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11 Attorneys for Cross-Defendant  
 CASITAS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT,  
 12 a California special district

13 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

14 FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES - SPRING STREET COURTHOUSE

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

16 Petitioner,

17 v.

18 STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL  
 19 BOARD, a California State Agency;  
 CITY OF SAN BUENA VENTURA, a  
 20 California municipal corporation, incorrectly  
 named as CITY OF BUENA VENTURA,

21 Respondents.

22 CITY OF SAN BUENA VENTURA, a  
 23 California municipal corporation,

24 Cross-Complainant,

25 v.

26 DUNCAN ABBOTT, et al.

27 Cross-Defendants.

Case No. 19STCP01176

*Hon. William F. Highberger; Dept: 10*

**STATUS CONFERENCE REPORT OF  
 CROSS DEFENDANT CASITAS  
 MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT**

Further Status Conference Hearing:

DATE: February 9, 2021  
 TIME: 1:30 p.m.  
 DEPT.: 10

Date Action Filed: September 19, 2014  
 Trial Date: None Set

1 **STATUS CONFERENCE REPORT**

2 Cross-Defendant CASITAS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT, a California special  
3 district (“Casitas”) submits this Status Conference Report (“Report”) in advance of the Status  
4 Conference scheduled for February 9, 2021.

5 **I. STIPULATED JUDGMENT AND PHYSICAL SOLUTION ISSUES**

6 Casitas has continued with the City of Ventura (“City”) discussions regarding the proposed  
7 Stipulated Judgment and Physical Solution, released September 15, 2020. These discussions have  
8 included new proposals from Casitas, which are still being explored by the parties. At Casitas’  
9 request, these talks remain focused on involvement of principals, and broader “deal point” issues,  
10 and have not involved attorneys in any lead role. Casitas has requested this under the belief that  
11 the professional water managers are best suited to craft the water management solutions any long-  
12 term balance of needs and resources will require, to forge a stable, permanent physical solution.

13 In addition, Casitas understands that representatives of the State Board and California  
14 Department of Fish and Wildlife have expressed reservations about the Stipulated Judgment and  
15 Physical Solution, and to the proposed litigation schedule put forth by the City.

16 **II. PROPOSED SCHEDULE**

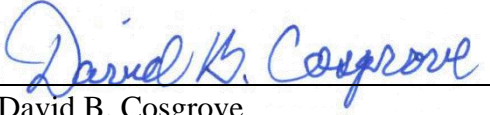
17 Given the foregoing, and anticipating improvements in the next few months to the  
18 limitations of judicial resources under continuing COVID-19 constraints, Casitas proposes that the  
19 Status Conference be continued to April 1, 2021, or thereafter, with no party yet being required to  
20 provide the Initial Disclosures under Code of Civil Procedure section 842. This additional time  
21 will allow the City to further, and perhaps complete, service issues so that the case will truly be “at  
22 issue.” While most major players may well already be in the litigation, the short additional time  
23 may allow participation in the crafting of the physical solution by all who are expected to work  
24 within it, rather than leaving the perception by late-served parties that it has been formulated by  
25 others, and presented as a “take it or leave it” proposition. Casitas also intends to continue its  
26 discussions with both the City and the State in the intervening time.

27 Questions of longer term litigation scheduling, discovery deadlines, expert discovery, and  
28 hearing dates appear yet to be premature, and Casitas therefore suggests such matters be held until

1 the rescheduled Status Conference.

2 Dated: February 2, 2021

RUTAN & TUCKER, LLP  
DOUGLAS J. DENNINGTON  
DAVID B. COSGROVE

3  
4 By: 

5 David B. Cosgrove  
6 Attorneys for Cross-Defendant  
7 CASITAS MUNICIPAL  
8 WATER DISTRICT,  
9 a California special district

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1 **PROOF OF SERVICE**

2 **STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF ORANGE**

3  
4 I am employed by the law office of Rutan & Tucker, LLP in the County of Orange, State  
5 of California. I am over the age of 18 and not a party to the within action. My business address is  
6 18575 Jamboree Road, 9th Floor, Irvine, CA 92612. My electronic notification address is  
7 mslobodien@rutan.com.

8 On February 2, 2021, I served on the interested parties in said action the within:

9 **STATUS CONFERENCE REPORT OF CROSS DEFENDANT**  
10 **CASITAS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT**

11 as stated below:

12  By transmission via E-Service to File & ServeXpress as listed on File & ServeXpress  
13 service list.

14 Executed on February 2, 2021, at Irvine, California.

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

17  
18 Mia R. Slobodien  
19 (Type or print name)

20   
21 (Signature)