

1 NOSSAMAN LLP
FREDERIC A. FUDACZ (SBN 50546)
2 ffudacz@nossaman.com
GINA R. NICHOLLS (SBN 270174)
3 gnicholls@nossaman.com
777 S. Figueroa Street, 34th Floor
4 Los Angeles, CA 90017
Telephone: 213.612.7800
5 Facsimile: 213.612.7801

**EXEMPT FROM FILING FEE
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6 Attorneys for CITY OF ONTARIO

7 *[Additional Parties on Following Pages]*

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9

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

10

FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

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12 CHINO BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER
DISTRICT,

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Plaintiff,

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vs.

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16 CITY OF CHINO, ET AL.,

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Defendants.

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Case No: RCVRS 51010

*Assigned for All Purposes to:
Honorable Stanford E. Reichert*

**DECLARATION OF SCOTT BURTON
IN SUPPORT OF OPPOSITION TO
AGRICULTURAL POOL'S MOTION
FOR ATTORNEY'S FEES**

[Concurrently Filed with Opposition to
Motion; Declaration of J. Bosler; Declaration
of G. Nicholls; Proposed Order]

Date: October 8, 2021

Time: 1:30 p.m.

Department: S35

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DECLARATION OF SCOTT BURTON ISO OPPOSITION TO AGRICULTURAL POOL'S MOTION FOR
ATTORNEY'S FEES

1 Thomas S. Bunn III (CSB #89502)
2 Lagerlof, LLP
3 155 N. Lake Ave., 11th Floor
4 Pasadena, CA 91101
5 (626) 793-9400

6 Attorneys for CITY OF POMONA

7 Thomas H. McPeters, Esq. (SBN 034300)
8 THMcp@aol.com
9 700 E. Redlands Blvd., Suite U-297
10 Redlands, CA 92373
11 Telephone: (909) 253-7730
12 Facsimile: (909) 253-7731

13 Attorney for SAN ANTONIO WATER COMPANY and FONTANA UNION WATER
14 COMPANY

15 ARTHUR G. KIDMAN, CAL. BAR NO. 61719
16 ANDREW B. GAGEN, CAL. BAR NO. 212257
17 KIDMAN GAGEN LAW LLP
18 2030 Main Street, Suite 1300
19 Irvine, CA 92614
20 Telephone: (714) 755-3100
21 agagen@kidmanlaw.com

22 Attorneys for MONTE VISTA WATER DISTRICT and MONTE VISTA IRRIGATION
23 COMPANY

24 BEST BEST & KRIEGER LLP
25 GENE TANAKA, Bar No. 101423
26 Gene.Tanaka@bbklaw.com
27 STEVE ANDERSON, Bar No. 186700
28 Steve.Anderson@bbklaw.com
2001 North Main St., Ste. 390
Walnut Creek, CA 94596
Telephone: (925) 977-3301

Attorneys for CUCAMONGA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

[Additional Parties on Following Page(s)]

1 ELLISON SCHNEIDER HARRIS & DONLAN LLP
ROBERT E. DONLAN (SNB 186185)
2 red@eslawfirm.com
SHAWNDA M. GRADY (SBN 289060)
3 sgrady@eslawfirm.com
2600 Capitol Avenue, Suite 400
4 Sacramento, CA 95816
Telephone: (916) 447-2166

5 Attorneys for JURUPA COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT
6

7 MARK D. HENSLEY, State Bar No. 142653
CITY ATTORNEY, CITY OF CHINO HILLS
8 mhensley@hensleylawgroup.com
ELIZABETH M. CALCIANO, State Bar No. 161080
9 ecalciano@hensleylawgroup.com
HENSLEY LAW GROUP
10 2600 W. Olive Avenue, Suite 500
Burbank, CA 91505
11 Tel: (818) 333-5120; Fax: (818) 333-5121

12 Attorneys for CITY OF CHINO HILLS
13

14 Jimmy L. Gutierrez
Jimmy L. Gutierrez Law Corporation
12616 Central Avenue
15 Chino, CA 91710
909 591 6336 Office
16 909 717 1100 Mobile
Jimmy@City-Attorney.com

17 Attorneys for CITY OF CHINO
18

19 RICHARDS, WATSON & GERSHON
A Professional Corporation
20 KYLE H. BROCHARD (BAR NO. 293369)
kbrochard@rwglaw.com
21 350 South Grand Avenue, 37th Floor
Los Angeles, California 90071
22 Tel: 213.626.8484
Fax: 213.626.0078

23 Attorneys for CITY OF UPLAND
24

25 *[Additional Parties on Following Page]*
26
27
28

1 JOHN J. SCHATZ, State Bar No. 141029
2 Attorney at Law
3 P.O. Box 7775
4 Laguna Niguel, CA 92607-7775
5 Tel: (949) 683-0398
6 Jschatz13@cox.net

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28 Attorney for APPROPRIATIVE POOL

