 PERCENT OF THEM AND HAVE PROVEN POSTING

FOR 8 PERCENT OF THEM?

MR. HAGERTY: YES, YOUR HONOR.

THE COURT: DO ANY OF YOU WHO ARE
SOPHISTICATES IN THESE CASES KNOW WHAT IS NORMALLY
CONSIDERED AN ACCEPTABLE MODE OF PROOF OF THAT?

MR. HAGERTY: THE STATUTE SPECIFIES THAT WE NEED TO GET THE RETURN RECEIPTS AND THEN ESSENTIALLY FILE WITH THE COURT PROOF OF THAT PROCESS.

THE COURT: WILL YOU BE FILING ALL THE RETURN RECEIPTS THAT YOU GET WITH THE COURT IN DUE COURSE?

MR. HAGERTY: YOUR HONOR, LET ME TAKE LOOK.

THE COURT: OR PROVIDE IN SOME FASHION.

MR. HAGERTY: I BELIEVE IT'S JUST THAT WE WILL REQUIRE TO FILE -- GIVE ME A SECOND, YOUR HONOR.

THE COURT: SOME OF THIS IS GOING -- AT LEAST IF IT'S SOMETHING OTHER THAN A SUMMARY RENDITION OF IT, THEN YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S OBVIOUSLY TRYING TO GET AN ENFORCEABLE JUDGMENT.

SO IF YOU'RE CUTTING CORNERS AND I COOPERATE,
IN THE SHORT RUN I MIGHT LOVE THE IDEA OF COOPERATING
WITH A MORE LABOR-SAVING TECHNIQUE; BUT IF YOU GET A

VOID OR VOIDABLE JUDGMENT, YOU'RE NOT DOING MUCH FOR YOUR CLIENT, MR. HAGERTY.

BY THE SAME TOKEN, IF I'M SUPPOSED TO GO
THROUGH THOUSANDS OF RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTS AND
COMPARE THEM WITH SOME TABLE OF WHAT THE APNS ARE AND
WHETHER THERE'S BEEN PROPER SERVICE, THAT'S GOING TO
TAKE ME A WHILE TO DO THAT LEVEL OF DETAIL WORK. NOT
TO MENTION THEN TRYING TO RUN DOWN THE DISCLAIMER AND
TRYING TO RUN DOWN THE DEFAULTS.

REMIND ME, HOW MANY PEOPLE WHO ARE GETTING NOTICES ARE ONLY GROUNDWATER INTERESTED PARTIES?

MR. HAGERTY: THE NOTICE OF ONLY GROUNDWATER ARE ABOUT 12,000 -- ALMOST 13,000, YOUR HONOR.

THE COURT: SO IN THEORY, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE

TO PROVE YOU GAVE -- I'LL TAKE 12,700 AS THE

APPROXIMATION OF GOOD NOTICES. AND IF YOU PROVE UP

12,500, DO WE WORRY ABOUT THE LAST 200? OR TAKE

JUDGMENT THAT'S VOID OR VOIDABLE AS TO THOSE 200. AND

THEN WHEN IT COMES TO DIGGING THROUGH THE WELL

THOUSANDS OF GALLONS A DAY --

MR. HAGERTY: YOUR HONOR, WE WILL PROVE UP
THAT THE NOTICE WAS PROVIDED. AND IF WE'RE ABLE TO
PROVE THAT UP PURSUANT TO THE STATUTE, THE JUDGMENT
WILL APPLY TO EVERYONE WE CAN DEMONSTRATE RECEIVED THE
NOTICE.

THE COURT: WILL YOUR PROOF TO ME BE
PARCEL-BY-PARCEL, OR AM I SUPPOSED TO TAKE A SUMMARY
STATEMENT OF SHAWN HAGERTY, THAT SAYS, BELIEVE ME WE,

- SERVED THEM ALL AND WE GOT 11,300 RETURN RECEIPTS BACK,

  AND WE HAVE 782 DISCLAIMERS, AND WE HAVE TAKEN DEFAULT

  ON THE FOLLOWING 84 NAMED PERSONS.
  - MR. HAGERTY: CAN WE SEGREGATE THE DISCLAIMER

    -- THE DISCLAIMER PART, I THINK, IS FAIRLY

    STRAIGHTFORWARD. I THINK THE DEFAULT PART IS FAIRLY

    STRAIGHTFORWARD.
    - THE COURT: ACTUALLY THE DISCLAIMER ASSOCIATES WITH THE RIPARIAN.
  - MR. HAGERTY: YES. BUT IT COULD BE -- WELL,
    THAT'S CORRECT. IT WOULD BE ONLY RIPARIAN OR NAMED
    GROUNDWATER USERS.
- 13 THE COURT: REMIND ME. NAME AND NAMED
  14 GROUNDWATER KNOWN TO HAVE A WELL?
- MR. HAGERTY: YES, YOUR HONOR. WHEN WE FIRST FILED IN OUR ORIGINAL CROSS-COMPLAINT.
  - THE COURT: IF YOU HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE THEY HAVE AN AVAILABLE WELL, THEY GET NAMED.
    - MR. HAGERTY: WE NAMED THEM, YES.
  - THE COURT: CONTINUE.

