1 2 3	FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES		
4 5	DEPARTMENT SSC 10 HON. WILLIAM F. HIGHBERGER, JUDGE		
6	SANTA BARBARA CHANNELKEEPER,)		
7	PETITIONER,) CASE NO. 19STCP01176		
8	V.)		
9	STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL) BOARD, ET AL.,)		
10)		
11	RESPONDENTS.)		
12	AND RELATED CROSS-ACTION.)		
13	·/		
14 15	REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS NOVEMBER 16, 2020		
16			
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۱ ک	OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER PRO TEM		
28	JOB NO. 4340443		

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25 26	FODITOTING, LLC.	BY: MYLES WEST, CERTIFIED LAW STUDENT
27 28		P.O. BOX 5479 IRVINE, CALIFORNIA 92616

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1 CASE NUMBER: 19STCP01176

2 CASE NAME: SANTA BARBARA CHANNELKEEPER V. STATE

WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD, ET AL.

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2020

DEPARTMENT SSC 10 HON. WILLIAM F. HIGHBERGER

REPORTER: ESTRELLA HERMAN, CSR NO. 13865

TIME: 2:04 P.M.

ET CETERA, AND RELATED ACTIONS.

(THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDINGS WERE HELD IN OPEN COURT.)

THE COURT: WE'RE ON THE RECORD IN 19STCP01176, SANTA

BARBARA CHANNELKEEPER V. STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD,

 I HAVE AN EX PARTE BEFORE ME, BUT I DIDN'T SEE ANY CHECK-IN BY SUSAN SEAGER OR JACK LERNER. ARE MS. SEAGER OR MR. LERNER PRESENT VIRTUALLY VIA LACOURTCONNECT OR IN THE COURTROOM? I'VE GOT TWO LAWYERS AND 26 EMPTY SEATS IN THE COURTROOM AT THE MOMENT. THE TWO LAWYERS IN THE COURTROOM ARE NOT ATTORNEYS LERNER OR SEAGER; CORRECT?

MR. HAGERTY: NO, YOUR HONOR.

MR. COSGROVE: NO, SIR.

THE COURT: SO, MR. ABBOTT, ARE YOU A LICENSED MEMBER OF THE CALIFORNIA BAR?

MR. WEST: I DON'T KNOW WHY IT SAYS MY NAME IS
MR. ABBOTT. MY NAME IS MYLES WEST. I'M A CERTIFIED LAW
STUDENT AT UC IRVINE SCHOOL OF LAW. AND MY PROFESSOR SHOULD BE
HERE, BUT HE SEEMS TO BE HAVING TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES.

THE COURT: WELCOME. YOUR NAME AGAIN, SIR, JUST AS A COURTESY?

MR. WEST: MYLES WEST, YOUR HONOR.

THE COURT: SPELL THE FIRST AND LAST NAME SLOWLY ENOUGH
THAT I CAN GET IT. THESE CONNECTIONS ARE OF MEDIOCRE QUALITY.

MR. WEST: M-Y-L-E-S; AND THEN WEST, W-E-S-T.

THE COURT: WEST, LIKE THE COMPASS POINT.

MR. WEST: YES.

THE COURT: OKAY. THANK YOU, MR. WEST.

SO I DO HAVE BEFORE ME AN EX PARTE APPLICATION BROUGHT BY ATTORNEYS SEAGER AND LERNER OF UC IRVINE SCHOOL OF LAW ON BEHALF OF DOWNHOME PUBLISHING THAT OPERATES OJAI VALLEY NEWS HAVING TO DO WITH CERTAIN ACCESS ISSUES. AND I WOULD OFFER THE FOLLOWING PRELIMINARY COMMENTS:

ONE, THE COURTROOM IS OPEN TO THE STREET. THE PUBLIC IS OPEN -- THE COURTROOM IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. THE SOCIAL DISTANCING CAPACITY OF THE COURTROOM, APART FROM COURT STAFF AND THE COURT REPORTER, IS 28. ONE OF THOSE 28 SEATS IS OCCUPIED BY MY RESEARCH ATTORNEY. TWO ATTORNEYS HAVE COME IN PERSON. THAT MEANS WE HAVE 25 EMPTY SEATS IN THE COURTROOM.

SO, MR. WEST, INSOFAR AS YOUR CLIENT OJAI VALLEY NEWS
IS CONCERNED THAT THEY WOULD FIND THEMSELVES SHUT OUT, THE LONG
AND THE SHORT OF IT, IT HASN'T HAPPENED. IT IS EXCEEDINGLY
UNLIKELY TO HAPPEN. WE HAVE NOT HAD ANY MEANINGFUL NUMBER OF
PEOPLE COME INTO COURT IN THIS CASE OR ANY OTHER CASES DURING
COVID TIMES EVEN THOUGH THE DOOR IS OPEN. AND SINCE PHYSICAL
ACCESS IS PROVIDED, THE COURT IS INCLINED TO DENY THE EX PARTE
WITHOUT PREJUDICE.

MY FIRST CAREER AMBITION WAS TO BE A JOURNALIST. I
APPRECIATE THE IMPORTANCE OF OPEN COURTS. MY FIRST ASSIGNMENT
WAS IN DEPENDENCY WHERE THE COURTS WERE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC.
I HAVE SEEN THE EXCEEDINGLY DELETERIOUS CONSEQUENCES OF CLOSED
COURTROOMS FROM THE TIME I SPENT WITH THE DEPENDENCY DOCKET.
FULLY UNDERSTAND THE SANITIZING BENEFITS OF HAVING COURTS OPEN
TO THE PUBLIC EVEN IF THOSE INSPECTION OPPORTUNITIES ARE
EXERCISED AT A MINIMUM LEVEL. BUT THE THEORETICAL RIGHT TO
COME IN AND OBSERVE IS AN INCREDIBLY SANITIZING INFLUENCE.

WE ARE RIGHT OPPOSITE UNION STATION, WHICH IS AN EASY TRAIN TRIP ON METROLINK FROM DOWNTOWN VENTURA, WHICH IS ITSELF NOT FAR FROM OJAI. THERE IS PARKING IN THE AREA HERE. I DON'T ANTICIPATE, FROM WHAT I HAVE BEEN TOLD BY THE LAWYERS IN THE CASE, THAT ANYTHING LIKE A LONG TRIAL IS IN THE OFFING, ALTHOUGH I DO SEE THE REQUEST SUBMITTED BY UC IRVINE TO PRESIDING JUDGE BRAZIL ON SEPTEMBER 24 ANTICIPATED THAT THERE WOULD BE, QUOTE, "A LONG TRIAL AND EXTENSIVE HEARINGS."

MY UNDERSTANDING IS THAT THE KEY PLAYERS ARE AT THE CUSP OF HAVING A, HOPEFULLY, AGREED SETTLEMENT THAT WILL HOPEFULLY BECOME A CONSENT JUDGMENT. AND WHILE THAT WILL REQUIRE A JUDICIAL APPROVAL, THAT WILL NOT BE THE RESULT OF THE TRIAL.

I HAVE COUNSEL FOR CITY OF VENTURA BEFORE ME TODAY, RIGHT, MR. HAGERTY?

MR. HAGERTY: YES, YOUR HONOR. SHAWN HAGERTY FOR CITY OF VENTURA.

THE COURT: IS THAT A CORRECT UNDERSTANDING OF THE LIKELY
TRAJECTORY OF THE CASE?

MR. HAGERTY: YES, YOUR HONOR. I MEAN, THERE WILL BE
PROVE UP, SO THERE WILL BE -- HOPEFULLY, THE PHYSICAL SOLUTION
WILL BE PRESENTED, AND WE WILL ADDRESS SOME FACTUAL ISSUES THAT
WE'LL NEED TO ADDRESS. AND YOU POINTED ONE OUT WITH THE
COMMENTS FROM THE BLISS TRUST, FOR EXAMPLE. SO THERE WILL BE
SOME ISSUES TO ADDRESS, BUT WE'RE NOT ANTICIPATING THE FULL
ADJUDICATION. WE'RE ANTICIPATING THE PRESENTATION OF A
PHYSICAL SOLUTION FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION AND ACTION.

THE COURT: IF YOU'VE DONE THIS BEFORE, YOU'RE AHEAD OF ME. HOW LONG DO YOU THINK THAT KIND OF A HEARING WILL TAKE?

MR. HAGERTY: I THINK IT SUBSTANTIALLY DEPENDS UPON THE NEXT 45 DAYS, YOUR HONOR. SO I DON'T REALLY WANT TO GIVE YOU AN INACCURATE PREDICTION. IF CERTAIN PARTIES COME ABOARD AND SUPPORT IT, THEN IT MIGHT BE VERY SHORT; AND -- OTHERWISE, IT COULD BE A WEEK TO TWO WEEKS.

THE COURT: THANK YOU.

SO, MR. WEST, IF YOU'RE NOT A LICENSED LAWYER, IT'S REALLY NOT YOUR PREROGATIVE TO TALK. AND IF I UNDERSTAND RIGHT, YOU'RE TRYING TO HOLD THE SEAT UNTIL SOMEBODY GETS BETTER CONNECTIVITY TO JOIN US?

MR. WEST: I WORK -- [AUDIO MALFUNCTION]

THE COURT: UNFORTUNATELY, OUR CONNECTIVITY IS QUITE

GARBLED, MR. WEST. YOU CAN REPEAT WHAT YOU SAID, BUT TRY IT A

LITTLE SLOWER AND ENUNCIATE BECAUSE IT'S NOT COMING THROUGH

WELL FROM A SOUND POINT OF VIEW.

MR. WEST: I WAS GOING -- I WAS GOING TO SPEAK ON BEHALF OF DOWNHOME PUBLISHING ONCE MY -- ONCE MY PROFESSOR WAS ABLE TO CONNECT.

THE COURT: AND DO YOU, FOR ACADEMIC CREDIT REASONS, NEED THEM TO BE OBSERVING BEFORE YOU TRY TO MAKE YOUR PRESENTATION, MR. WEST?

MR. WEST: I DO NOT, NO.

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THE COURT: WELL, I WILL DO YOU THE COURTESY OF LETTING YOU TALK EVEN THOUGH YOU DON'T HAVE A LEGAL RIGHT TO BE HEARD. BUT I KNOW THIS IS ALL BROUGHT IN GOOD FAITH ON YOUR PART; SO GO AHEAD, SIR.

MR. WEST: THANK YOU, YOUR HONOR.

AS I SAID BEFORE -- AS I SAID BEFORE, MY NAME IS MYLES WEST. I'M A CERTIFIED LAW STUDENT AT THE -- AT UC IRVINE SCHOOL OF LAW, AND WE'RE IN COURT TODAY [AUDIO MALFUNCTION] DOWNHOME PUBLISHING.

14 THE COURT: MR. WEST -- MR. WEST -- MR. WEST, IT IS A VERY WEAK --

MR. WEST: YES, YOUR HONOR?

THE COURT: IT IS A VERY WEAK AUDIO CONNECTION, PROBABLY BECAUSE IT'S LINKED WITH VIDEO. WE'VE HAD CONSISTENT SYSTEM PROBLEMS -- THAT HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU OR YOUR EX PARTE -- WITH VIDEO APPEARANCES, BUT YOU ARE NOMINALLY MAKING A VIDEO APPEARANCE USING COMPUTER AUDIO. SO THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE JOINED US BY PHONE SEEM TO HAVE A STRONGER LINK THAN WHAT YOU'RE WORKING WITH.

I DO WANT TO HEAR YOU; BUT I BEG OF YOU TO TAKE IT SLOW, PAUSE, AND ENUNCIATE. BECAUSE IF YOU SPEAK AT THE CADENCE YOU'VE BEEN USING, YOU'RE BASICALLY JUST COMING ACROSS GARBLED. AND AT SOME POINT, I'M NOT GOING TO INVEST AN INORDINATE AMOUNT OF TIME LISTENING TO SOMEBODY WHO DOESN'T

HAVE A RIGHT TO APPEAR GIVE ME SOMETHING THAT IS, DUE TO

CONNECTIVITY PROBLEMS, INCOMPREHENSIBLE. NO FAULT OF YOUR

INTELLECT. IT'S ONLY YOU NEED TO TAKE IT SLOW AND ENUNCIATE,

MR. WEST.

MR. WEST: I UNDERSTAND, YOUR HONOR. THANK YOU.

OJAI VALLEY NEWS IS REQUESTING REMOTE ACCESS TO THE PROCEEDINGS, AND WE HAVE RECEIVED NO OPPOSITION FROM ANY PARTY OR COUNSEL TO THIS MATTER. I DO NOTE, YOUR HONOR, OJAI VALLEY NEWS HAS A PRESUMPTIVE RIGHT TO ATTEND PROCEEDINGS UNDER THE FIRST AMENDMENT COMMON LAW AND THE CALIFORNIA CONSTITUTION.

THE CALIFORNIA SUPREME COURT ITSELF [AUDIO MALFUNCTION] --

THE COURT REPORTER: YOUR HONOR, I CAN'T UNDERSTAND. I'M SORRY.

THE COURT: THE COURT REPORTER CAN'T MAKE OUT WHAT YOU'RE SAYING, MR. WEST; AND I'M BARELY MAKING IT OUT AS WELL. TRY AGAIN. YOU STARTED TO REFER TO THE CALIFORNIA SUPREME COURT WITH SOME PRECEDENT.