1 **DECLARATION OF SCOTT BURTON**

2 I, Scott Burton, declare:

3 1. I am the Utilities General Manager for the City of Ontario (“Ontario”), a member
4 agency of the Appropriative Pool (“AP”) and a party in the above-captioned case. I have held
5 this position with Ontario for nine years. As the Utilities General Manager I hold overall
6 responsibility for Ontario’s water system and water resources, and wastewater system. In
7 connection with my management role for Ontario, I closely follow and regularly participate in
8 matters involving the Chino Basin Watermaster. I attend Watermaster meetings, including
9 meetings of the Watermaster Board of Directors, the Advisory Committee, and the Appropriative
10 Pool Committee. I currently serve as Vice-Chair of the Appropriative Pool Committee (“AP”). I
11 am well-familiar with matters involving the Watermaster and the AP. I have personal
12 knowledge of the matters set forth herein, and if called as a witness, I could and would
13 competently testify to the facts stated herein. I submit this declaration as evidence in opposition
14 to the Motion for Attorney’s Fees (“Motion”) filed by the Agricultural Pool Committee (“Ag
15 Pool”) on July 26, 2021, which I reviewed.

16 2. The AP has no opportunity to review the Ag Pool’s legal expenses, either before
17 or after payment (except as directed by the May 28, 2021 Court Order). The Ag Pool does not
18 submit any justification with its legal budget requests to Watermaster, nor does the Ag Pool
19 provide such information to the Advisory Committee or the AP. The annual Watermaster
20 budget includes a non-descriptive line item for “Ag Legal,” which lacks any details about how
21 the Ag Pool intends to spend the money and has historically been included in the Watermaster
22 budget for informational purposes only. Watermaster assesses the AP each year for Ag Pool
23 legal expenses based solely on the Ag Pool’s unilateral budget determination.

24 a. For fiscal year (“FY”) 2019-2020 (July 2019 through June 2020), the Ag
25 Pool initially budgeted \$300,000 for legal expenses. During the fiscal year, the Ag Pool overran
26 its legal budget twice. First, an additional \$63,314 was transferred to the legal budget. Further
27 overruns caused the Ag Pool to increase its legal budget again by \$165,694.75. The AP
28 objected both times. Including both increases, the Ag Pool’s total legal expense budget for FY

1 2019-2020 was \$529,009. This amount has been paid by the AP; however, \$161,070 of the
2 amount was paid into escrow and remains there pending resolution of the present dispute.

3 b. For FY 2020-2021 (July 2020 through June 2021), the Ag Pool budgeted
4 \$500,000 for legal expenses. \$217,821 of this amount was paid, including \$115,263.88 paid by
5 the AP and \$102,557.12 covered from Watermaster administration reserves that will need to be
6 paid from the AP or the Ag Pool. Attached hereto as **Exhibit "A"** is a true and correct copy of
7 a Watermaster Staff Report, dated February 11, 2021, which explains and confirms this
8 information.

9 3. Annual groundwater production by the Ag Pool has declined steadily since the
10 entry of the Judgment in 1978, as shown by **Exhibit "B"** attached hereto, which is a true and
11 correct copy of charts excerpted from Watermaster's 2020 State of the Basin Report. While the
12 Ag Pool has a water supply more than sufficient to meet its present needs, the AP does not have
13 such an assured supply of water from the Basin.

14 4. The Ag Pool initiated Storage Contests in 2017 to challenge applications for
15 Local Storage Agreements submitted by certain members of the AP, including Ontario.
16 Through the Storage Contests, the Ag Pool opposed these applications for local storage by
17 asserting, among other things, that water in storage accounts exceeds the safe storage capacity
18 of the Basin. Meanwhile, the Ag Pool has been advocating to obtain storage rights that it does
19 not hold under the Judgment and that, if obtained, would adversely affect the ability of AP
20 members to store water in the Basin.

21 5. I was shocked to learn from the Motion and supporting papers that Ag Pool
22 attorneys incurred fees to advise individual members of the Ag Pool about form letters sent by
23 Ontario to its agricultural (or "farm") customers regarding their contractual relationships with
24 Ontario. A true and correct example of the template for such letter is attached hereto as **Exhibit**
25 **"C."** I was personally copied on each of the form letters.

26 6. The letters explain a change made by Ontario to charges for recycled water
27 delivered by Ontario to its agricultural customers. This issue was unique to Ontario's
28 customers, which comprise only a subset of the Ag Pool's members. The letters reference rates

1 charged by Watermaster for replenishment assessments, as a benchmark for the amount of
2 Ontario's recycled water charges. The letters were not directed to the Ag Pool and did not
3 pertain to the Ag Pool.

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

6 Executed this 26th day of September, 2021, at Ontario, California.

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9 _____
10 Scott Burton

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EXHIBIT A

CHINO BASIN WATERMASTER

II. BUSINESS ITEMS (OAP)

B. STATUS OF AGRICULTURAL POOL EXPENSES AND ASSESSMENTS AND AP NONPAYMENT



CHINO BASIN WATERMASTER

9641 San Bernardino Road, Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730
Tel: 909.484.3888 Fax: 909.484.3890 www.cbwm.org

PETER KAVOUNAS, P.E.
General Manager

STAFF REPORT

DATE: February 11, 2021

TO: OAP Committee Members

SUBJECT: Status of Overlying (Agricultural) Pool Expenses and Assessments and Appropriative Pool Member Agencies' Nonpayment (Discussion Only) (Business Item II.B.)

SUMMARY:

Issue: The Status of Agricultural Pool Expenses and Assessments and Appropriative Pool Members' Nonpayment has been added to the agenda at the request of the OAP Attorney.