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- MR. HAGERTY: SO WHAT THE STATUTES SAYS, YOUR
  HONOR -- AND WE'RE LEARNING A LOT ABOUT THE STATUTE,

  AND TREADING NEW GROUND HERE.
  - THE COURT: IT'S YOUNGER THAN THIS CASE.
  - MR. HAGERTY: EXACTLY. IT SAYS, "AFTER COMPLETING THE MAILING, THE PLAINTIFF SHALL FILE WITH THE COURT A NOTICE OF COMPLETION OF THE MAILING." SO THAT'S THE GUIDANCE WE HAVE.

THE COURT: AND THAT'S ON SUMMARY.

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MR. HAGERTY: YES. AND WE HAVE THE BACKUP.

AND WE'RE KEEPING TRACK OF ALL THOSE THINGS. WE WILL

DO WHAT WE NEED TO DO AT THE LEVEL OF PROOF THE COURT

NEEDS. AND WE WILL DEMONSTRATE TO THE COURT THAT THE

NOTICE WAS PROVIDED.

THE COURT: I'M NOT SURE I WANT TO DRAG YOU
DOWN TO THE WEEDS, UNLESS YOU TELL ME, HEY, THE
JUDGMENT I NEED FOR WHAT YOUR CLIENT IS PAYING ME
REQUIRES YOU TO AUDIT ME DOWN TO THE LEVEL OF DETAIL;
BUT IF I HAVE TO BE AT THAT LEVEL OF DETAIL, I SORT OF
NEED A HEADS UP TO FIND THE TIME AND ENERGY AND STAFF
SUPPORT TO BE ABLE TO FOLLOW YOU THROUGH THE MINUTIA OF
RUNNING DOWN 15,000 ARE ALL THE BOX BUBBLED IN.

MR. HAGERTY: OUR POSITION IS THAT YOU WON'T HAVE TO GET TO THAT LEVEL OF DETAIL, ALTHOUGH WE WILL HAVE THE LEVEL OF DETAIL. BECAUSE WE DO. WE ARE KEEPING TRACK. WE KNOW EXACTLY WHO'S RECEIVED, WHO'S RETURNED THE NOTICE. WE KNOW WHO HASN'T.

WE'RE WORKING THROUGH THE PROCESS OF THEM.

SOME OF THEM ARE MULTIPLE OWNERS OF A SINGLE PARCEL.

SO THE NUMBER WE MAY HAVE TO POST WILL BE LESS THAN THE NUMBER OF NON-RESPONSIVE NOTICES THAT WE'VE SENT OUT, WHICH IS 2000, 3000, I BELIEVE.

THE COURT: HAS ALL THE MAIL BEEN SENT?

MR. HAGERTY: YES, YOUR HONOR.

THE COURT: DO YOU HAVE A PERCEPTION SO FAR OF WHAT PERCENTAGE ARE COMING BACK WITH A SUCCESSFUL

RETURN RECEIPT CONFIRMATION?

MR. HAGERTY: YES. WE HAVE ABOUT 83 PERCENT SUCCESS. WE'RE CONFIDENT WE WILL COMPLY FULLY WITH THE STATUTE.

THE COURT: DO YOU THEN RE-MAIL AFTER YOU CHECK ADDRESSES?

MR. HAGERTY: WE'RE WORKING THROUGH THAT ISSUE RIGHT NOW, YOUR HONOR. BECAUSE GIVEN WHAT MR. MELNICK MENTIONED EARLIER, THE IDEA OF POSTING 2000 PROPERTIES IN THE CITY OF OJAI OR ELSEWHERE, IS NOT SOMETHING WE'RE INTERESTED IN DOING AT THE MOMENT.

THE COURT: MAKE A LOT OF VOTERS HAPPY.

MR. HAGERTY: WE'RE TRYING TO FIGURE OUT THE BEST AND MOST EFFICIENT WAY TO ADDRESS THIS. BUT ULTIMATELY, WE WILL COMPLY WITH THE STATUTE. BECAUSE WHY WE'RE BEARING THE PAIN, IS TO GET THE COURT TO HAVE JURISDICTION OVER THE WATERSHED. THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT WE'RE DOING.