MR. WEST: YES. THE CALIFORNIA SUPREME COURT ESTABLISHED

THE PRESUMPTIVE RIGHT OF ACCESS UNDER THE FIRST AMENDMENT

COMMON LAW AND CALIFORNIA CONSTITUTION. IN NBC SUBSIDIARY IN

1999 -- ARE YOU ABLE TO HEAR, YOUR HONOR?

THE COURT: YES.

AND I'M AWARE OF THAT CASE. AND AS I INDICATED

PREVIOUSLY, THE DOORS ARE OPEN; AND I'VE GOT 25 EMPTY SEATS FOR

THE OJAI VALLEY NEWS, THE L.A. TIMES, THE MET NEWS, DAILY

JOURNAL, FOX NEWS. I'VE GOT LOTS OF EMPTY SEATS.

DO YOU HAVE ANY CASE ON POINT THAT HAS FOUND A LEGALLY ENFORCEABLE RIGHT TO REMOTE ACCESS FOR THE MEDIA?

MR. WEST: I'M NOT -- I'M NOT AWARE OF ANY CASES AT THIS
TIME TO MY KNOWLEDGE, YOUR HONOR. I DO BELIEVE THAT DUE TO THE
UNIQUE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PANDEMIC, I BELIEVE THAT REMOTE
ACCESS [AUDIO MALFUNCTION] TO THE PRESUMPTIVE RIGHT OF ACCESS.

THE COURT: CONTINUE.

MR. WEST: DUE TO THE PANDEMIC, JUDGE BRAZIL'S ORDER -ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER ENCOURAGES COURTS TO USE REMOTE ACCESS TO
BOTH THE PUBLIC AND THE COURT PERSONNEL, INCLUDING JUDGES,
COURT STAFF, COUNSEL, WITNESSES, AND PARTIES. DUE TO THE
PANDEMIC, MANY REPORTERS AND THE PUBLIC ARE [AUDIO MALFUNCTION]
DUE TO THEIR HEALTH.

AS TO REPORTERS NOT BEING ALLOWED REMOTE ACCESS TO THE CASE AND TO ANY CASES THAT INVOLVE L.A. SUPERIOR COURTS, PRIOR TO THE COVID PANDEMIC, THE COURT [AUDIO MALFUNCTION] ALSO ON THE NBC SUBSIDIARY. ONE, THAT THERE'S [AUDIO MALFUNCTION].

THAT'S IMPORTANT AS THIS WHILE COVID-19 IS A PROBLEM AS WITH EVERYBODY, AS THEY ARE [AUDIO MALFUNCTION] OF OURS. IT IS

NOT -- IT IS NOT A REASON TO -- IT IS NOT A REASON TO BE -- NOT SUPPORTING [AUDIO MALFUNCTION] AS THE COURTS IN CALIFORNIA HAVE FOUND OTHER WAYS TO ALLOW REMOTE ACCESS TO -- TO THE PUBLIC.

IN SACRAMENTO AND ORANGE COUNTY, THEY HAVE LIVE PHYSICAL FEED.

SO DOCKETS WILL BE [AUDIO MALFUNCTION] FOR ANY MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC TO VIEW.

THE SECOND PART IS THE SUBSTANTIAL PROBABILITY THAT

[AUDIO MALFUNCTION] PREJUDICE. THERE IS NO INFERENCE THAT

ANYBODY WOULD BE PREJUDICED BY NOT ALLOWING REMOTE ACCESS TO

THE PRESS AND PUBLIC. IN FACT -- IN FACT, BY CLOSING REMOTE

ACCESS -- BY CLOSING REMOTE ACCESS TO THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

1 IS -- IS FOUND TO CAUSE SIGNIFICANT INJURY TO THEM. AND AS WE
2 SEE IN -- AS U.S. SUPREME HAS SAID IN ELROD V. BURNS THAT THE
3 LOSS OF FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHTS, EVEN FOR A MINIMAL PERIOD OF
4 TIME, CAUSES IRREPARABLE INJURY.

THE THIRD PART OF THIS, AS OPPOSED TO [AUDIO MALFUNCTION] RIGHT OF INTERESTS. AS I EXPLAINED BEFORE -- AS I EXPLAINED BEFORE, BY CLOSING THE COURT TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC AND NOT ALLOWING THEM TO -- TO CALL IN OR HAVE A [AUDIO MALFUNCTION] THEY -- IT IS NOT MADE IN GENERAL AT ALL.

AND, FOURTH, NO [AUDIO MALFUNCTION] RIGHT OF

INTERESTS. I'D LIKE ONCE AGAIN TO MENTION THAT COURTS -
SEVERAL CALIFORNIA COURTS HAVE FOUND ALTERNATIVE MEANS TO BE

ABLE TO HAVE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC HAVE REMOTE VIDEO ACCESS

DURING THIS PANDEMIC TO KEEP THEM AND COURT PERSONNEL SAFE IN

COVID-19.

THE COURT: THANK YOU.

MR. WEST: AS YOU SEE --

THE COURT: WRAP IT UP, PLEASE, MR. WEST.

MR. WEST: OF COURSE, YOUR HONOR.

UNDER THE CURRENT ORDER, THE COURT [AUDIO MALFUNCTION]
IN ALLOWING REMOTE ACCESS [AUDIO MALFUNCTION] LIFE AND SAFETY
UNDER THE UNIQUE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PANDEMIC.

THANK YOU, YOUR HONOR.

THE COURT: OKAY. HAVING HEARD THE ARGUMENT, THE COURT MAKES THE FOLLOWING RULING: CONTRARY TO MY ORIGINAL TENTATIVE, SINCE THE MATTER'S BEEN ARGUED, THE MATTER IS NOW DENIED WITH PREJUDICE.

THE CITY OF VENTURA, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS CITY OF

BUENAVENTURA, TO GIVE NOTICE OF THIS AND ALL THE RULINGS TODAY,

MR. HAGERTY.

FURTHER COMMENT, MR. WEST, THE CORE DEFECT WITH YOUR ARGUMENT IS THAT THE COURT IS, IN FACT, OPEN TO THE MEDIA AND PUBLIC FOR PHYSICAL ACCESS WHICH IS THE PREFERRED FORM OF ACCESS IN THE ORDINARY COURSE. AND THERE'S NO CASES TO SUGGEST THAT COVID HAS INVERTED THAT. WE HAVE APPROPRIATE SOCIAL DISTANCING IN PLACE.

MR. HAGERTY AND MR. COSGROVE HAVE COME IN PERSON. MY STAFF AND I ARE REQUIRED TO COME HERE FIVE DAYS A WEEK AND HAS SINCE JUNE 15TH WITHOUT ANY ILL EFFECTS HEALTH-WISE. THE COURTHOUSE IS A GHOST TOWN IN TERMS OF FOOT TRAFFIC IN THE HALLWAYS. THERE'S NO CRIMINAL DOCKET IN THIS BUILDING.

THERE'S NO FAMILY LAW DOCKET IN THIS BUILDING. IT'S TRULY A GHOST TOWN. THERE'S NO FEAR OF CROWDING. WE ARE CLOSE TO FREEWAYS AND PARKING AND METROLINK WHICH ALLOWS SOCIAL DISTANCING FOR TRAVEL.

THE FINAL COMMENT I'D MAKE IS FOR THE MANY RESIDENTS OF THE OJAI COMMUNITY WHO FOUND THEMSELVES NAMED AS RIPARIAN CROSS-DEFENDANTS. THEY CAN APPEAR AS PARTIES THROUGH LACOURTCONNECT; AND THE APPEARANCE THIS AFTERNOON OF LOA E. BLOSS, B-L-O-S-S, IS BUT ONE EXAMPLE OF THAT. MS. BLOSS HAS RAISED SOME INTERESTING POINTS THAT ARE IN THE RECENT STATUS REPORT. AND ANYBODY ELSE WHO HAS PARTY STATUS CAN APPEAR VIA LACOURTCONNECT WHETHER OR NOT THEY FILED AN ANSWER.

AS A PRACTICAL SOLUTION FOR THE OWNERS OF THE OJAI

VALLEY NEWS, MR. WEST, IF ONE OF THEM OR ONE OF THEIR REPORTERS

HAPPENS TO BE A NAMED CROSS-DEFENDANT AS A RIPARIAN LANDOWNER,

THEY CAN APPEAR ON LACOURTCONNECT JUST BY REGISTERING FOR 15 BUCKS. SO THERE ARE PRACTICAL WAYS TO AVOID COMING DOWN TO LOS ANGELES. BUT YOUR EX PARTE HAS BEEN HEARD AND IS DENIED WITH PREJUDICE.

SO MOVING FORWARD, SHOULD WE START WITH MS. BLOSS? OR IS THERE SOMETHING ELSE YOU WANT TO DO FIRST, MR. HAGERTY?

MR. HAGERTY: YOUR HONOR, I WAS HOPING TO GIVE A QUICK STATUS UPDATE SO THE COURT KNOWS WHAT'S PROCEEDED SINCE THE AUGUST PRESENTATION AND THEN MOVE INTO THE TWO ISSUES THAT YOU IDENTIFIED IN YOUR POSTING. AND THEN WE DO HAVE TWO REQUESTS THAT WE'RE MAKING TODAY AS WELL.

THE COURT: OKAY. GO AHEAD, SIR.

MR. HAGERTY: A QUICK STATUS UPDATE -- LET ME START WITH THE NOTICE AND SERVICE PROCESS. WE'RE MAKING VERY GOOD PROGRESS ON THE NOTICE. WE ONLY HAVE 107 PARCELS LEFT TO PROVIDE NOTICE TO OUT OF AN INITIAL NUMBER OF 10,000. SO WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO GET THAT NUMBER WAY DOWN.

WE'RE GOING TO DO ONE MORE MAILING TO TRY TO GET EVERYONE THE NOTICE AND RETURN RECEIPT AS REQUIRED BY THE STATUTE. AND IN THE, HOPEFULLY, UNLIKELY EVENT WE CAN'T DO THAT, THERE IS THE OPPORTUNITY TO POST THAT THE COURT'S AWARE OF.

WITH REGARD TO SERVICE, WE'RE MAKING SOME PROGRESS,
BUT THIS IS WHERE WE HAVE THE MOST WORK LEFT TO DO. AND,
AGAIN --

THE COURT: THIS NOW IS THE RIPARIAN CROSS-DEFENDANTS?

MR. HAGERTY: CORRECT, YOUR HONOR, THE NAMED

CROSS-DEFENDANTS.

Veritext Legal Solutions 866 299-5127 SO OUT OF 2,600, WE'VE SERVED -- WE HAVE ABOUT 500

LEFT. WE HAVE MADE SOME PROGRESS WITH THAT GROUP BY SENDING

REQUESTS FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF SERVICE; AND WE HAVE ABOUT 150

RESPONSES FROM THAT BATCH, WHICH IS POSITIVE. SO WE'RE GOING

TO DO THAT AGAIN. WE'RE GOING TO CONTINUE TO TRY TO DO

EVERYTHING WE CAN.

SO TO -- GIVEN THE HEALTH RULES TO NOT PHYSICALLY

SERVE PEOPLE, WE WILL ALSO REACH OUT AND TRY TO MAKE -- THE

NUMBER IS GETTING SMALL ENOUGH WHERE WE CAN MAKE INDIVIDUAL

CONTACTS. WE'VE DONE THAT ON OCCASION TO TRY TO ARRANGE TIMES

FOR SERVICE OR DELIVERY, THINGS LIKE THAT. AND SO WE'RE GOING

TO CONTINUE TO DO THAT.

YOU KNOW, IN THE END, IT MAY BE, AND PROBABLY WILL BE, SOMETHING THAT WE'LL ASK THE COURT TO ALLOW US TO SERVE BY PUBLICATION. WE'RE VERY AWARE OF THE COURT'S PREVIOUS COMMENTS REGARDING THAT, AND WE WILL DO EVERYTHING WE CAN NOT TO HAVE THAT BE A REQUIREMENT. BUT IT MAY BE; AND SO WE WILL -- IF WE NEED IT, WE WILL PROVIDE ALL OF THE DOCUMENTATION OF ALL THE EFFORTS WE'VE MADE TO SERVE. SO WE'RE MAKING PROGRESS THERE.

THE COURT: CAN I ASK A QUESTION?

MR. HAGERTY: YES, YOUR HONOR.

THE COURT: WHEN I LOOKED AT THE PROVISIONS -- I THINK I WAS LOOKING AT WEIL & BROWN. BUT THE BASIC POINT IS, OKAY, WHAT ARE ALTERNATIVE WAYS TO ACCOMPLISH SUB SERVICE OF A TRADITIONAL SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT? I DON'T THINK I FOUND ANYTHING AUTHORIZING POSTING ON A PROPERTY, WHICH IS SORT OF ODD IN A WAY BECAUSE IF IT INVOLVES REAL ESTATE AS INTIMATELY AS THESE CLAIMS DO, ONE WOULD THINK THAT WOULD BE A GOOD FORM

OF SUBSTITUTED SERVICE.

BUT DO YOU HAVE ANY SENTIMENT ON WHETHER OR NOT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO USE A POSTING ON THE PROPERTY AS SOMETHING INNATE OF SUB SERVICE?

MR. HAGERTY: WE DON'T BELIEVE THAT THAT'S SOMETHING WE
CAN USE FOR THE NAMED CROSS-DEFENDANTS. IT'S A LITTLE -- IT'S
A LITTLE AWKWARD, RIGHT, BECAUSE WITH THE NOTICED PEOPLE, WE
CAN DO THE POSTING; BUT WE DON'T THINK THAT THAT'S SOMETHING WE
CAN PURSUE WITH THE NAMED CROSS-DEFENDANTS.