Recommendation: Information only.

Financial Impact: No financial impact.

Future Consideration

Agricultural Pool – February 11, 2021: Information only

ACTIONS:

Agricultural Pool – February 11, 2021:

Watermaster's function is to administer and enforce provisions of the Judgment and subsequent orders of the Court, and to develop and implement an Optimum Basin Management Program

BACKGROUND

The FY 2020/21 invoices for assessments and expenses were issued on November 19, 2020. According to the Judgment, assessments are due 30-days from invoice date.

The invoices issued to the AP included \$109,000 for OAP meeting and special project expenses within the overall Watermaster Admin budget assessments, and \$500,000 for OAP legal services.

DISCUSSION

As of Monday, December 21, 2020 all AP members had made full payments of their FY 2020/21 Watermaster assessments which includes the \$109,000 for OAP meeting and special project expenses. Seven AP members did not pay their portion of the FY 2020/21 invoice toward the \$500,000 for OAP legal services. Of the \$500,000 amount invoiced for OAP legal services, \$115,263.88 has been received by Watermaster as of December 21, 2020, while the amount of \$384,736.12 remains currently outstanding (Attachment 1).

The OAP legal services invoices received for service periods July 2020 through December 2020 are \$248,315. The amount of \$217,821 has been paid, while the amount of \$30,494 remains unpaid, since the amount collected (\$115,263.88) is less than the amount invoiced (\$248,315.00).

The total funds collected to date for the OAP legal services are \$115,263.88 and total payments issued to date for OAP legal services is \$217,821. As a result of the timing difference between OAP Legal Counsel invoices and payments pursuant to Watermaster invoices, the balance of \$102,557.12 ($\$217,821 - \$115,263.88 = \$102,557.12$) has been funded from the Watermaster administration reserves, which will require payment to replenish the reserve from the AP or OAP.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Status of FY 2020-2021 Invoicing Receipts

Assessments FY 2020/21
Due 12/21/20

As of: 02/01/2021

PRODUCER	Invoice Number	Invoiced 11/19/2020	Amount Paid	Amount Still Due	Date Paid	Deposit Verified	ACH or Wire Payment	Confirm email sent
Arrowhead Mtn Spring Water Co.	AP21-01	\$31,737.52	\$31,737.52	\$-00	1/14/2021	✓		1/14/2021
Chino Hills, City of	AP21-02	\$250,779.55	\$250,779.55	\$-00	12/2/2020	✓	✓	12/2/2020
Chino, City of	AP21-03	\$683,578.70	\$592,696.17	\$(90,882.53)	12/21/2020	✓		12/21/2020
Cucamonga Valley Water District	AP21-04	\$711,668.90	\$690,538.68	\$(21,130.22)	12/21/2020	✓		12/21/2020
Fontana Union Water Company	AP21-05	\$201,020.66	\$172,373.05	\$(28,647.61)	12/21/2020	✓		12/21/2020
Fontana Water Company	AP21-06	\$227,004.96	\$227,004.96	\$-00	12/15/2020	✓		12/15/2020
Golden State Water Company	AP21-07	\$75,010.87	\$75,010.87	\$-00	12/18/2020	✓	✓	12/18/2020
Jurupa Community Services District	AP21-08	\$1,820,140.36	\$1,687,450.02	\$(132,690.34)	12/18/2020	✓		12/21/2020
Marygold Mutual Water Company	AP21-09	\$91,376.58	\$91,376.58	\$-00	12/7/2020	✓		12/7/2020
Monte Vista Irrigation Company	AP21-10	\$21,279.92	\$18,247.32	\$(3,032.60)	12/17/2020	✓		12/21/2020
Monte Vista Water District	AP21-11	\$784,365.40	\$761,880.08	\$(22,485.32)	12/17/2020	✓		12/21/2020
Niagara Bottling, LLC	AP21-12	\$1,588,595.76	\$1,588,595.76	\$-00	12/10/2020	✓	✓	12/10/2020
Nicholson Trust	AP21-13	\$125.96	\$125.96	\$-00	12/15/2020	✓		12/15/2020
Norco, City of	AP21-14	\$6,346.05	\$6,346.05	\$-00	12/15/2020	✓		12/15/2020
Ontario, City of	AP21-15	\$1,852,456.66	\$1,766,589.16	\$(85,867.50)	12/18/2020	✓	✓	12/21/2020
Pomona, City of	AP21-16	\$1,144,835.58	\$1,144,835.58	\$-00	12/22/2020	✓		12/22/2020
San Antonio Water Company	AP21-17	\$106,488.47	\$106,488.47	\$-00	12/4/2020	✓		12/4/2020
San Bernardino, County of (Shooting Park)	AP21-18	\$6,624.93	\$6,624.93	\$-00	12/4/2020	✓		12/4/2020
Santa Ana River Water Company	AP21-19	\$55,812.27	\$55,812.27	\$-00	12/15/2020	✓		12/15/2020
Upland, City of	AP21-20	\$317,641.71	\$317,641.71	\$-00	12/15/2020	✓		12/15/2020
West End Consolidated Water Co.	AP21-21	\$29,798.67	\$29,798.67	\$-00	12/15/2020	✓		12/15/2020
West Valley Water District	AP21-22	\$20,786.40	\$20,786.40	\$-00	12/2/2020	✓		12/2/2020
TOTAL PRODUCTION AND EXCHANGES		\$10,027,475.88	\$9,642,739.76	\$(384,736.12)				