THE COURT HAS REMINDED US A NUMBER OF

OCCASIONS THAT THIS IS CRITICAL. WE BELIEVE IT'S

CRITICAL, ABSOLUTELY. WE'RE GOING TO DO WHAT WE NEED

TO DO TO MAKE SURE THE COURT HAS JURISDICTION.

THE COURT: OKAY. YOU'VE ANSWERED MY
QUESTIONS, MR. HAGERTY. THE MAIN MESSAGE IS IF OUR
RECORDS SHOW ERRORS, YOU CAN SHARE WITH US SO WE CAN
TRY TO FIX THEM.

MR. HAGERTY: YES.

THE COURT: BECAUSE AT THE END OF THE DAY, YOU

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WANT OUR RECORDS TO BE AS CLEAR AND ACCURATE AS

POSSIBLE TO CONFIRM WHAT YOU BELIEVE YOU'VE

ACCOMPLISHED, WHICH IS DEMONSTRABLE GOOD NOTICE IN THE

PUBLIC FILE OF ALL THESE PEOPLE WHO ARE GOING TO GET

MAIL.

SO YOU HAVE AN INTEREST IN THE CORRECTNESS OF OUR RECORDS. IF MY STAFF OR I HAVE TO DO TEDIOUS THINGS, LIKE PROCESS A THOUSANDS DEFAULTS, THAT DOES NOT HAPPEN IN AN AFTERNOON.

MR. HAGERTY: YES, YOUR HONOR. WE UNDERSTAND THAT.

IF I MAY, I WOULD ENCOURAGE, AS I DID EARLIER, IF OTHER PARTIES HAVE QUESTIONS OR THERE ARE DETAIL ISSUES, WE'RE HERE TO HELP ANSWER THOSE QUESTIONS. AND WE ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO CONTACT US. BECAUSE WE WOULD LIKE TO WORK THIS OUT IN THE MOST EFFICIENT WAY POSSIBLE.

THE COURT: MR. MELNICK, IS SEEMS LIKE SOMETHING CAME TO YOUR MIND.

MR. MELNICK: YOUR HONOR, I JUST WANTED TO ASSURE YOU THAT THE STATUTE DOES NOT IMAGINE THE COURT GOING THROUGH A LIST OF 12,000 APNS, AND ENSURING THAT EACH OF THOSE PEOPLE GOT A NOTICE.

WHAT THE STATUTE REQUIRES IS THAT SUFFICIENT NOTICE BE GIVEN SO THAT IT BECOMES AN IN REM ACTION.

AND SUFFICIENT NOTICE MEANS, I THINK WHAT THE CITY OF VENTURA IS DOING, IN PROVING THAT TO YOU, WHICH IS THEY GOT A LIST OF PROPERTY OWNERS, IT WAS A COMPLETE LIST,

1 HERE'S HOW THEY VERIFIED IT WAS A COMPLETE LIST.

THE COURT: THE PUBLIC ASSESSOR'S RECORDS OUGHT TO BE ACCURATE.

MR. MELNICK: RIGHT. THEY SENT TO EVERYONE, HERE'S WHAT THEY DID TO FOLLOWUP, HERE'S WHEN THEY POSTED, ET CETERA, ET CETERA. AND THAT YOU KNOW IN SUFFICIENT DETAIL, WHICH I ASSUME MR. HAGERTY WILL DO THAT, SHOULD BE ENOUGH FOR YOU TO POSSESS IN REM JURISDICTION HERE.

THE COURT: OKAY. SO WE HAVE A DATE, I GUESS, NOT UNTIL MAY, BUT OKAY. HE GOT YOUR BULLETIN BOARD.

ANYTHING ELSE I CAN DO TO HELP YOU THIS AFTERNOON,

MR. COOPER.

MR. COOPER: NO, YOUR HONOR. THANK YOU.

THE COURT: MR. HAGERTY?

MR. HAGERTY: NO, YOUR HONOR. THANK YOU.

THE COURT: MR. MELNICK. MR. KRASNER?

MR. KRASNER: NO, YOUR HONOR. THANK YOU.

THE COURT: MR. HAGERTY, WILL YOU BE KIND

ENOUGH TO GIVE NOTICE?

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MR. HAGERTY: YES, YOUR HONOR.

THE COURT: ANYONE ELSE WISH TO BE HEARD BEFORE WE RECESS? HEARING NOTHING. THE COURT IS IN RECESS.

MR. HAGERTY: THANK YOU, YOUR HONOR.

MS. BUCKMAN: THANK YOU, YOUR HONOR.

MR. COOPER: THANK YOU, YOUR HONOR.

(PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED AT 3:02 P.M.)

AURORA BOWSER, CSR NO. 12801

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