THE COURT: OKAY. BEFORE YOU GET A PUBLICATION, YOU MAY GET ME AUTHORIZING POSTING AS SOME KIND OF FIRST SET MODE OF SUB SERVICE BECAUSE I'D PREFER THAT OVER THE TOTALLY FICTITIOUS PUBLICATION. THAT, OBVIOUSLY, DEPENDS A LITTLE BIT ON SOME RAW ASSERTION OF AUTHORITY ON MY PART, I GUESS. BUT I DO THINK IT'S A LESS DEFECTIVE NOTICE THAN PUBLICATION WHICH IS TOTALLY FICTITIOUS.

CAN I ASK IF YOU YET HAVE A SENSE OF WHAT'S THE

PROFILE OF THE TYPICAL HARD-TO-SERVE RIPARIAN OWNER? IS IT

BECAUSE THEY OWN EMPTY LAND AND THEY LIVE IN PARIS OR TEL AVIV?

OR IS IT BECAUSE THEY JUST DON'T COME TO THE DOOR EVEN THOUGH

THEY'RE IN THE HOUSE?

MR. HAGERTY: I THINK BOTH OF THOSE CATEGORIES APPLY
HERE. WE CERTAINLY HAVE -- WE'VE GOT SEVERAL EXAMPLES OF
PEOPLE WHO HAVE, YOU KNOW, PROPERTY IN OJAI, LIVE ELSEWHERE AND
HAVE COME BACK AND NOW HAVE RESPONDED TO SOMETHING WE SENT THEM
THREE MONTHS AGO. SO THERE'S CERTAINLY A GROUP IN THAT
SITUATION.

AND THEN THERE'S DEFINITELY A GROUP, AT LEAST

ANECDOTALLY -- AT SOME OF THE PUBLIC MEETINGS, THERE WAS SOME

REFERENCES FROM PEOPLE IN THE PUBLIC SAYING, "OH, YOU KNOW, I'M

NOT GOING TO LET THEM SERVE ME," AND THINGS LIKE THAT. SO I DO

THINK IT'S BOTH, YOUR HONOR.

AND, AGAIN, WE'LL TRY TO USE STRATEGIES FOR EACH ONE AND USE EVERY EFFORT FEASIBLE TO PERFECT SERVICE. AND WE DID GET A BATCH OF NEW INFORMATION FROM THE COUNTY ASSESSOR, WHICH IS HELPFUL BECAUSE THERE CERTAINLY HAVE BEEN SOME PROPERTIES THAT HAVE CHANGED HANDS. SO IT WILL TAKE US SOME TIME, BUT WE'RE CONFIDENT WE'LL GET THAT NUMBER DOWN.

THE COURT: HAVE YOU TRIED TRADITIONAL SUB SERVICE WHERE YOU GO OUT TWO OR THREE TIMES, LOOK FOR SOMEBODY AT HOME, FIND NOBODY PRESENT, AND THEN FINALLY LEAVE IT AND MAIL IT AND CALL IT SUB SERVE?

MR. HAGERTY: WE DEFINITELY DID THAT IN JANUARY WHEN MOST OF THE PHYSICAL SERVICE WORK WAS BEING DONE, SO JANUARY AND FEBRUARY. BUT WITH THE PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUES AND THE ORDERS, THAT KIND OF DIRECT CONTACT IS SOMETHING THAT WE'VE STAYED AWAY FROM, YOUR HONOR.

THE COURT: DO YOU FEEL LEGALLY PROHIBITED OR JUST SORT OF MORALLY DISSUADED?

MR. HAGERTY: WE JUST DON'T THINK IT'S PRUDENT. I DON'T KNOW THAT WE'RE LEGALLY PROHIBITED, BUT --

THE COURT: YOU MAY BE TOLD BY ME TO TRY THAT AGAIN BEFORE I GIVE YOU A PUBLICATION.

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

THE COURT: OKAY. WE'VE HAD THAT DIALOGUE. YOU CAN MOVE

28 ON.

MR. HAGERTY: WITH REGARD TO THE PHYSICAL SOLUTION, WE -THE COURT: OH, YES, THE "NEW BUT THE JUDGE HASN'T SEEN
IT."

MR. HAGERTY: YES. AND WE'LL COVER THAT, YOUR HONOR.

I MEAN, WE CAN GET TO THAT NOW. LET ME GIVE YOU JUST, KIND OF, A REAL QUICK SUMMARY OF WHAT'S OCCURRED SINCE THE LAST MEETING. AS WE SAID WE WOULD DO, THE PROPOSING PARTIES, WHICH ARE FIVE PARTIES, HAVE RELEASED THE DOCUMENT. WE'VE HELD FIVE FORMAL MEET-AND-CONFER SESSIONS WHERE WE MADE THE EXPERTS AVAILABLE. WE WENT THROUGH KIND OF MAJOR TOPICS OF THE PHYSICAL SOLUTION. PEOPLE COULD PARTICIPATE THROUGH ZOOM.

I KNOW MS. BLISS HAS A QUESTION ABOUT, YOU KNOW, THERE WAS A CONFIDENTIALITY PROVISION THAT WAS PART OF THAT BECAUSE WE ARE PROVIDING, ESSENTIALLY, OUR EXPERT OPINIONS IN ADVANCE OF ANY FORMAL DISCLOSURE AND THINGS LIKE THAT. SO WE DO CONSIDER THIS TO BE SETTLEMENT DISCUSSION MEET-AND-CONFER. BUT THOSE ALL OCCURRED. THEY WERE FAIRLY WELL ATTENDED.

AND THEN WE HAD -- HAVE HAD MULTIPLE INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS WITH MANY PARTIES. SO WITH REGARD TO THE STATE AGENCIES, FOR EXAMPLE, WE'VE HAD MANY VERY FOCUSED MEETINGS OF, YOU KNOW, AN HOUR, TWO-HOUR, KIND OF, MEETINGS WHERE WE'RE ANSWERING LOTS OF QUESTIONS, OUR EXPERTS ARE PROVIDING INFORMATION.

SO OUR ORIGINAL PLAN HAD BEEN AT THIS POINT IN TIME TO ASK FOR SOME DATES AND TRY TO MOVE TOWARD CLOSURE ON THE PHYSICAL SOLUTION. BUT GIVEN THE FEEDBACK THAT WE RECEIVED AND THE PARTICIPATION THAT WE RECEIVED, WE DO THINK IT'S APPROPRIATE AND BEST TO CONTINUE THE MEET-AND-CONFER PROCESS

UNTIL THE END OF JANUARY.

WE APPRECIATE THE COURT TAKING ACTION ON THE EX PARTE APPLICATION TO EXTEND THE RESPONSE DATE TO GIVE PEOPLE MORE TIME TO CONSIDER THE PHYSICAL SOLUTION. WE DO THINK WE'RE MAKING PROGRESS. THERE ARE MANY, MANY SIGNIFICANT HURDLES STILL TO GO. AND SOME OF THOSE HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED IN THE DOCUMENTS PUT BEFORE YOU WITH REGARD TO THE STATUS CONFERENCE, BUT WE ARE GOING TO CONTINUE TO PRESS FORWARD WITH REGARD TO THE MEET-AND-CONFER PROCESS UNTIL THE END OF JANUARY.

SO ONE OF THE REQUESTS WE HAVE IS TO SET A FURTHER STATUS CONFERENCE IN FEBRUARY. WITH REGARD TO THE COURT NOT HAVING ACCESS TO THE PHYSICAL SOLUTION, THE PROPOSING PARTIES ARE WILLING AND WOULD BE OPEN TO LODGE A COPY OF THE DOCUMENT. OUR CONCERN, AND WHY WE DIDN'T INITIALLY DO THAT, IS, AS WE TALKED ABOUT PREVIOUSLY, THE COURT, IT WILL NEED TO MAKE CERTAIN FACTUAL DETERMINATIONS. THIS IS IN THE FORM AT THIS POINT IN TIME OF MORE OF A SETTLEMENT DISCUSSION MEET-AND-CONFER PROCESS. WE DID NOT WANT TO PREJUDICE THE COURT.

AND SO AS LONG AS NO OTHER PARTY OBJECTS, WE WOULD BE WILLING TO DO THAT. WE ARE CONCERNED IF OTHER PARTIES HAVE OBJECTIONS BECAUSE WE DON'T WANT TO HAVE A SITUATION WHERE PEOPLE TAKE A POSITION THAT YOU HAVE SEEN SOMETHING THAT YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE SEEN AND WILL NEED TO MAKE A DETERMINATION ON LATER. SO THAT'S OUR POSITION. WE'RE -- AGAIN, WE'RE HAPPY TO LODGE IT. IT IS PUBLICALLY AVAILABLE.

THE COURT: SO IF, ULTIMATELY, YOU GET TO THE HAPPY STATE
WHERE EVERYBODY'S COOPERATIVE AND AGREES TO YOUR PHYSICAL

SOLUTION, WHAT KIND OF A TRIAL AM I HOLDING TO BLESS A SETTLEMENT?

MR. HAGERTY: IN THAT SITUATION, THE HAPPY SITUATION,
WHICH WE WOULD LOVE, THERE'S NOT VERY MUCH TO DO AT ALL OTHER
THAN THE COURT OBVIOUSLY HAS AN INDEPENDENT DUTY TO MAKE SURE
THAT THE SOLUTION PRESENTED, EVEN IF AGREED TO BY ALL THE
PARTIES, IS CONSISTENT WITH THE CONSTITUTIONAL OBLIGATIONS THAT
THE COURT HAS IN THIS SITUATION. SO THERE WOULD BE SOME WORK
TO DO EVEN THEN, BUT THAT WOULD BE FAIRLY MINIMAL.

THE COURT: BASICALLY, TRYING TO MAKE SURE THAT THERE'S PRUDENT USE OF SCARCE WATER RESOURCES?

MR. HAGERTY: EXACTLY. IF IT MEETS THE CONSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENTS OF REASONABLE USE OF WATER IN THE PUBLIC TRUST.

AND IF EVERYONE AGREED TO THAT, THEN THAT WOULD BE PRETTY STRAIGHTFORWARD TO PRESENT.

THE COURT: NOW, WHAT IF YOU HAVE A SETTLEMENT THAT

EVERYBODY EXCEPT CASITAS WATER DISTRICT LIKES AND YOU WANT TO

TRY TO FIND A WAY TO MAKE IT WORK AS A CRAM-DOWN? CAN YOU DO

IT AS A CRAM-DOWN? OR IF CASITAS SAYS NO, IS THAT ALL YOU NEED

TO KNOW TO KNOW THAT WE HAVE TO GO TO TRIAL?

MR. HAGERTY: SO THAT WOULD BE, ESSENTIALLY, A FORM OF A TRIAL ON THE PHYSICAL SOLUTION BECAUSE -- AND WE WILL FULLY BRIEF THIS FOR YOU. BUT YOU KNOW THE -- THERE IS A LINE OF CASES THAT SAYS THE COURT HAS A CONSTITUTIONAL DUTY TO CONSIDER A PHYSICAL SOLUTION AND EVEN IMPOSE IT OVER OBJECTIONS.

OBVIOUSLY, THE COURT WILL HAVE TO MAKE THOSE FINDINGS

AND MAKE THOSE DETERMINATIONS; BUT THE POWER TO DO THAT AND

EVEN THE DUTY AND OBLIGATION TO DO THAT IS VERY CLEAR, AT LEAST

IN OUR -- IN THE CITY'S VIEW AND PROPOSING PARTY'S VIEW IN THE CASES.

SO IN THAT SITUATION, IF THERE'S A PARTY THAT OBJECTS,
THAT PARTY WOULD HAVE TO DEMONSTRATE BASED ON EVIDENCE WHY THE
PHYSICAL SOLUTION AS PROPOSED IS NOT CONSISTENT WITH PUBLIC
TRUST AND REASONABLE USE AND ALL OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL
REQUIREMENTS; AND WE WOULD HAVE TO OVERCOME THOSE OBJECTIONS TO
YOUR SATISFACTION. BUT YOU DO HAVE THE AUTHORITY, AND WE DON'T
THINK IT'S DISPUTED, TO IMPOSE A PHYSICAL SOLUTION EVEN OVER
OBJECTIONS. THERE'S SOME NUANCES AND WRINKLES THAT I'M SURE
WE'LL ALL TALK ABOUT, BUT THAT FUNDAMENTAL POWER IS THERE.

THE COURT: IS THERE ONE OBVIOUS TREATISE THAT DISCUSSES
THIS THAT WOULD BE GOOD FOR ME TO BE LOOKING AT, WHETHER WITKIN
TOUCHES ON IT OR MILLER & STARR FOR PROPERTY OR SOME OTHER
TREATISE? OR IS THIS SO ESOTERIC THAT NOBODY BOTHERS TO WRITE
A TREATISE ON IT?

MR. HAGERTY: THERE ARE -- THERE ARE BOOKS THAT WE -- I
GUESS THE PARTIES COULD MEET AND CONFER AND EVEN SUGGEST,
YOUR HONOR. I MEAN, CERTAINLY, EVEN THE MANAGING PARTNER OF MY
FIRM HAS A BOOK THAT'S CALLED CALIFORNIA WATER LAW THAT IS IN,
I THINK, THE THIRD EDITION. IT HAS A WHOLE SECTION ON PHYSICAL
SOLUTIONS, AND IT DISCUSSES ALL THE CASES.