Total Assessment Invoicing:	↑	<u>Appropriative</u> \$10,027,475.88	100.0%
Total Assessments (Received):		\$9,642,739.76	96.2%
Total Assessments (Outstanding):		\$384,736.12	3.8%

Assessments FY 2020/21
Due 12/21/20

PRODUCER	Invoice Number	Invoiced 11/19/2020	Date Paid	Deposit Verified	ACH or Wire Payment	
9W Halo Western OpCo L.P.	NAG21-01	\$10,383.09	12/22/2020	✓	✓	12/22/2020
Aqua Capital Management LP	NAG21-02	\$320.49	12/1/2020	✓		12/1/2020
California Speedway Corp. (Auto Club)	NAG21-03	\$43,477.71	12/15/2020	✓		12/15/2020
California Steel Industries, Inc. (CSI)	NAG21-04	\$107,725.78	12/15/2020	✓	✓	12/15/2020
City of Ontario, Non-Ag	NAG21-05	\$157,787.39	12/18/2020	✓	✓	12/21/2020
County of San Bernardino, (Chino Airport)	NAG21-06	\$4,040.64	12/4/2020	✓		12/4/2020
General Electric Co. (GE)	NAG21-07	\$4,259.35	12/10/2020	✓	✓	12/10/2020
Genon California South, LP	NAG21-08	\$172.27	12/10/2020	✓		12/10/2020
Hamner Park Associates (Swan Lakes MHP)	NAG21-09	\$31,997.36	12/11/2020	✓		12/11/2020
Monte Vista Water District, Non-Ag	NAG21-10	\$1,604.28	12/15/2020	✓		12/15/2020
San Antonio Winery	NAG21-11	\$22,684.27	2/1/2021	✓		2/1/2021
Space Center Mira Loma Inc.	NAG21-12	\$9,519.24	12/21/2020	✓	✓	12/21/2020
TAMCO	NAG21-13	\$2,235.14	11/23/2020	✓	✓	11/24/2020
TOTAL PRODUCTION AND EXCHANGES		\$396,207.01				

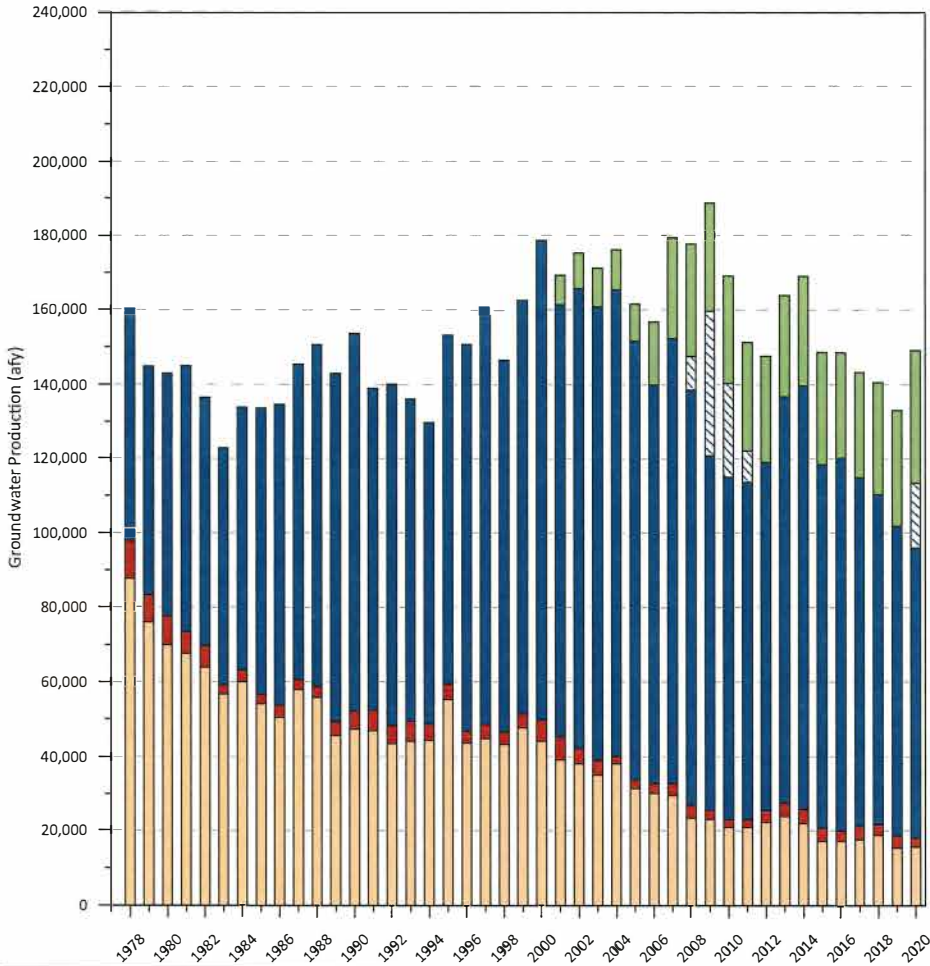
Total Assessment Invoicing:	↑	<u>Non-Ag</u> \$396,207.01	100.0%
Total Assessments (Received):		\$396,207.01	100.0%
Total Assessments (Outstanding):		\$-00	0.0%

