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6 7	Attorneys for, CHINO BASIN WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT		
8 9 10	SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO, RANCHO CUCAMONGA DISTRICT		
11 12	CHINO BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER) Case No.: RCV 51010 DISTRICT, Judge: Hon. J. Michael Gunn		
13 14 15 16 17	Plaintiff, vs. OPPOSITION OF THE CHINO BASIN WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT TO CUCAMONGA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT'S MOTION TO DISCONTINUE THE APPOINTMENT OF THE SPECIAL REFEREE; JOINDER IN THE RESPONSE FILED BY THE SPECIAL REFEREE Date: August 21, 2008 Time: 2:00 p.m.		
18 19	Dept.: R-8 COMES NOW THE CHINO BASIN WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT (CBWCD) and		
20	submits the following Opposition to Cucamonga Valley Water District's Motion to Discontinue the		
21	Appointment of the Special Referee and joinder in the response to said motion filed by the Special		
22	Referee.		
23	I		
24	JOINDER IN THE RESPONSE FILED BY THE SPECIAL REFEREE		
25	The Cucamonga Valley Water District has filed a Motion to Discontinue the Appointment of		
26	the Special Referee, Anne Schneider, and her technical expert, Joe Scalmanini. The Special Referee		
27	has filed a Response to the motion in which the Special Referee sets forth the history of her		
28	appointment by the court, the varied duties that the court has asked her to undertake and why a Special		

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Referee is still necessary. The Special Referee also responded to the claims of conflict of interest leveled against her in the motion. CBWCD agrees with and joins in the Special Referee's response and incorporates the response in its entirety as if set forth herein.

II

THE COURT SHOULD DENY THE MOTION BECAUSE THE SPECIAL REFEREE'S OVERSIGHT OF THE WATERMASTER IS STILL NECESSARY

If the motion is granted, then the Chino Basin Watermaster would in effect operate as the liaison with and as an extension of the court in implementing the judgment and the Peace I and Peace II Accords.

With regard to the authority of the court to make changes in the appointment of the Special Referee, it is clear that the court does have that general authority. Paragraph 15 of the judgment states that the court reserved full jurisdiction, power and authority as to all matters contained in the judgment except for certain items that are not relevant to this motion. The purpose for the continuing jurisdiction was to allow the court to make any further or supplemental orders necessary for "interpretation, enforcement or carrying out of this judgment, and to modify, amend or amplify any of the provisions of this judgment." Furthermore, Paragraph 31 of the judgment provides that all actions and decisions of the Watermaster would be subject to de novo review by the court.

In order to exercise its continuing jurisdiction, the court has authority under C.C.P. § 639(a) to appoint a Special Referee as follows:

- "(a) When the parties do not consent, the court may upon the written motion of any party, or of its own motion, appoint a referee in the following cases pursuant to the provisions of subdivision (b) of Section 640:
 - (3) When a question of fact, other than upon the pleadings, arises upon motion or otherwise, in any stage of the action.
 - (4) When it is necessary for the information of the court in a special proceeding."

The court relied upon C.C.P. § 639 in making the original appointment of Anne Schneider as

the Special Referee. This is consistent with the holding in City of Pasadena v. City of Alhambra (1949) 33 Cal. 2d 908, 917 in which the court recognized the need for independent expert advice and assistance in water law cases.

In reviewing the pleadings in this case, it is clear that over the last eleven years, the court has shown a specific desire to utilize the services of a Special Referee along with the referee's technical expert in monitoring the actions of the Watermaster and Advisory Committee. The court has clearly shown an intent that it wanted to rely upon a completely <u>independent</u> examination and analysis of the actions taken by the Watermaster in evaluating compliance with the terms of the judgment and the Peace I and II Accords.

One reason why the court should continue with a Special Referee who is not associated with the Watermaster is that the Watermaster is not truly independent from the entities that oversee it and are taking water out of the basin. The Watermaster organizational structure is composed of representatives from the three Pools and the Advisory Committee has specific oversight and control over the actions of the Watermaster under the terms of the judgment. In fact, with respect to the discretionary functions of the Watermaster, including the preparation and implementation of the OBMP, the Advisory Committee can mandate that the Watermaster take certain actions by an 80 percent vote. If Watermaster disagrees, its only recourse is to bring a motion before the court. The Watermaster is structurally missing a balanced system in that the power lies with the Appropriative Pool which has the largest players. The Special Referee provides balance to this unbalanced structure. Since the organizational structure of the Watermaster is comprised of representatives of the various special interests in the basin, it will never be able to be truly independent of those special interests and can not be a substitute for the role that the Special Referee is currently filling as an advisor to and an extension of the court in interpreting and implementing the terms of the judgment and the Peace I and II Accords.

The effect of granting this motion would be to have Watermaster staff and its retained consultants be the principal source of information provided to the court with respect to implementing the terms of the judgment and the Peace I and II Accords. There would be no independent review process that is now provided by the Special Referee. CBWCD does not believe that would be a viable option for the court. The Special Referee receives its direction from the court and not the Watermaster.