SO THOSE DOCUMENTS ARE OUT THERE. AND WE WOULD BE HAPPY TO BRIEF IT, YOUR HONOR. I MEAN, WE COULD EVEN -- AS WE DID WITH SOME OF THE JURISDICTIONAL QUESTIONS, THERE'S -- I SUSPECT THAT THERE'S SOME GENERAL CONSENSUS ON THE LAW WITH SOME NUANCES ABOUT HOW FAR YOUR POWER EXTENDS. SO WE'D BE OPEN TO THAT AS WELL.

THE COURT: SINCE YOU'RE NEGOTIATING THE CONTOURS OF THE PHYSICAL SOLUTION, I ASSUME THERE IS MORE THAN A TRIVIAL CHANCE THAT IT MAY BE MODIFIED BEFORE IT BECOMES THE PROPOSAL YOU WANT TO PUT IN FRONT OF ME.

MR. HAGERTY: THAT'S CORRECT, YOUR HONOR. IT WILL BE MODIFIED.

THE COURT: AND THAT, I ASSUME, IS THE REASON YOU HAVE FELT IT PRUDENT NOT TO DISCLOSE THE FIRST DRAFT TO ME.

MR. HAGERTY: THAT'S CORRECT, YOUR HONOR.

THE COURT: AND AS LONG AS YOU THINK I CAN DO MY JOB
WITHOUT AWARENESS OF THE PARTICULARS OF THE FIRST DRAFT, I'M
HAPPY TO REMAIN IN THIS HAPPY STATE OF IGNORANCE IF YOU THINK
THAT'S BETTER THAN THE ALTERNATIVE.

MR. HAGERTY: I THINK WE DO HAVE CONCERNS ABOUT
SUBMITTING IT AND CHANGING SOME PARTY OBJECTION TO YOUR
CONSIDERATION OF IT IN SOME FASHION. SO WE DEFINITELY WANT TO
AVOID THAT.

THE COURT: WE'RE GETTING WHAT SOUNDS LIKE CROSSTALK ON LACOURTCONNECT, BUT I DON'T KNOW IF THAT'S A DESPERATE ATTEMPT OF SOMEBODY TO BE HEARD. DO I HAVE SOMEBODY ON LACOURTCONNECT TRYING TO INTERJECT AT THIS MOMENT? IF SO, TRY HARDER.

OKAY. HEARING NO EAGER BEAVERS TO INTERJECT, I WOULD ASK YOU TO VOLUNTARILY MUTE YOUR MICROPHONES ON LACOURTCONNECT UNTIL YOU FIND IT TO BE YOUR TIME TO TALK BECAUSE WE WERE COMMENCING TO GET A LOT OF FEEDBACK THAT WAS UNHELPFUL. SO IF YOU'LL VOLUNTARILY MUTE AT YOUR END, I'LL APPRECIATE IT. WHILE WE CAN MUTE YOU HERE, WE'RE LEAVING THEM OPEN ON THE OFF CHANCE YOU NEED TO INTERJECT.

SO BACK TO YOU, MR. HAGERTY, WITH GIVING ME THE TOUR OF THE HORIZON. WHAT NEXT DO YOU WANT TO TAKE UP WITH THE COURT?

MR. HAGERTY: OH, ONE OTHER THING I --

THE COURT: I'M OKAY WITH NOT SEEING THE PHYSICAL SOLUTION.

MR. HAGERTY: ONE OTHER THING ON THE LAST POINT JUST BECAUSE, YOU KNOW, WE DO WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT THE COURT'S BEING EDUCATED ON THE ISSUES AND WHATNOT.

AND ONE THING WE HAD PROPOSED, WHICH I HAVEN'T
DISCUSSED WITH COUNSEL; SO I WOULD JUST SAY THAT I WOULD BE
HAPPY TO MEET AND CONFER ABOUT WHETHER THIS WOULD WORK. IT IS
SOMETHING WE PUT FORWARD IN THE LAST STATUS CONFERENCE
STATEMENT, WHICH IS SOME FORM OF A SITE VISIT. THAT WOULD -IF WE COULD WORK IT OUT AND THERE WERE AGREEMENT, THAT WOULD
GIVE THE COURT THE OPPORTUNITY TO -- THE COURT KNOWS THE AREA
FROM PAST STATEMENTS ABOUT --

THE COURT: I'M PROBABLY GOING TO DRIVE THE 33 FROM

NEW CUYAMA TO OJAI AS A MATTER OF PERSONAL PLEASURE ON

SATURDAY, SOUTHBOUND. I WON'T STOP TO BE TRYING TO MONITOR

RIVER DEPTHS; BUT I THINK I'LL BE ON 33, SOUTHBOUND DRIVE, FOR

ALL THE RELEVANT LENGTH OF IT, AT LEAST UNTIL WE GET INTO

DOWNTOWN OJAI.

MR. HAGERTY: SO I GUESS THAT WOULD BE SOMETHING I -- I WILL COMMUNICATE WITH ALL THE COUNSEL ABOUT THAT. BUT IT WOULD BE SOMETHING TO DO BETWEEN WHERE WE STAND NOW AND WHEN THE FINAL VERSION IS SUBMITTED THAT WE BELIEVE WOULD HAVE BENEFIT TO THE COURT. SO IF THAT'S OKAY WITH THE COURT, I WILL MEET

- AND CONFER WITH EVERYONE; AND MAYBE WE CAN SUGGEST SOME
 PROTOCOLS ABOUT THAT.
- THE COURT: THERE WAS A VERY SILTED UP DAM, AS I RECOLLECT, AT THE TOP OF VENTURA RIVER.
- 5 MR. HAGERTY: YEAH. THERE'S -- WITH THE FIRES, THERE WAS
 6 A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF MATERIAL THAT WAS ADVERSE TO THE
 7 WATERSHED.
- 8 THE COURT: I ASSUME THERE'S NO OBJECTION TO MY DRIVING
 9 THE 33 FOR MY OWN PLEASURE.
- 10 MR. HAGERTY: NO OBJECTION THERE, YOUR HONOR.
- 11 THE COURT: OKAY. WHAT ELSE DO YOU WANT TO EDUCATE ME
 12 ON, MR. HAGERTY?
- MR. HAGERTY: WELL, THE OTHER THING, REALLY, IS IF THE

 COURT WERE PREPARED TO DISCUSS GENERALLY THE CONCERNS THAT WERE

 EXPRESSED BY -- I THINK IT'S MS. BLISS, THE BLISS TRUST.
- 16 THE COURT: BLISS OR BLOSS? I THINK IT MIGHT BE WITH AN 17 "O."
- MR. HAGERTY: I THOUGHT IT WAS WITH AN "I." THE -- YOU

 KNOW, WE APPRECIATE THE COMMUNICATION. I KNOW SHE'S ON THE

 LINE IF SHE WANTS TO SPEAK.
- 21 THE COURT: MS. BLISS, ARE YOU WITH US THIS AFTERNOON?
- 22 MS. BLISS: I AM. AND THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY. IT
 23 IS BLISS. I THINK THE -- WHEN I FILED THE ANSWER, SOMEHOW THEY
- 24 TYPED IN "BLOSS."
- 25 THE COURT: WELL, TYPOGRAPHICAL ERRORS ARE KNOWN TO
- 26 HAPPEN.
- 27 MS. BLISS: AND I'D LIKE TO THANK --
- 28 THE COURT: GO AHEAD, MS. BLISS.

MS. BLISS: OKAY. I'D ALSO JUST LIKE TO THANK THE CITY ATTORNEYS FOR INCLUDING MY COMMENTS IN THEIR SUBMISSION, WHICH MADE IT A LOT EASIER FOR ME.

I AM THE CO-TRUSTEE AND CO-BENEFICIAL OWNER OF -- WITH MY HUSBAND OF LAND IN UPPER OJAI THAT OVERLINES THE UPPER OJAI GROUNDWATER BASIN, AND I SPEAK ONLY FOR US AND FOR THE TRUST.

AND I'M PROBABLY A LITTLE BIT LATE TO THE PARTY; BUT AS I LOOKED AT THIS PROPOSED PHYSICAL SOLUTION, IT IS VERY UNCLEAR TO ME WHY THE UPPER OJAI GROUNDWATER BASIN IS PART OF THIS CASE. THE UPPER OJAI BASIN IS A STANDALONE BASIN. THE PROPOSED PHYSICAL SOLUTION, WHICH I WORKED OFF OF, IS THE ONE THAT'S POSTED ON THE WEBSITE. BUT THE DESCRIPTION OF THE BASIN, EVEN IN THE PROPOSED PHYSICAL SOLUTION, IS AT 4.3.4; AND IT SEEMS TO CONFIRM -- OR AT LEAST SUPPORT THAT IT'S A STANDALONE BASIN.

WE DO KNOW IT'S A VERY LOW-PRIORITY BASIN ACCORDING TO THE DWR AND THAT NO GSP IS, THEREFORE, REQUIRED. AND THERE'S NOTHING IN THE SUBMISSIONS OR FILINGS SO FAR THAT EVIDENCES THAT OUR PROPERTY OR THE UPPER OJAI GROUNDWATER BASIN HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE FISHERIES. IT'S MISSING IN ACTION. SO WE DON'T THINK THE CITY HAS MADE ANY CASE IN THIS INSTANCE TO ADJUDICATE THE UPPER OJAI BASIN.

AND THE PROPOSED SOLUTION, AT LEAST AS IT WAS IN THE FORM THAT I SAW IT, RELEASED THE CITY OF EVER HAVING TO PROVE THE RIGHT TO THE BASIN WATER. SO, IN A WAY, INCLUDING THE UPPER OJAI BASIN AND THE PROPOSED SOLUTION IS A ROUNDABOUT WAY OF BRINGING THE BASIN INTO THIS WHOLE ADMINISTRATIVE OVERLAY, OR WHATEVER YOU WANT TO CALL IT, BY WAY OF THE FISHERY TO WHICH

IT HAS NO CONNECTION.

SO THESE WERE OUR CONCERNS BECAUSE THE IMPOSITION OF THE -- JUST FROM A LEGAL POINT OF VIEW, IT SORT OF PRESUPPOSES WITHOUT ANY SUPPORTING EVIDENCE THE RIGHT TO THE GROUNDWATER IN THE BASIN. NOW, ADJUDICATION, AS I UNDERSTAND IT, IS GENERALLY APPROPRIATE TO FIX SOMETHING THAT NEEDS TO BE FIXED OR TO PARSE WATER ACCORDING TO THE PROVEN EXISTING RIGHTS. AND THAT'S NOT THE CASE HERE.

AND, FURTHERMORE, THE CITY'S INTENT -- I'M NOT

ASCRIBING ANY MALICE OR ANYTHING -- TO IMPOSE BY DEFAULT AND

WITHOUT ANY EVIDENCE OR PROOF THAT THE PHYSICAL SOLUTION ON THE

UPPER OJAI PARTIES -- ITS INTENT IS TO IMPOSE THE SOLUTION

WITHOUT ANY PROOF. I GUESS THAT'S WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY.

THE COURT: THANK YOU.

CAN I ASK YOU A QUESTION, MS. BLISS? MS. BLISS, THIS IS JUDGE HIGHBERGER. CAN I INTRUDE WITH A QUESTION OR TWO?

MS. BLISS: YES, YOU MAY. PLEASE.

THE COURT: FIRST, AS A COMPLIMENT, YOUR LEGAL EDUCATION

COMES THROUGH WITH THE TECHNICAL PRECISION OF YOUR LETTERS. SO

CONGRATS TO HASTINGS FOR THE EDUCATION THEY GAVE YOU WAY BACK

WHEN.

WHAT IS GSP? YOU USED JARGON IN YOUR EARLIER STATEMENT.

MS. BLISS: I'M SORRY. COULD YOU REPEAT THAT?

25 THE COURT: YES. WHAT DOES GSP STAND FOR WHEN YOU USED

26 THAT PHRASE?

MS. BLISS: GSP, GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN OR

28 | SOMETHING. IT'S UNDER SGMA.

THE COURT: OKAY. BECAUSE YOU SAID THAT FOR THE UPPER OJAI BASIN, THAT APPEARED TO BE A MATTER OF LITTLE OR NO CONSEQUENCE.

MS. BLISS: WELL, IT'S NOT REQUIRED UNDER SGMA -- WHICH
I'M CALLING IT SGMA, WHICH I'M BARELY ACQUAINTED WITH -SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT.

THE COURT: THANK YOU.

MS. BLISS: WHICH I THINK IS -- HAS A LOT OF -- OKAY.

THE COURT: I THINK I'VE GOT THE GIST OF YOUR CONCERNS,

MS. BLISS. LET ME TAKE A SECOND TO RUN WITH YOUR PROPOSITION

AND ASK A OUESTION OF THE CITY OF VENTURA'S ATTORNEY.

AS CONCEDED BEFORE, SINCE I HAVE MOTORCYCLED THROUGH
THE AREA, I HAVE BEEN UP THAT GRADE WITH MANY SWITCHBACKS AS
YOU GO EAST OF THE THACHER SCHOOL AND RISE UP TO THE STREET
ADDRESS THAT IS ON MS. BLISS'S PAPERWORK, WHICH IS, TO MY
PERCEPTION, HUNDREDS OF FEET ABOVE THE GENERAL ELEVATION OF
THACHER SCHOOL AND PROXIMATE PROPERTIES.

WHY OR HOW COULD THAT BE THE SAME GROUNDWATER BASIN IF IT IS SO VERTICALLY REMOVED FROM THE BALANCE OF THE GROUNDWATER BASIN?