Due 12/21/20

Grand Total Assessment Invoicing:	\$10,423,682.89	100.0%
Grand Total Assessments (Received):	\$10,038,946.77	96.3%
Grand Total Assessments (Outstanding):	\$384,736.12	3.7%

EXHIBIT B

3-2a
Groundwater Production by Pool in the Chino Basin with
Agricultural Pool Production Amounts from Watermaster Database
by Fiscal Year



3-2b
Groundwater Production by Pool in the Chino Basin with
Agricultural Pool Production Amounts from the Chino Basin Model Prior to 2002
by Fiscal Year

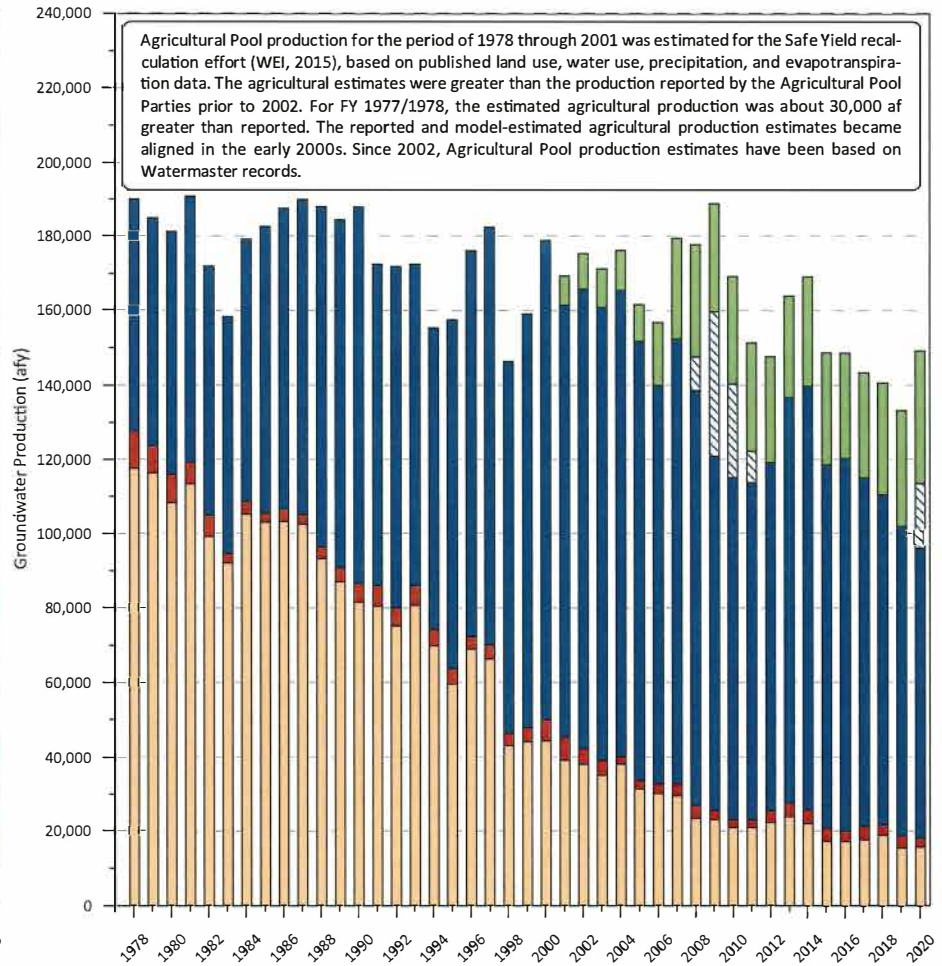


EXHIBIT C

CITY OF



ONTARIO

ONTARIO MUNICIPAL UTILITIES COMPANY

PAUL S. LEON
MAYOR

SCOTT OCHOA
CITY MANAGER

DEBRA DORST-PORADA
MAYOR PRO TEM

SHEILA MAUTZ
CITY CLERK

ALAN D. WAPNER
JIM W. BOWMAN
RUBEN VALENCIA
COUNCIL MEMBERS

May 6, 2020

JAMES R. MILHISER
TREASURER

SCOTT BURTON
UTILITIES GENERAL MANAGER

RE: RECYCLED WATER SERVICE LETTER AGREEMENT

Dear Farmer of "Farm Name",

The City of Ontario ("City") is writing this letter to provide notice that a change under the Recycled Water Service Letter Agreement ("Letter Agreement") will be initiated. Currently, in lieu of payment required in Paragraph 5 of the Letter Agreement, Farmer of "Farm Name" grants an annual assignment of water rights to the City in an amount equivalent to the volume of recycled water supplied. Due to circumstances described below, the City is electing to temporarily or permanently suspend acceptance of such assignment of water rights in lieu of cash payment.