The staff and consultants employed by the Watermaster would receive their direction from the Watermaster Board and the Advisory Committee. The Watermaster would have the ability to control the flow of information to the court and the balance provided by the Special Referee and her expert consultant in their independent review would be lost. Therefore, the implementation of the judgment and the Peace I and II Accords could be compromised.

The purpose of the appointment of a Special Referee was to provide the court with independent analysis and recommendations that the court could then consider in making its decision on the particular issues involved. This purpose would be frustrated if the Special Referee is removed because the Watermaster and its staff and consultants can not provide the same unbiased analysis for the court.

While the Watermaster has made commendable progress in recent years in implementing the judgment and the Peace I and II Accords, it has done so under the watchful eye of the Special Referee and the court. (As an example, please see the Comments of the Special Referee on the Watermaster's compliance with Conditions Subsequent No. 1 through 8 in the 12/21/07 order.)

Condition Subsequent No. 8 requires completion of an updated Recharge Master Plan and successful completion is critical for the Watermaster to return to a safe yield-based management of the basin. The projected decline in the basin's safe yield makes this a daunting challenge with all of the basin's special interests wanting to protect themselves. The balance provided by the Special Referee's review of the work done by the Watermaster is a critical component in the successful completion of this project.

III

CONCLUSION

The most powerful argument in favor of retaining a Special Referee is that the Watermaster, as an institution, lacks balance. The largest producers have a disproportionate share of the policy making power in the way the Watermaster is structured. Prior to 1997, it was this lack of balance that made the Watermaster dysfunctional and incapable of making difficult policy decisions and fully implementing the judgment. In order to make sure that the judgement was faithfully administered and the public interest served, a counterbalance to the producers was necessary. It was only after the court appointed the Special Referee that significant progress was made in implementing the judgment. The current

work of the Watermaster, including the oversight by the Special Referee, should be praised for the productive activities over the last several years. The system as currently constructed has provided a balanced policy making process that has paid big dividends for all the participants and the public. Upsetting the current balance threatens that successful formula and should be rejected by the court. To do otherwise could result in the Watermaster becoming once again ineffective and dysfunctional.

Because of the significance of the issues before the court now and in the future, the court should continue to utilize the services of a Special Referee in reviewing and overseeing the work of the Watermaster and its staff and consultants.

DATED: August 7, 2008

BRUNICK, McELHANEY & BECKETT

William J. Brunick Steven K. Beckett

Attorneys for CHINO BASIN WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

PROOF OF SERVICE 1 2 STATE OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO 3 I, the undersigned, am employed in the aforesaid County, State of California; I am over the age of 18 years, not a party to this action and am employed at 1839 Commercenter West, San Bernardino, California 92408. 5 On August 7, 2008, I served the following document: OPPOSITION OF THE CHINO BASIN 6 WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT TO CUCAMONGA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT'S MOTION TO DISCONTINUE THE APPOINTMENT OF THE SPECIAL REFEREE; JOINDER IN THE RESPONSE FILED BY THE SPECIAL REFEREE on the interested parties in this action as follows: Janine Wilson Chino Basin Watermaster 9641 San Bernardino Road Rancho Cucamonga, California 91730 11 jwilson@cbwm.org 12 BY ELECTRONIC SERVICE to: jwilson@cbwm.org. Receipt of service was confirmed [XX] using the Return Receipt Requested feature of electronic mail system. 13 14 [XX](STATE) I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the above is true and correct. I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California, that the above is true and correct. Executed on August 7, 2008 at San Bernardino, California. 21

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CHINO BASIN WATERMASTER Case No. RCV 51010 Chino Basin Municipal Water District v. The City of Chino

PROOF OF SERVICE

I declare that:

I am employed in the County of San Bernardino, California. I am over the age of 18 years and not a party to the within action. My business address is Chino Basin Watermaster, 9641 San Bernardino Road, Rancho Cucamonga, California 91730; telephone (909) 484-3888.

On August 7, 2008 I served the following:

1)	OPPOSITION OF THE CHINO BASIN WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT TO CUCAMONGATURE VALLEY WATER DISTRICT'S MOTION TO DISCONTINUE THE APPOINTMENT OF THE SPECIAL REFEREE; JOINDER IN THE RESPONSE FILED BY THE SPECIAL REFEREE			
/_x <i>_l</i>	BY MAIL: in said cause, by placing a true copy thereof enclosed with postage thereon fully prepaid, for delivery by United States Postal Service mail at Rancho Cucamonga, California, addresses as follows: See attached service list: Mailing List 1			
	BY PERSONAL SERVICE: I caused such envelope to be delivered by hand to the addressee.			
/	BY FACSIMILE: I transmitted said document by fax transmission from (909) 484-3890 to the fax number(s) indicated. The transmission was reported as complete on the transmission report, which was properly issued by the transmitting fax machine.			
/_x_/	BY ELECTRONIC MAIL: I transmitted notice of availability of electronic documents by electronic transmission to the email address indicated. The transmission was reported as complete on the transmission report, which was properly issued by the transmitting electronic mail device.			
I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the above is true and				

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

Executed on August 7, 2008 in Rancho Cucamonga, California.

Alex Perez

Chino Basin Watermaster

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