MR. HAGERTY: THANK YOU, YOUR HONOR.

AND THANK YOU, MS. BLISS, FOR RAISING THESE ISSUES.

AND THIS IS, KIND OF, THE KIND OF DIALOGUE WE'VE BEEN HAVING IN OUR MEET-AND-CONFER SESSIONS; SO WE'RE HAPPY TO HAVE FURTHER DISCUSSION WITH MS. BLISS DIRECTLY.

THE COURT: WELL, IF THAT MEANS YOU WANT TO JUST KEEP
YOUR POWDER DRY AND --

MR. HAGERTY: NO, YOUR HONOR. I'M HAPPY --

THE COURT: I'LL LET YOU JUST SAY, "LET ME GO NEGOTIATE WITH HER."

MR. HAGERTY: NO. LET ME JUST MAKE A FEW COMMENTS AND -THE COURT: AS A LAYMAN HAVING DRIVEN THAT ROAD, YOU HAVE
MANY SWITCHBACKS BEFORE YOU GET TO MS. BLISS'S PROPERTY GOING
EAST.

MR. HAGERTY: YES. SO LET ME JUST KIND OF MAKE A FEW COMMENTS. I MEAN, AGAIN, THE COURT'S GOING TO HAVE TO EVENTUALLY MAKE A FINDING ON THIS QUESTION. SO THE PHYSICAL SOLUTION IS PRESENTED BASED UPON, YOU KNOW, THE EVIDENCE AND FINDINGS; BUT WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO PROVE THAT UP.

THE COURT: IF I'M VENTURA CITY, I WANT TO GRAB ALL THE WATER I CAN AND SAY IT'S MINE.

MR. HAGERTY: WELL, NO, YOUR HONOR. THAT'S NOT WHAT'S HAPPENINGS HERE.

SO LET ME TRY TO BE REALLY SPECIFIC. WE HAVE ALLEGED THAT THERE'S A CONNECTION OF ALL FOUR OF THE GROUNDWATER BASINS WITH THE SURFACE WATER. WE BELIEVE THAT THAT ALLEGATION IS BASED UPON ALREADY-DOCUMENTED SCIENCE AND ADDITIONAL SCIENCE THAT WE WILL BRING TO THE TABLE AND PRESENT TO YOU.

BUT MS. BLISS IS ABSOLUTELY RIGHT. WE HAVEN'T DONE

THAT. WE HAVE AN ALLEGATION IN THE CROSS-COMPLAINT, AND THAT'S

THERE. I CAN TALK -- AND WE'LL BE HAPPY TO TALK TO MS. BLISS

ABOUT SOME OF THE STUDIES THAT HAVE ALREADY BEEN DONE.

BUT THE BIG THING WITH THE UPPER OJAI BASIN,

YOUR HONOR, IS THERE IS A CONNECTION BETWEEN THE BASIN AND THE

SURFACE WATER AND PARTICULARLY LION CANYON CREEK WHICH FLOWS

DOWN TO SAN ANTONIO CREEK WHICH FLOWS INTO THE RIVER. AND LION

CANYON CREEK AS WELL AS SAN ANTONIO CREEK AS WELL AS THE RIVER

ARE ALSO VERY IMPORTANT FOR THE FISHERIES.

SO IN A BIG PICTURE, WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO PROVE THAT TO YOUR SATISFACTION. AND MS. BLISS, OF COURSE, IS -- COULD BE ONE OF THE PARTIES WHO SAY, "WE DON'T AGREE WITH THAT. HERE'S EVIDENCE OR LACK OF EVIDENCE," AND COULD ATTACK THAT. SO THAT'S WHAT WILL HAPPEN LATER ON. BUT WE BELIEVE THAT THERE'S MORE THAN SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO PRESENT TO YOU AND --

THE COURT: SHE MAKES A DIFFERENT CONCERN, WHICH WAS IF
WE ARE TO HAVE A DE FACTO CONSENT JUDGMENT PHYSICAL SOLUTION TO
REMAIN IN PLACE FOR DECADES BUT THEN HAS TO BE ADMINISTERED TO
ENSURE THAT IT DEALS WITH THE ENVIRONMENTAL REALITIES AS WE GO
FORWARD WITH EXTRA WET YEARS OR EXTRA DRY YEARS OR WHATEVER,
BUT THERE SEEMS TO BE NO STAKEHOLDER WHO IS BEING INVITED TO
HAVE AN ONGOING ROLE WHO WOULD BE PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE TO THE
CONCERNS OF GROUND OWNERS -- OR, RATHER, LANDOWNERS IN THE
UPPER OJAI BASIN. IS THAT SOMETHING YOU CAN ADDRESS IN
NEGOTIATION?

MR. HAGERTY: YES.

AND THEN WE'VE TRIED -- AGAIN, WE'VE PUT OUT SOMETHING
THAT YOUR HONOR HASN'T SEEN, BUT THERE IS A COMMITTEE THAT IS
COMMON IN THIS KIND OF SITUATION. IT'S TYPICALLY CALLED A
WATER MASTER. IT'S NOT BEING CALLED A WATER MASTER HERE
BECAUSE OF THE DIFFERENT NATURE OF THIS PROCEEDING IN TERMS OF
FOCUSING ON THE FISHERY INSTEAD OF WATER ALLOCATION, BUT IT'S
DESIGNED TO HAVE REPRESENTATION.

BUT MS. BLISS MADE SOME GOOD POINTS ABOUT THERE NOT BEING A MAJOR WATER PROVIDER UP THERE THAT HAS THE SAME TYPE OF

REPRESENTATION AS SOME OTHER AREAS.

THE COURT: IS THAT BECAUSE IT'S ALL WELL WATER RATHER
THAN --

MR. HAGERTY: IT'S MOSTLY WELL. BUT THERE IS -- THERE LIKELY WILL BE -- AND THIS IS SUBJECT TO DISCUSSION -- SOME FORM OF AN AG REPRESENTATION ON THE COMMITTEE. SO THAT COULD BE -- SO THERE'S THINGS TO DISCUSS THERE, CERTAINLY.

I MEAN, THE IDEA IS THAT THE COMMITTEE NEEDS TO BE,
YOU KNOW, SMALL ENOUGH TO BE EFFICIENT BUT, YOU KNOW,
REPRESENTATIVE ENOUGH THAT PEOPLE FEEL CONFIDENCE IN IT. SO
THAT'S SUBJECT TO FURTHER DISCUSSION.

THE COURT: MS. BLISS, YOU'VE HEARD THE CITY'S APPARENT WILLINGNESS TO PARLAY ON THE TOPIC. IS THERE MORE YOU WANT ME TO LEAN INTO MR. HAGERTY ON, OR DO YOU WANT TO DIRECTLY MAKE YOUR PITCH TO HIM AS TO WHAT SHOULD HAPPEN NEXT?

MS. BLISS: WELL, WITH YOUR PERMISSION, MY HUSBAND IS
SITTING NEXT TO ME. HE'S A CO-TRUSTEE IN THE TRUST, AND HE IS
JUST ITCHING TO SAY SOMETHING. IS THAT OKAY?

THE COURT: YEAH. IF YOU'RE BOTH CO-OWNERS OF THE
PROPERTY, YOU'RE PARTIES; AND AS PARTIES, YOU CAN SPEAK.

KNOW YOUR BAR LICENSE IS INACTIVE, BUT YOU CAN SPEAK AS A
LANDOWNER, AND HE CAN SPEAK AS A LANDOWNER.

MR. GILBERT: THANK YOU, YOUR HONOR. MY NAME IS DAVID GILBERT.

I JUST WANTED -- SO THAT THE COURT IS NOT, IN OUR

VIEW, MISINFORMED ABOUT LION CREEK -- IN FACT, MY WIFE'S

FAMILY'S BEEN ON THIS PROPERTY FOR 150 YEARS. SHE -- WE'RE IN

OUR 70S. SHE PLAYED WITH HER BROTHERS IN THAT BARRANCA AS A

CHILD. IT IS ALWAYS DRY. THE ONLY TIME AT ALL THAT THERE'S
ANY WATER IN THAT BARRANCA IS WHEN THERE'S EXTRAORDINARILY
HEAVY RAIN. OTHERWISE, IT'S DRY. AND THE BASIN ITSELF IS
SEPARATE FROM IT. AND SO I JUST WANTED THAT FACT TO BE MADE
CLEAR TO YOUR HONOR.

THE COURT: THANK YOU.

MS. BLISS: IF I MAY, MAY I SAY SOMETHING AGAIN?

THE COURT: YES. THIS IS MS. BLISS?

MS. BLISS: YES, THIS IS MS. BLISS AGAIN.

THE COURT: GO AHEAD.

MS. BLISS: I WAS LOOKING AT PAGE -- THIS IS ON THE PROPOSED PHYSICAL SOLUTION. AND THERE WAS A STATEMENT IN THE PROPOSED SOLUTION THAT -- HERE'S THE QUOTE: "THE FISHERY" -- IT'S TALKING ABOUT THE VARIABLE FLOWS FROM THE VARIOUS TRIBUTARIES. "THE FISHERY" -- THIS IS A QUOTE -- "HAS ADAPTED TO THIS VARIABILITY AND FLOW IN THE WATERSHED AND HAS BEEN CONSIDERED TO BE IN GOOD CONDITION WHEN IT FLOWS IN THE PAST" -- "WHEN FLOWS IN THE PAST WERE IN THE RANGE OF CURRENT CONDITIONS."

SO I GUESS MY POINT IS THAT IN TERMS OF THIS WHOLE
SUIT, THERE'S NOTHING IN THE LION CREEK FLOW, WHETHER IT'S
CONNECTED OR NOT CONNECTED. I MEAN -- AND I DO KNOW THAT THERE
ARE -- THERE'S A BASIS FOR ADJUDICATING OR FOR HAVING -WHATEVER -- FOR INCLUDING LION CREEK BECAUSE IT'S SURFACE
WATER. BUT THERE IS NOTHING THAT SHOWS THAT ANYTHING FROM LION
CREEK HAS AFFECTED THE PLIGHT OF THE FISH EVER.

AND IT'S TRUE THAT, YOU KNOW, POSSIBLY GOING FORWARD,

MAYBE. I DON'T KNOW. BUT IN TERMS OF CONNECTION -- IT BEING A

FEASIBLE THING -- I'M JUST EXPRESSING MY DOUBT THAT THERE IS

ANY INTERCONNECTIVITY BETWEEN THE BASIN AND THE CREEK, AND IT'S

NEVER BEEN THAT WAY.

I MEAN -- WELL, MAYBE THIS IS SOMETHING TO BE TALKED ABOUT IN MORE DETAIL AND PART OF THE SOLUTION, BUT IT --

THE COURT: I RECOMMEND, MS. BLISS --

MS. BLISS: IT'S NOT FAIR.

THE COURT: MS. BLISS, AS A PRACTICAL MATTER, YOU SHOULD PROBABLY ORGANIZE YOUR FELLOW LANDOWNERS IN YOUR VICINITY SO THAT YOU SPEAK WITH ONE VOICE AND THEN DO WHAT YOU CAN TO NEGOTIATE WITH MR. HAGERTY AND OTHERS. BUT IF YOU BRING IN SOME OF YOUR OTHER LANDOWNERS IN THE SAME AREA, MS. BLISS, YOU'LL SPEAK WITH MORE FORCE THAN IF IT'S JUST YOU AND YOUR HUSBAND.

MR. GILBERT: YOUR HONOR, THIS IS DAVID GILBERT AGAIN.

THE COURT: GO AHEAD, SIR.

MR. GILBERT: I DON'T THINK IT'S FOR US TO ORGANIZE THE COMMUNITY. I THINK IT'S FOR THE CITY TO PROVE THAT WE HAVE ANYTHING AT ALL TO DO WITH THIS. AND I THINK IT'S -- IT'S -- (SIMULTANEOUS SPEAKERS.)

THE COURT: WELL, THAT'S FINE, MR. GILBERT. BUT THAT'S -- MR. GILBERT.

MR. GILBERT: -- THAT WE GO OUT AND ORGANIZE SEVERAL HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE OUT HERE. WE JUST DON'T WANT IT TO AFFECT -- ALL WE'RE TALKING ABOUT IS AFFECTING OUR PROPERTY WHICH HAPPENS TO BE IN THIS BASIN. AND I THINK IT'S FOR THE CITY TO PROVIDE EVIDENCE BEFORE RATHER THAN PUTTING THAT KIND OF A BURDEN ON US.

THE COURT: YOU DON'T HAVE TO IF YOU DON'T WANT TO,

MR. GILBERT. I WAS JUST TRYING TO BE INCREDIBLY PRACTICAL

ABOUT WHAT WOULD PROBABLY IMPROVE YOUR LINE -- I'M NOT A

GOLFER, BUT YOUR LEVERAGE. YOU DON'T HAVE TO.

THE CITY WILL COME FORWARD WITH A PHYSICAL SOLUTION.

AND IF IT INCLUDES THE UPPER OJAI BASIN AND YOU CONSIDER THAT ILL-CONSIDERED, YOU CAN THEN FIGHT AT THE TIME OF TRIAL. YOU DON'T HAVE TO HIRE A LAWYER TO DO THAT. YOUR WIFE HAS OBVIOUSLY STILL GOT A LOT OF HER GOOD LEGAL TRAINING IN THE GRAY MATTER THERE. BUT NOW YOU'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF TRYING TO WIN AT A TRIAL.