Coinciding events have prompted the City to reevaluate Paragraph 6 of the Letter Agreement. Parties in the Chino Basin, such as the City, are approaching a limit on the amount of groundwater that can be stored as well as rising costs related to holding this water in storage. Additionally, the City is facing increasing costs related to the use of recycled water. For these reasons, the City is electing to charge the rate identified in Paragraph 5 of the Letter Agreement. The City will continue to monitor the evolving events described above and will notify you if circumstances change and we are able to accept an assignment of water rights in lieu of cash payment.

Effective July 1, 2020, the City will charge you a recycled water rate equal to the Chino Basin Watermaster's rate for replenishment assessments. This rate may be adjusted from time to time, and was most recently \$743 per acre foot for Fiscal Year 2018-19 per the Chino Basin Watermaster. You will be billed for your usage on a monthly basis with payment due the following month. If you do not agree to the charge for recycled water, and you would instead prefer to cancel your recycled water service, please notify the City by indicating below. Please confirm your selection in writing by marking the appropriate box below, signing where indicated and returning to the City by May 18, 2020. All notices should be sent to Courtney Jones at 1425 S. Bon View Ave., Ontario, CA 91761-4406.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (909) 395-2640 or cjjones@ontarioca.gov.

Sincerely,

Courtney Jones
Senior Associate Civil Engineer

Cc: Scott Burton, Utilities General Manager
Enclosed: Recycled Water Letter Agreement

Please mark your selection below and return to the City on or before May 18, 2020.

_____ I/we agree to the charges for recycled water pursuant to Paragraph 5 of the Recycled Water Service Letter Agreement.

or

_____ I/we request a cancellation of the Recycled Water Service Letter Agreement.

By:
Its:

CHINO BASIN WATERMASTER

Case No. RCVRS 51010

Chino Basin Municipal Water District v. City of Chino, et al.

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 September 27, 2021 I served the following:

1. DECLARATION OF SCOTT BURTON IN SUPPORT OF OPPOSITION TO AGRICULTURAL POOL'S MOTION FOR ATTORNEY'S FEES

/X/ 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 correct.

Executed on September 27, 2021 in Rancho Cucamonga, California.



By: Janine Wilson
Chino Basin Watermaster

PAUL HOFER
CBWM BOARD MEMBER
11248 S TURNER AVE
ONTARIO, CA 91761

JEFF PIERSON
2 HEXAM
IRVINE, CA 92603

ALLEN HUBSCH
LOEB & LOEB LLP
10100 SANTA MONICA BLVD.
SUITE 2200
LOS ANGELES, CA 90067

Members:

Agnes Cheng	agnes.cheng@cc.sbcounty.gov
Al Lopez	alopez@wmwd.com
Alan Frost	Alan.Frost@dpw.sbcounty.gov
Alberto Mendoza	Alberto.Mendoza@cmc.com
Alfonso Ruiz	alfonso.ruiz@cmc.com
Allen W. Hubsch	ahubsch@loeb.com
Alma Heustis	alma.heustis@californiasteel.com
Alonso Jurado	ajurado@cbwm.org
Amanda Coker	acoker@cityofchino.org
Amanda Meere	Amanda.Meere@cao.sbcounty.gov
Amer Jakher	AJakher@cityofchino.org
Amy Bonczewski	ABonczewski@ontarioca.gov
Andrew Gagen	agagen@kidmanlaw.com
Andy Campbell	acampbell@ieua.org
Andy Malone	amalone@westyost.com
Angelica Todd	angelica.todd@ge.com
Angelo Simoes	Angelo.Simoes@linde.com
Anna Nelson	atruongnelson@cbwm.org
April Robitaille	arobitaille@bhfs.com
Armando Martinez	armartinez@fontana.org
Art Bennett	citycouncil@chinohills.org
Arthur Kidman	akidman@kidmanlaw.com
Ashok Dhingra	ash@akdconsulting.com
Ben Lewis	benjamin.lewis@gswater.com
Ben Peralta	bperalta@tvmwd.com
Benjamin M. Weink	ben.weink@tetrattech.com
Betty Anderson	banderson@jcsd.us
Betty Folsom	bfolsom@jcsd.us
Bill Schwartz	bschwartz@mvwd.org
Bob Bowcock	bbowcock@irmwater.com
Bob DiPrimio	rjdiprimio@sgvwater.com
Bob Feenstra	bobfeenstra@gmail.com
Bob Kuhn	bkuhn@tvmwd.com
Bob Kuhn	bgkuhn@aol.com
Bob Page	Bob.Page@rov.sbcounty.gov
Brad Herrema	bherrema@bhfs.com
Braden Yu	bradeny@cvwdwater.com
Braden Yu	Byu@ci.upland.ca.us
Brandon Howard	brahoward@niagarawater.com
Brenda Fowler	balee@fontanawater.com
Brent Yamasaki	byamasaki@mwdh2o.com
Brian Dickinson	bdickinson65@gmail.com
Brian Geye	bgeye@autoclubspeedway.com
Brian Lee	blee@sawaterco.com
Cameron Andreasen	memphisbelle38@outlook.com
Carmen Sierra	carmens@cvwdwater.com
Carol Boyd	Carol.Boyd@doj.ca.gov
Carolina Sanchez	csanchez@westyost.com
Casey Costa	ccosta@chinodesalter.org
Cassandra Hooks	chooks@niagarawater.com
Catharine Irvine	cirvine@DowneyBrand.com

Chad Blais	cblais@ci.norco.ca.us
Chander Letulle	cletulle@jcsd.us
Charles Field	cdfield@att.net
Charles Linder	Charles.Linder@nrgenergy.com
Charles Moorrees	cmoorrees@sawaterco.com
Chino Hills City Council	citycouncil@chinohills.org
Chris Berch	cberch@jcsd.us
Chris Diggs	Chris_Diggs@ci.pomona.ca.us
Christiana Daisy	cdaisy@ieua.org
Christofer Coppinger	ccoppinger@geoscience-water.com
Christopher M. Sanders	cms@eslawfirm.com
Christopher Quach	cquach@ontarioca.gov
Christopher R. Guillen	cguillen@bhfs.com
Cindy Cisneros	cindyc@cvwdwater.com
Cindy Li	Cindy.li@waterboards.ca.gov
Cinthia Heredia	Cinthia.Heredia@cmc.com
Courtney Jones	cjjones@ontarioca.gov
Craig Miller	CMiller@wmwd.com
Craig Stewart	craig.stewart@woodplc.com
Cris Fealy	cifealy@fontanawater.com
Dan Arrighi	darrighi@sgvwater.com
Dan McKinney	dmckinney@douglascountylaw.com
Daniel Bobadilla	dbobadilla@chinohills.org
Danny Kim	dkim@linklogistics.com
Dave Argo	daveargo46@icloud.com
Dave Crosley	DCrosley@cityofchino.org
David Aladjem	daladjem@downeybrand.com
David De Jesus	ddejesus@tvmwd.com
David Doublet	ddoublet@dpw.sbcounty.gov
David Huynh	dhuynh@cbwm.org
Dawn Martin	Dawn.Martin@cc.sbcounty.gov
Denise Garzaro	dgarzaro@ieua.org
Dennis Dooley	ddooley@angelica.com
Dennis Mejia	dmejia@ontarioca.gov
Dennis Williams	dwilliams@geoscience-water.com
Diana Frederick	diana.frederick@cdcr.ca.gov
Ed Means	edmeans@roadrunner.com
Edgar Tellez Foster	etellezfoster@cbwm.org
Eduardo Espinoza	EduardoE@cvwdwater.com
Edward Kolodziej	edward.kolodziej@ge.com
Elizabeth M. Calciano	ecalciano@hensleylawgroup.com
Elizabeth Skrzat	ESkrzat@cbwcd.org
Eric Fordham	eric_fordham@geopentech.com
Eric Garner	eric.garner@bbklaw.com
Eric Grubb	ericg@cvwdwater.com
Eric Papatkakis	Eric.Papatkakis@cdcr.ca.gov
Eric Tarango	edtarango@fontanawater.com
Erika Clement	Erika.clement@sce.com
Eunice Ulloa	eulloa@cityofchino.org
Evette Ounanian	EvetteO@cvwdwater.com
Frank Brommenschenkel	frank.brommen@verizon.net
Frank Yoo	FrankY@cbwm.org
Fred Fudacz	ffudacz@nossaman.com

Fred Galante fgalante@awattorneys.com
Gabby Garcia ggarcia@mvwd.org
Garrett Rapp grapp@westyost.com
Gene Tanaka Gene.Tanaka@bbklaw.com
Geoffrey Kamansky gkamansky@niagarawater.com
Geoffrey Vanden Heuvel geoffreyvh60@gmail.com
Gerald Yahr yahrj@koll.com
Gina Nicholls gnicholls@nossaman.com
Gino L. Filippi Ginoffvine@aol.com
Gracie Torres gtorres@wmwd.com
Greg Woodside gwoodside@ocwd.com
Gregor Larabee Gregor.Larabee@cdcr.ca.gov
Henry DeHaan Hdehaan1950@gmail.com
Irene Islas irene.islas@bbklaw.com
James Curatalo jamesc@cvwdwater.com
James Jenkins cnomgr@airports.sbcounty.gov
James McKenzie jmckenzie@dpw.sbcounty.gov
Jane Anderson janderson@jcsd.us
Janine Wilson JWilson@cbwm.org
Jasmin A. Hall jhall@ieua.org
Jason Marseilles jmarseilles@ieua.org
Jason Pivovarovoff JPivovarovoff@wmwd.com
Jayne Joy Jayne.Joy@waterboards.ca.gov
Jean Cihigoyenette Jean@thejclawfirm.com
Jeff Evers jevers@niagarawater.com
Jeff Mosher jmosher@sawpa.org
Jeffrey L. Pierson jpierson@intexcorp.com
Jennifer Hy-Luk jhyluk@ieua.org
Jessie Ruedas Jessie@thejclawfirm.com
Jim Markman jmarkman@rwglaw.com
Jim W. Bowman jbowman@ontarioca.gov
Jimmy Gutierrez - Law Offices of Jimmy Gutierrez

jimmylaredo@gmail.com
Jaime.medrano2@cdcr.ca.gov
jimmy@city-attorney.com
jchan@wvwd.org
joao.feitoza@cmc.com
jgraz4077@aol.com
JJoswiak@cbwm.org
jignacio@ieua.org
john.abusham@nrg.com
johnb@cvwdwater.com
jrharp@harperburns.com
johnhuitsing@gmail.com
jlopez@sarwc.com
customerservice@sarwc.com
jmendoza@tvmwd.com
jpartridge@angelica.com
jschatz13@cox.net
JThorntonPE@H2OExpert.net
Jose.A.Galindo@linde.com
jmswift@fontanawater.com
jaguilar@ieua.org