YOU'RE RIGHT. YOUR ADVERSARY HAS THE BURDEN OF PROOF;
BUT IF YOU CAN BASICALLY GROWL AT THEM LOUDLY ENOUGH WITH YOUR
FELLOW LANDOWNERS, YOU MIGHT JUST PERSUADE THEM TO BLINK AND GO
AWAY IF YOU'RE A LITTLE MORE PROACTIVE ABOUT IT. BUT YOU DON'T
HAVE TO. YOU CAN BE PASSIVE IF YOU WANT MR. DANIEL [SIC] AND
MS. BLISS.

SO THAT'S ALL I CAN DO AT THE MOMENT. THERE'S NOTHING PROPERLY BEFORE ME.

MR. HAGERTY: AND, YOUR HONOR, I'M SORRY --

MR. GILBERT: YOUR HONOR --

THE COURT: GO AHEAD, MR. HAGERTY.

MR. HAGERTY'S GOT THE FLOOR.

MR. HAGERTY: TO MR. GILBERT AND TO MS. BLISS, AGAIN, I'M HAPPY TO -- WE'VE HAD SOME COMMUNICATIONS. I'LL REACH OUT TO THEM. WE'LL HAVE SOME ADDITIONAL COMMUNICATIONS. I'VE MADE IT CLEAR THAT IT IS OUR BURDEN TO MAKE THAT SHOWING. SO THEY SHOULDN'T WALK AWAY THINKING THAT THAT'S NOT THE CASE. WE

THINK WE WILL MAKE THAT SHOWING, BUT WE'LL BE HAPPY TO DISCUSS THAT WITH THEM.

THE COURT: OKAY. GOOD LUCK, MS. BLISS AND MR. GILBERT.

MR. GILBERT: FIRST OF ALL, WITH APOLOGIZES. I THOUGHT I
WAS RESPONDING WITH -- GREAT APOLOGIES, YOUR HONOR. I THOUGHT
I WAS RESPONDING TO MR. HAGERTY. I DIDN'T REALIZE THAT I WAS
RESPONDING TO YOUR HONOR. AND IN THAT REGARD, I APOLOGIZE.

THE COURT: THAT'S OKAY. I DIDN'T EXPECT MR. HAGERTY TO GIVE YOU SUCH PRACTICAL ADVICE, "LINE UP PEOPLE AGAINST ME, AND THEN YOU'LL HAVE MORE LEVERAGE." NO, THAT'S NOT MR. HAGERTY'S JOB. THAT'S MY JOB, TO TRY TO HELP MAKE YOUR LIFE --

MR. PATTERSON: EXCUSE ME, YOUR HONOR, THIS IS --

THE COURT: OKAY. MR. GILBERT, YOU'VE GOT THE LAST WORD,

THEN I NEED TO MOVE ON.

MR. PATTERSON: CAN YOU HEAR ME?

THE COURT: I DON'T WANT TO HEAR FROM PATTERSON UNTIL I'M

DONE WITH GILBERT. I'LL GET TO MR. PATTERSON IN A SECOND.

MR. GILBERT, IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU FEEL YOU NEED TO SAY?

MR. PATTERSON: THANK YOU.

MS. BLISS: I THINK --

THE COURT: MS. BLISS?

MS. BLISS: I THINK MY HUSBAND HAS SAID HIS PEACE.

I'M HAPPY -- AND THIS IS MS. BLISS. AND I AM -- I AM HAPPY TO CONSULT WITH THE OTHER SIDE. I'M NOT LOOKING FOR A FIGHT. I JUST WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT ALL RIGHTS ARE PRESERVED OR PROVEN. AND SO THERE WERE SOME SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS WITH THE WAY THE PROPOSED SOLUTION WAS CRAFTED, BUT PERHAPS WE CAN

MOVE ON FROM THAT AND SEE WHAT WE CAN COME UP WITH.

THE COURT: WELL, THERE'S STILL A PERIOD OF NEGOTIATION,
AND I THINK --

MS. BLISS: THAT'S MY --

THE COURT: MS. BLISS, WE'RE STILL IN THE PERIOD OF NEGOTIATION, OBVIOUSLY; AND I HOPE YOU PERCEIVE AT THIS POINT THAT OF ALL THE PEOPLE ON THIS CALL, THE ONE PERSON WHO DOESN'T KNOW WHAT'S IN THE PHYSICAL SOLUTION IS THE JUDGE, ME. SO YOU'RE TALKING WITH SOME SPECIFICITY ABOUT A DOCUMENT I'VE NEVER SEEN. AND I'M THE ONE WHO HASN'T SEEN IT; AND THAT'S INTENTIONAL, APPARENTLY.

MR. PATTERSON, COUNSEL FOR THE THACHER SCHOOL, YOU WERE TRYING TO GET A WORD IN EDGEWISE?

MR. PATTERSON: WELL, YES.

I JUST WANTED TO SAY I REPRESENT THACHER SCHOOL AND A NUMBER OF AG INTERESTS IN THE -- WHAT WE CALL THE EAST OJAI GROUP, WHICH ARE UPPER PART OF THE OJAI AREA, INCLUDING TOPA TOPA, FRIEND'S RANCH, FINCH, AND A COUPLE OF OTHERS.

AND WE ARE IN DISCUSSIONS WITH SHAWN AND THE CITY

ABOUT TWO THINGS. ONE, WHETHER -- AS STATED, WHETHER WE EVEN

HAVE ANY IMPACT ON THE FISHERY AND THE CITY'S OBLIGATION TO

PROVIDE EVIDENCE TO THAT EFFECT. AND, TWO, WE'RE IN

DISCUSSIONS ABOUT, YOU KNOW, US PRESENTING OUR VIEW OF THE FACT

THAT SOME OF THIS PUMPING DOESN'T HAVE ANY IMPACT WHATSOEVER ON

THE FISHERY. AND THE CITY'S BEEN OPEN TO THOSE DISCUSSIONS.

AND SO IN READING THE STATUS CONFERENCE REPORT -- I
WAS OUT OF TOWN, SO I DIDN'T GET A CHANCE TO ACTUALLY
PARTICIPATE. BUT I THINK A COUPLE MORE MONTHS OF HAVING SOME

DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CITY WOULD PROMOTE THOSE DISCUSSIONS. THE CITY'S BEEN OPEN TO THAT.

AND SO THERE IS GOING TO BE AN ELEMENT OF FOLKS WHO
ARE GOING TO BE ARGUING TO THE COURT THAT THEY SHOULDN'T BE
PART OF THE PHYSICAL SOLUTION BECAUSE THEY AREN'T IMPACTING THE
GOOD FISH CONDITIONS THAT ARE THE PRIMARY GOAL OF THE PHYSICAL
SOLUTION. AND WE'RE HAVING THOSE DISCUSSIONS. HOPEFULLY,
WE'LL COME TO SOME SORT OF RESOLUTION ON THAT, BUT THAT'S GOING
TO CERTAINLY BE AN ISSUE AT SOME POINT IF WE'RE NOT ABLE TO
RESOLVE IT.

THE COURT: THANK YOU.

OKAY. MR. HAGERTY, WHAT ELSE DO YOU WANT TO TAKE UP WITH THE COURT?

MR. HAGERTY: THE ONLY FINAL THING FROM THE CITY'S POINT OF VIEW, YOUR HONOR, IS WE DID PUT IN FRONT OF YOU A FORM OF A STIPULATION. AND WE'RE NOT NECESSARILY ASKING YOU TO BLESS THE FULL FORM OF THE STIPULATION, BUT WE WOULD ASK THAT THE COURT APPROVE THE CONCEPT OF USING THE STIPULATION FOR THOSE PEOPLE WHO WISH TO NOT MAKE A -- NOT FILE AN ANSWER, BUT TO MAKE AN APPEARANCE THROUGH THE FORM OF, ESSENTIALLY, AGREEING TO THE STIPULATED PHYSICAL SOLUTION.

THE COURT: THIS WAS THE \$20 RATHER THAN \$435 OPTION?

MR. HAGERTY: YES. YES. AND THE COURT HAD GRANTED THAT

WITH REGARD TO DISCLAIMERS. THIS WOULD BE A SIMILAR THING

WHERE PEOPLE WOULD SAY, "I MAY NOT LOVE THIS, BUT I AM OKAY TO

LIVE WITH IT. AND, THEREFORE, I'LL STIPULATE. I DON'T WANT A

DEFAULT TAKEN AGAINST ME THOUGH." SO IT WOULD BE AN

OPPORTUNITY FOR PEOPLE TO MAKE AN APPEARANCE AND PARTICIPATE

BUT NOT NECESSARILY HAVE TO FILE AN ANSWER JUST TO FILE AN ANSWER AND SAY THE SAME THING.

THE COURT: I'M FINE WITH THAT IN CONCEPT. I'M TRYING TO SEE -- HAS IT BEEN PROVIDED TO ME LOOSE OR ONLY AS AN ATTACHMENT TO THE STATUS REPORT?

MR. HAGERTY: I DIDN'T SEPARATELY ATTACH IT. IT WAS ATTACHED TO THE STATUS CONFERENCE REPORT. IT WAS NOT SEPARATELY FILED.

WHAT WE WERE HOPING TO DO IS WHAT WE DID WITH THE DISCLAIMER, WHICH WOULD BE IN THE ORDER ITSELF JUST INCLUDE -- OR THE NOTICE, INCLUDE THAT YOU MADE A RULING THAT THAT -- A FORM OF A STIPULATION TO THE PHYSICAL SOLUTION COULD BE USED IN LIEU OF AN ANSWER. AND IT WOULD BE THE \$28 FILING FEE INSTEAD OF THE FULL FILING FEE.

THE COURT: NOW, YOU'VE PUT EXEMPT FROM FILING FEES

PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SO-AND-SO ON THE CAPTION BECAUSE

YOU LIST THE CITY.

MR. HAGERTY: THAT'S OUR -- YES. WE WOULD CHANGE THAT FOR THE PEOPLE WHO FILED, YES.

THE COURT: SO WE AT LEAST GET \$20?

MR. HAGERTY: THAT'S RIGHT.

AND IN TALKING TO PEOPLE, THERE SEEMS TO BE A, YOU KNOW, DECENT GROUP OF PEOPLE WHO ARE AT LEAST CONSIDERING THIS OPTION. MANY PEOPLE HAVE FOLLOWED IT, THIS WHOLE PROCESS, AND HAVE DECIDED, AT LEAST IN THEIR PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCE, THAT IT MAY NOT BE SOMETHING THAT THEY NEED TO GET INVOLVED IN; BUT THEY DON'T LIKE THE IDEA OF HAVING A DEFAULT TAKEN AGAINST THEM.

AND SO WE WERE TRYING TO ACCOMMODATE THAT BY COMING UP
WITH THIS OPTION. AND WE WOULD ASK THE COURT TO AT LEAST BLESS
THE CONCEPT SO WE CAN INCLUDE IT IN THE NOTICE.

THE COURT: THIS IS UNIQUELY FOR THE RIPARIAN CROSS-DEFENDANTS?

MR. HAGERTY: THAT'S CORRECT.

THE COURT: THE GROUNDWATER CROSS-DEFENDANTS AREN'T NAMED AND YOU WON'T DEFAULT THEM.

MR. HAGERTY: THAT'S CORRECT, YOUR HONOR.

THE COURT: I'M FINE WITH THIS IN CONCEPT INCLUDING THE REDUCTION FROM 435 TO 20, BUT NOT TO ZERO.

MR. HAGERTY: YES, YOUR HONOR.

THE COURT: DON'T OVERPLAY YOUR HAND.

MR. HAGERTY: I WON'T.

THE COURT: OKAY. NEXT?

MR. HAGERTY: WELL, THAT'S IT, YOUR HONOR. THE ONLY
OTHER THING IS TO HOPEFULLY SET A DATE IN FEBRUARY TO COME
BACK. AND AT THAT POINT IN TIME, WE WOULD BE, I THINK, IN A
POSITION WHERE WE THOUGHT WE WOULD BE TODAY, WHICH WOULD BE TO
TALK ABOUT A SPECIFIC PATH FORWARD.

WE -- I KNOW THE STATE AGENCIES ARE ON THE LINE. WE WILL WORK WITH THEM AND ALL THE OTHER PARTIES TO TRY TO COME UP WITH A JOINT PROPOSAL ON THE PATH FORWARD. AND IF WE DON'T GET THERE, WE MAY NEED THE COURT'S ASSISTANCE.

IN AUGUST, WE HAD PRESENTED KIND OF DIFFERENT TRACKS,

SO WE MAY NEED TO HAVE THE COURT GET INVOLVED IN THAT. BUT AT

LEAST BY FEBRUARY, WE SHOULD BE IN A POSITION TO PRESENT A PATH

FORWARD TO THE COURT.

THE COURT: WELL, SO FAR SO GOOD. BUT LET'S SEE WHETHER

MR. COSGROVE IS SINGING KUMBAYA QUITE SO LOUDLY.

MR. COSGROVE: SAME SONG, A LITTLE LESS LOUDLY IS PROBABLY WHAT I WOULD SAY, YOUR HONOR.

A COUPLE OF THINGS TO ADD TO WHAT'S BEEN DISCUSSED

HERE TODAY. FIRST OFF, WITH RESPECT TO THE -- HAVING THE COURT

REVIEW THE FORM OF THE PHYSICAL SOLUTION, CASITAS HAS A LOT OF

RESPECT FOR BOTH THE COURT AND FOR THE CITY TRYING TO KEEP YOUR

ROLE, YOUR HONOR, CLEAR OF WHAT AMOUNTS TO SETTLEMENT

DISCUSSIONS. BUT GIVEN THE CONTEXT OF THIS CASE AND ITS SCOPE

AND GIVEN THE FACT THAT THE PHYSICAL SOLUTION ACTUALLY IS A

PUBLICLY AVAILABLE DOCUMENT ON A NUMBER OF WEBSITES, I THINK

THAT IT MAY BE THAT THE BENEFITS OF SHIELDING THE COURT FROM

THE GENESIS OF THE SETTLEMENT DISCUSSIONS IN THIS CONTEXT MAY

BE A LITTLE LESS THAN IT WOULD BE IN OTHERS.

CASITAS HAS NO PROBLEM WITH YOU LOOKING AT THE PHYSICAL SOLUTION. FRANKLY, THE PROBLEMS THAT WE HAVE WITH THE PHYSICAL SOLUTION WE THINK WILL JUMP OUT AT YOU ON AN EARLY REVIEW. SO JUST WANTED TO LET YOU KNOW --

THE COURT: WELL, IF THEY TAKE ALL YOUR WATER, BECAUSE YOU'RE THE JUNIOR TAKE, THAT PROBABLY WOULD BE TROUBLING FOR CASITAS.

MR. COSGROVE: THERE ARE A FEW TROUBLING ASPECTS, BUT I'M TRYING NOT TO NEGOTIATE IN COURT. AND MR. HAGERTY AND THE CITY KNOWS OUR ISSUES.

IT'S A NICE SEGUE TO TELL YOU WHERE CASITAS IS

GENERALLY WITH ALL OF THESE DISCUSSIONS. AS TO THE PROPOSING

PARTIES, WHAT ONCE WAS CALLED THE CONSUMPTIVE USERS GROUP,

WE'RE STILL THE PRODIGAL SON. WE'RE OUT OF THAT AT THIS POINT.

MY CLIENT IDENTIFIED A COUPLE OF -- WHAT IT CONSIDERED TO BE BARRIER ISSUES WITH PROVISIONS IN THE PHYSICAL SOLUTION THAT CENTERED AROUND THE CITY OF VENTURA. AND, THEREFORE, WE HAVE CONVENED SUMMIT DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CITY OF VENTURA ON THOSE POINTS, INVITED ATTORNEYS NOT TO ATTEND THOSE DISCUSSIONS. WE'RE TRYING TO FOCUS ON WATER ENGINEERS AND WATER ADMINISTRATOR, THOSE PROFESSIONALS, TO TRY TO HAMMER OUT WHAT MIGHT WORK AND THEN GRAFT THE LAW ONTO WHAT MIGHT BE A WORKABLE SOLUTION FOR THOSE TWO CLIENTS. AND IF THAT IS THE CASE, THEN I THINK IT WILL BE EASIER FOR MY CLIENT TO ENGAGE ON THE OTHER ISSUES THAT WE HAVE ON THE TABLE.

THE OTHER THING THAT I WANTED TO COMMENT ON WAS THE COURT'S QUESTIONS WITH RESPECT TO YOUR ABILITY TO IMPOSE A PHYSICAL SOLUTION. I THINK MR. HAGERTY GENERALLY CHARACTERIZED THE COURT'S ROLE AND AUTHORITY CORRECTLY.

THE ONLY THING I WOULD CAUTION IS THAT -- AS WITH ANY STIPULATED JUDGMENT, YOUR HONOR, WATER ADJUDICATION PHYSICAL SOLUTION IS EFFECTIVELY -- IF IT IS STIPULATED, IT'S A CONTRACT THAT RISES TO THE LEVEL OF AN ORDER OF LAW BY COURT ORDER. SO IF AND WHEN YOU DO SEE THE PHYSICAL SOLUTION, YOU WILL SEE THAT THERE ARE ELEMENTS IN IT OF FACTS AND FINDINGS. THERE ARE ELEMENTS IN IT OF RULINGS OF LAW. BUT THERE ARE ALSO ELEMENTS OF CONTRACT AND AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PARTIES, NOT THE LEAST OF WHICH IS CERTAIN RESERVATIONS OF RIGHTS.

AND THOSE CONTRACT ASPECTS, I HAVE A QUESTION AS TO WHETHER THE COURT CAN ORDER ALL OF THOSE. IN OTHER WORDS, IF WE ARE NOT ALL IN AGREEMENT SUCH THAT AN AGREEMENT AMONG THE

PARTIES CAN RISE FROM A CONTRACT TO AN ORDER OF LAW WITHOUT OBJECTION, THEN WE'RE LEFT WITH STRIPPING OUT THE CONTRACT POSITIONS AND JUST FOCUSING ON THE PHYSICAL SOLUTION WITH THE FACTS AND THE LAW.

BUT AS OTHERWISE CHARACTERIZED, I THINK EVERYTHING IS CORRECT. AND, YES, THERE CAN BE A PHYSICAL SOLUTION DESPITE OBJECTIONS OF PARTIES THAT ARE SUBJECT TO IT; AND IT HAPPENS ALL THE TIME.

THE COURT: SO IF EVERYBODY EXCEPT YOUR CLIENT, CASITAS,

AGREED TO THE PHYSICAL SOLUTION AND THE ASSOCIATED CONTRACT BUT

IT OMITS CASITAS WATER DISTRICT, CAN THEY HAVE THE BENEFIT OF A

CONTRACT AS PART OF THE PHYSICAL SOLUTION IF CASITAS IS ODD MAN

OUT TO THE CONTRACT? OR AT THAT POINT, THE CONTRACT FAILS FOR

NECESSARY PARTY AND SO THERE'S NO CONTRACT?

MR. COSGROVE: I WILL ANSWER THAT QUESTION ON TWO LEVELS BECAUSE I THINK IT'S BEEN ASKED ON TWO LEVELS.

CONCEPTUALLY, YES, THAT WOULD BE POSSIBLE. IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT WITH A PARTY THAT WOULD BE UNAFFECTED BY THE JUDGMENT OR WOULD BE UNAFFECTED BY AT LEAST THE CONTRACTUAL PROVISIONS THAT WERE APPENDED TO THE JUDGMENT.

THE PRACTICAL -- THE SECOND LEVEL ON WHICH THAT

QUESTION IS ASKED IS PRACTICAL; AND, FRANKLY, I THINK IT'S

GOING TO BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT. CASITAS IS THE LARGEST

PHYSICAL PARTY OUT THERE. IT CONTROLS MOST OF THE WATER. IT'S

JUST GOING TO BE VERY DIFFICULT TO TEASE OUT CASITAS AND ITS

ROLE IN ANY KIND OF LONG-TERM, PROSPECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF THE

FISHERY IN THIS WATERSHED WITHOUT HAVING CASITAS INVOLVED.

THE COURT: IS CASITAS'S CURRENT ANNUAL INTAKE MORE THAN
THE CITY OF VENTURA?

MR. COSGROVE: I BELIEVE IT IS.

THE COURT: A LITTLE BIT OR A LOT?

MR. COSGROVE: I'D HAVE TO DIG INTO THAT, YOUR HONOR.

DON'T KNOW OFF THE TOP OF MY HEAD. IT'S -- IT HAS OVER A

HUNDRED THOUSAND ACRE FEET OF LICENSE RIGHTS. AND THOSE

LICENSE RIGHTS HAVE BEEN ABRIDGED BY THE ROBLES DIVERSION AND

THE FACT THAT THE WATER IS DIVERTED FOR THE FISHERY SOLUTION

THAT ALREADY EXISTS. WHICH WATER GOES INTO THE LAKE; SO

COMPARATIVELY, YES, CASITAS IS LARGER IN TERMS OF ITS TAKE.

THE COURT: WHO IS THE THIRD LARGEST CONSUMPTIVE USER?

MR. HAGERTY: IT'S CASITAS, THE CITY, AND THEN THERE ARE

TWO OTHER WATER DISTRICTS, VENTURA RIVER WATER DISTRICT,

MEINERS OAKS WATER DISTRICT. THERE ARE SOME AGRICULTURAL USERS

THAT --

THE COURT: ARE THEY A DISTANT THIRD AND FOURTH, OR ARE THEY A CLOSE RUNNER-UP?

MR. HAGERTY: YOU KNOW WHAT, YOUR HONOR? IT DOES VARY

OVER TIME. AND THAT'S WHY I THINK MR. COSGROVE KIND OF DIDN'T

ANSWER RIGHT AWAY BECAUSE EVEN WITH CASITAS, THE AMOUNT OF

WATER THEY DIVERT YEAR TO YEAR CAN VARY WIDELY DEPENDING UPON

PRECIPITATION.

THE COURT: BECAUSE THEY HAVE A MULTIYEAR STORAGE IN THE LAKE?

MR. COSGROVE: OUR RIGHT IS THAT WE HAVE A RIGHT TO

DIVERT WATER FROM THE RIVER TO -- THROUGH THE ROBLES DIVERSION

AND INTO THE LAKE. BUT THAT RIGHT REQUIRES A GUARANTEE OF

CERTAIN OTHER FLOWS.

SO, EFFECTIVELY, THE BULK OF THAT RIGHT COMES FROM

LARGER PRECIPITATION EVENTS WHERE WE CAN DIVERT THAT WATER WHEN

THE WATER IS THERE. BUT WE HAVE TO GUARANTEE CERTAIN FLOWS BY

THE BIOLOGICAL OPINION WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO FLOW

FURTHER DOWNSTREAM. SO --

THE COURT: BUT YOU IN TURN HAVE A SURFACE LAKE THAT HAS MULTIYEAR CAPACITY OR GROUNDWATER THAT YOU FILL AND PUMP --

MR. COSGROVE: CORRECT.

THE COURT: -- OR BOTH.

MR. COSGROVE: BOTH.

I MEAN, CASITAS HAS THE DIVERSION RIGHTS; AND IT

MAINTAINS THE LAKE. AND THEN IT ALSO -- IT HAS ACQUIRED A

GROUNDWATER PUMPING OUTFIT A COUPLE YEARS BACK, AND SO WE ALSO

DO HAVE GROUNDWATER PRODUCTION FACILITIES.

THE COURT: SO IF YOU HAVE A REALLY CRUMMY YEAR IN TERMS
OF DIVERSION, YOU STILL HAVE SOURCES FOR YOUR CUSTOMERS?

MR. COSGROVE: THE SCOPE OF CASITAS'S GROUNDWATER

PRODUCTION AT THIS POINT IS PROBABLY NOT SUFFICIENT TO COVER

ALL OF ITS OTHER NEEDS. BUT THE SHORT ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION

WOULD BE YES, THAT THERE IS REDUNDANCY OF OVERALL SUPPLY.

THE COURT: DOES THE LAKE GET DOWN TO VIRTUALLY DRY IN A WORSE SITUATION, OR IT'S BETTER THAN THAT?

MR. COSGROVE: IT'S BETTER THAN THAT. I MEAN, THE LAKE HASN'T GONE DRY.

THE COURT: SO THAT'S ANOTHER RESOURCE FOR DRY YEARS.

MR. COSGROVE: WELL, IT IS. AS FAR AS MY CLIENT'S

CONCERNED, IT'S ONE OF THE CRITICAL RESOURCES BECAUSE THAT LAKE

40 1 IS EFFECTIVELY THE REGION'S WATER BANK ACCOUNT FOR, YOU KNOW, 2 WATER WHEN THINGS GET LEAN. AND SO PRESERVING WATER THERE IS 3 CRITICAL. 4 THE COURT: AND IF MEMORY SERVES ME RIGHT, THIS IS A PART 5 OF CALIFORNIA THAT DOES NOT HAVE AQUEDUCT IMPORTATION FROM THE 6 NORTH OR THE EAST. 7 MR. COSGROVE: AS OF YET, THE ANSWER IS NO, IT DOES NOT. 8 THE COURT: CORRECT, IT DOES NOT. 9 MR. COSGROVE: CORRECT. BUT THERE ARE PROJECTS IN PLACE TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH 10 11 THAT GOAL. BUT FOR THE TIME HORIZON THAT WE ARE TALKING, 12 SPECIFICALLY IN TERMS OF THE PROCESSING OF THE PHYSICAL 13 SOLUTION HERE, THAT IS NOT GOING TO BE THE CASE. WE ARE GOING 14 TO BE CUT OFF FROM STATE SUPPLIES. 15 THE COURT: REMIND ME AGAIN --MR. COSGROVE: BUT WE ONCE AGAIN PRESUME THAT THEY WOULD 16 17 EXIST. 18 THE COURT: -- ARE THERE UNEXERCISED RIGHTS TO STATE 19 WATER THAT VENTURA OR A PORTION OF VENTURA COUNTY COULD TAKE THAT HAVE SIMPLY BEEN DORMANT UNTIL NOW? 20 21 MR. HAGERTY: YOUR HONOR, THAT'S THE -- THE CITY HAS 22 CERTAIN RIGHTS. CASITAS HAS CERTAIN RIGHTS. THERE ARE VARIOUS 23 PROJECTS THAT ARE --THE COURT: TO THE STATE WATER PROJECT. 24

SO THE PARTIES HAVE BEEN PAYING FOR THAT RIGHT -- TO

MR. HAGERTY: YES, YOUR HONOR.

MR. HAGERTY: NO PIPE, RIGHT.

THE COURT: BUT NO PIPE.

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MAINTAIN THAT RIGHT FOR A LONG TIME. THEY'RE NOW CONSIDERING VARIOUS ALTERNATIVES TO TRY TO GET THE PIPE TO BRING THE WATER IN. THE CITY HAS APPROVED A PROJECT THAT'S SUBJECT TO SOME CEQA LITIGATION THAT'S ONGOING.

SO AS WITH ALL THESE THINGS WITH WATER, EVERYONE'S TRYING TO DIVERSIFY AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. BUT AS MR. COSGROVE SAID, THE CASITAS LAKE -- LAKE CASITAS IS A CRITICAL ASPECT TO THE CURRENT SITUATION AND IS IMPORTANT, AND EVERYONE NEEDS TO WORK TO PRESERVE BECAUSE IT'S A BACK-UP RIGHT TO ALMOST EVERYONE WITHIN THE WATERSHED.

THE COURT: ISN'T IT ALMOST DOWNHILL BY GRADE FROM PYRAMID LAKE TO THE FOOT OF THE SANTA CLARA RIVER?

MR. HAGERTY: THERE'S -- SO THE CONNECTION WOULD BE
THROUGH THE CALLEGAUS -- AT LEAST THE PROPOSED CONNECTION WOULD
BE THROUGH CALLEGAUS IN THAT AREA. SO IT'S -- MAYBE WE SHOULD
TALK SEPARATELY AT ANOTHER TIME ABOUT THE DETAILS. YOU'LL HEAR
ABOUT THESE MAYBE AT SOME POINT.

THE COURT: BUT CONNECTING TO THE STATE WATER PROJECT IS NOT PART OF YOUR PHYSICAL SOLUTION?

MR. HAGERTY: IT IS NOT, YOUR HONOR.

THE COURT: OKAY. SO THAT'S STILL THE MIRAGE OVER THE HORIZON.

MR. HAGERTY: YES, YOUR HONOR.

MR. COSGROVE: OR THE PROMISE OF A BRIGHTER FUTURE,
DEPENDING ON HOW YOU WANT TO CHARACTERIZE IT.

THE COURT: THAT'S WHAT A MIRAGE IS.

SO, MR. COSGROVE, ANYTHING ELSE?

MR. COSGROVE: NOTHING FURTHER FROM ME. THANK YOU.

THE COURT: OKAY. SO, COUNSEL AND PARTIES ON THE PHONE,
IS THERE ANYBODY ON THE PHONE OR A FEW OF MY OTHER VIDEO
ATTENDEES LIKE MR. MELNICK OR MR. MAGUIRE WHO WISH TO BE HEARD?

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

THE COURT: GO AHEAD, MR. COOPER.

MR. COOPER: YES. JUST VERY QUICKLY ON THE PHYSICAL SOLUTION.

WHILE I KNOW YOU HAVEN'T SEEN IT, I THINK IT MAKES

SENSE THAT YOU SHOULD IF THE PARTIES CAN AGREE. AND IT IS

PUBLIC, SO I DON'T -- I AGREE WITH CASITAS AND THE COMMENT THAT

IT DOESN'T REALLY HELP ANYTHING AS FAR AS THE SHIELDING

FUNCTION GOES.

BUT I'D ALSO LIKE TO JUST COMMENT ON THE GENERAL

TENOR, WHICH WAS THAT THE PHYSICAL SOLUTION MIGHT WELL BE

AGREED TO BY ALL THE PARTIES; AND WE CAN PROCEED WITHOUT HAVING

A TRIAL. AND THE DOCUMENT CURRENTLY PROVIDES NO WATER FOR

FISH. THIS ADJUDICATION -- OUR ORIGINAL CASE AND THE RESULTING

ADJUDICATION IS REALLY CENTERED ON WATER FOR FISH AND WHAT

FLOWS ARE NECESSARY TO PRESERVE STEELHEAD OPERATION.

AND THIS -- THE PHYSICAL SOLUTION IS FOCUSED ON
HABITAT RESTORATION AND OTHER PROJECTS ALONG THOSE LINES WITH
ZERO WATER FOR FISH, TEN YEARS OF STUDY TO DECIDE WHETHER
SOMETHING MIGHT BE DONE IN THE FUTURE WITH AN ADVISORY
COMMITTEE HEAVILY WEIGHTED IN FAVOR OF CONSUMPTIVE USERS.

SO FROM OUR PERSPECTIVE -- AND I BELIEVE THIS IS TRUE OF THE AGENCY, AND I'LL LET THEM SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES -- THE PHYSICAL SOLUTION ON OFFER IS A NONSTARTER, AND WE'RE GOING TO

HAVE TO HAVE A VERY SERIOUS CONVERSATION WITH THE CITY AND THE CONSUMPTIVE USERS ABOUT ACTUALLY PROVIDING WATER FOR FISH.

THERE IS A STUDY STILL IN THE WORKS FROM CDFW, WHICH WE'VE REFERENCED TO THE COURT A FEW TIMES, SETTING MINIMUM FLOWS FOR FISH. AND THERE'S A STUDY COMING OUT OF THE STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD CONNECTING GROUNDWATER BASINS TO SURFACE FLOWS HYDROLOGIC MODEL, WHICH WOULD HELP ANSWER SOME OF THE QUESTIONS RAISED BY THE UPPER OJAI GROUNDWATER BASIN FOLKS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE STATUS CONFERENCE. BUT THOSE STUDIES ARE NOT GOING TO BE READY UNTIL PROBABLY EARLY IN THE NEW YEAR.

AND SO FROM OUR VIEWPOINT, CHANNELKEEPER'S VIEWPOINT,
THE SCHEDULE PROPOSED BY THE CITY IS -- YOU KNOW, THEY'VE BEEN
BASICALLY DELAYING THIS CASE TO ALLOW FOR SERVICE. FAIR
ENOUGH. BUT IT SEEMED LIKE THEY'RE IN A BIG RUSH TO MOVE THE
PHYSICAL SOLUTION FORWARD WITHOUT HAVING THE TWO CRITICAL
STUDIES COMPLETED BY THE STATE AGENCIES WHICH WOULD PROVIDE THE
FACTUAL BASIS AND THE DATA NEEDED TO SET FLOWS FOR FISH IN THE
RIVER.

SO WE JUST WANTED TO EXPRESS OUR DOUBTS ABOUT THE SCHEDULE PROPOSED BY THE CITY AND OUR PROFOUND DOUBTS ABOUT THE PHYSICAL SOLUTION AS CURRENTLY PROPOSED.

THE COURT: THANK YOU, MR. COOPER.

FOR THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, DO I HAVE ATTORNEY MARK MELNICK WITH US?

25 MR. MELNICK: YES, YOUR HONOR, I'M HERE. CAN YOU HEAR 26 ME?

THE COURT: I DO.

IS YOUR CLIENT LIKELY TO LIKE THE PHYSICAL SOLUTION AS

YOU SEE IT? OR IS THIS WAR AS MR. COOPER SUGGESTS?

MR. MELNICK: I THINK IT'S TOO EARLY TO SAY, YOUR HONOR.

I THINK, AS MR. HAGERTY SAID, WE'VE HAD A NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS

WITH THE CITY. THERE'S A LOT MORE TO TALK ABOUT. I THINK -- I

DON'T WANT TO PUT WORDS IN HIS MOUTH, BUT I THINK THE CITY'S

ALREADY ACKNOWLEDGED TO US THAT THE PHYSICAL SOLUTION NEEDS TO

CHANGE A FAIR AMOUNT WHERE PROVISIONS NEED TO BE ADDED TO IT.

AND, YOU KNOW, WE HAVEN'T -- WE NEED TO DO SOME

SERIOUS NEGOTIATING; AND, YOU KNOW, WE'RE GOING TO TRY TO DO

THAT IN THE NEXT TWO MONTHS. BUT WE MAY NEED MORE TIME, OR WE

MAY NOT BE ABLE TO REACH AN AGREEMENT.

THE COURT: THANK YOU. IT'S A WONDROUS THING HOW THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA HAS MULTIPLE DIFFERENT MANIFESTATIONS OF ITSELF SEPARATELY REPRESENTED, BUT THAT IS LEGAL CULTURE IN CALIFORNIA.

MR. GOLDEN-KRASNER FOR CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH

AND WILDLIFE, DO YOU HAVE ANY DIFFERING SENTIMENTS FROM COUNSEL

FOR THE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD OF WHERE WE STAND?

MR. GOLDEN-KRASNER: NO, YOUR HONOR. I THINK THAT MR. MELNICK STATED OUR POSITION AS WELL.

WE -- AS MR. COOPER SAID, WE ARE WORKING ON THE -THOSE STUDIES AND REPORTS. HOPEFULLY, THEY'LL BE READY FOR THE
PUBLIC SOMETIME EARLY NEXT YEAR, JANUARY OR FEBRUARY. AND WE
HAVE A LOT OF NEGOTIATING WORK TO DO, BUT WE'VE HAD SOME
PRODUCTIVE DISCUSSIONS SO FAR.

THE COURT: AND THE CALIFORNIA STATE GOVERNMENT HAS YET A
THIRD MANIFESTATION. MS. WENZLAU, A DAG, IS FOR THE DEPARTMENT
OF PARKS. DO YOU HAVE ANY DIFFERING VIEW?

MS. WENZLAU: NO, YOUR HONOR. I AGREE WITH MR. MELNICK 1 2 AS WELL. THANK YOU. 3 THE COURT: OKAY. SO, MR. HAGERTY, IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU'VE 4 GOT YOUR WORK CUT OUT FOR YOU BEFORE THIS IS GOING TO BECOME A 5 BIG KUMBAYA SESSION. 6 MR. HAGERTY: YES, YOUR HONOR. 7 THE COURT: OKAY. ANYBODY ELSE WISH TO BE HEARD? I'VE 8 DONE MY CROSS-EXAMINING OR 20 QUESTIONS OF THE GALLERY. 9 MR. HAGERTY, DO YOU HAVE WHAT YOU NEED FOR GIVING NOTICE? 10 MR. HAGERTY: JUST THE DATE FOR THE FURTHER CMC, 11 12 YOUR HONOR. 13 THE COURT: INDEED. WHAT DO YOU THINK? FIRST WEEK? 14 SECOND WEEK? 15 MS. WAGGENER: YOUR HONOR, I APOLOGIZE. MY PHONE CUT OUT RIGHT WHEN YOU WERE GETTING THAT DATE. COULD YOU REPEAT FOR 16 17 THOSE OF US ON THE PHONE THE DATE FOR THAT STATUS CONFERENCE? 18 THE COURT: IT HASN'T BEEN SAID, SO YOU HAVEN'T MISSED 19 ANYTHING. MR. HAGERTY: I WOULD SAY THE SECOND --20 21 MS. WAGGENER: THANK YOU. I WENT DARK THERE FOR A MOMENT 22 WITH WORRY. 23 THE COURT: NO PROBLEM. HOW ABOUT TUESDAY THE 9TH? 24 25 MR. HAGERTY: THAT WOULD WORK FOR US, YOUR HONOR. THE COURT: OKAY. I'LL SET YOU DOWN FOR A FURTHER STATUS 26 CONFERENCE IN THIS CASE FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9 AT 1:30 P.M. 27 28 WITH AN UPDATED JOINT REPORT FROM THE CITY AND WHOEVER THE CITY

CAN ROPE INTO THE REPORT BY FEBRUARY 2. AND ANYBODY ELSE, SUCH AS MR. COSGROVE FOR CASITAS WATER DISTRICT, WHO WANTS TO SPEAK UNILATERALLY CAN SUBMIT A REPORT BY THE SAME DEADLINE. WITH CITY OF VENTURA TO GIVE NOTICE, MR. HAGERTY. MR. HAGERTY: YES, YOUR HONOR. THE COURT: ANYTHING ELSE? MR. HAGERTY: NOTHING FROM THE CITY, YOUR HONOR. THE COURT: COURT'S IN RECESS. AND FOR THE RECORD, WE NEVER HAD MORE THAN TWO LAWYERS IN THE COURTROOM PLUS THREE OR MAYBE FOUR COURT STAFF. SO WE HAD 25 EMPTY SEATS UNCLAIMED FOR THE BALANCE OF THE HEARING THIS AFTERNOON. COURT'S IN RECESS. (WHEREUPON, THE PROCEEDINGS CONCLUDED AT 3:17 P.M.) -000-

1	SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA				
2	FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES				
3					
4	DEPARTMENT SSC 10 HON. WILLIAM F. HIGHBERGER, JUDGE				
5					
6	SANTA BARBARA CHANNELKEEPER,)				
)				
7	PETITIONER,) CASE NO. 19STCP01176				
)				
8	V.) REPORTER'S				
0) CERTIFICATE				
9	STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL)				
10	BOARD, ET AL.,				
10	RESPONDENTS.)				
11	RESIGNATION.				
	<u> </u>				
12	AND RELATED CROSS-ACTION.				
	, 				
13					
14					
15	I, ESTRELLA HERMAN, OFFICIAL PRO TEM REPORTER OF THE				
16	SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, FOR THE COUNTY OF				
17	LOS ANGELES, DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING PAGES, 1				
18	THROUGH 46, COMPRISE A TRUE AND CORRECT TRANSCRIPT OF THE				
19	PROCEEDINGS TAKEN IN THE ABOVE-ENTITLED MATTER REPORTED BY ME				
20	ON NOVEMBER 16, 2020.				
21					
22	DATED: DECEMBER 1, 2020				
23					
24					
25					
26	Sund terra				
27	ESTRELLA HERMAN, CSR				
28	OFFICIAL PRO TEM COURT REPORTER CSR NO. 13865				
۵۵	CDR NO. 13003				

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