Jimmy Medrano jimmy@city-attorney.com
Joanne Chan
Joao Feitoza
Joe Graziano
Joe Joswiak
Joel Ignacio
John Abusham
John Bosler
John Harper
John Huitsing
John Lopez
John Lopez and Nathan Cole
John Mendoza
John Partridge
John Schatz
John Thornton
Jose A Galindo
Josh Swift
Joshua Aguilar

Justin Brokaw	jbrokaw@marygoldmutualwater.com
Justin Nakano	JNakano@cbwm.org
Justin Scott-Coe Ph. D.	jscottcoe@mvwd.org
Karen Williams	kwilliams@sawpa.org
Kathleen Brundage	kathleen.brundage@californiasteel.com
Keith Kramer	kkramer@fontana.org
Keith Person	keith.person@waterboards.ca.gov
Ken Waring	kwaring@jcsd.us
Kevin O'Toole	kotoole@ocwd.com
Kevin Sage	Ksage@IRMwater.com
Kimberly E. Leefatt	kleefatt@bhfs.com
Kristina Robb	KRobb@cc.sbcounty.gov
Kurt Berchtold	kberchtold@gmail.com
Kyle Brochard	KBrochard@rwglaw.com
Kyle Snay	kylesnay@gswater.com
Larry Cain	larry.cain@cdcr.ca.gov
Laura Mantilla	lmantilla@ieua.org
Lauren Harold	lharold@linklogistics.com
Linda Jadeski	ljadeski@wvwd.org
Lisa Lemoine	LLemoine@wmwd.com
Liz Hurst	ehurst@ieua.org
Marco Tule	mtule@ieua.org
Maria Ayala	mayala@jcsd.us
Maria Mendoza	mmendoza@westyost.com
Maribel Sosa	msosa@ci.pomona.ca.us
Marilyn Levin	marilyn.levin@doj.ca.gov
Mark D. Hensley	mhensley@hensleylawgroup.com
Mark Wildermuth	mwildermuth@westyost.com
Mark Wiley	mwiley@chinohills.org
Martin Cihigoyenetche	marty@thejclawfirm.com
Martin Rauch	martin@rauchcc.com
Martin Zvirbulis	mezvirbulis@sgvwater.com
Mathew C. Ballantyne	mballantyne@cityofchino.org
Matthew H. Litchfield	mlitchfield@tvmwd.com
May Atencio	matencio@fontana.org
Melissa L. Walker	mwalker@dpw.sbcounty.gov
mgarcia@ieua.org	mgarcia@ieua.org
Michael A. Blazevic	mblazevic@westyost.com
Michael Adler	michael.adler@mcmcnnet.net
Michael P. Thornton	mthornton@tkeengineering.com
Michelle Licea	mlicea@mvwd.org
Michelle Staples	mstaples@jacksontidus.law
Mike Gardner	mgardner@wmwd.com
Mike Maestas	mikem@cvwdwater.com
Moore, Toby	TobyMoore@gswater.com
MWDProgram	MWDProgram@sdcwa.org
Nadia Aguirre	naguirre@tvmwd.com
Natalie Costaglio	natalie.costaglio@mcmcnnet.net
Nathan deBoom	n8deboom@gmail.com
Neetu Gupta	ngupta@ieua.org
Nichole Horton	Nichole_Horton@ci.pomona.ca.us
Nick Jacobs	njacobs@somachlaw.com
Nicole deMoet	ndemoet@ci.upland.ca.us

Nicole Escalante	NEscalante@ontarioca.gov
Noah Golden-Krasner	Noah.goldenkrasner@doj.ca.gov
Parker Simon	psimon@bhfs.com
Paul Deutsch	paul.deutsch@woodplc.com
Paul Hofer	farmerhofer@aol.com
Paul Hofer	farmwatchtoo@aol.com
Paul S. Leon	pleon@ontarioca.gov
Penny Alexander-Kelley	Palexander-kelley@cc.sbcounty.gov
Pete Hall	rpetehall@gmail.com
Pete Hall	pete.hall@cdcr.ca.gov
Pete Vicario	PVicario@cityofchino.org
Peter Hettinga	peterhettinga@yahoo.com
Peter Kavounas	PKavounas@cbwm.org
Peter Rogers	progers@chinohills.org
Praseetha Krishnan	praseethak@cvwdwater.com
Rachel Avila	R.Avila@MPGLAW.com
Rachel Ortiz	rortiz@nossaman.com
Randy Visser	RVisser@sheppardmullin.com
Richard Anderson	horsfly1@yahoo.com
Rick Darnell	Richard.Darnell@nrgenergy.com
Rick Rees	richard.rees@woodplc.com
Rickey S. Manbahal	smanbahal@wvwd.org
Rita Pro	rpro@cityofchino.org
Robert C. Hawkins	RHawkins@earthlink.net
Robert DeLoach	robertadeloach1@gmail.com
Robert E. Donlan	red@eslawfirm.com
Robert Neufeld	robneu1@yahoo.com
Robert Wagner	rwagner@wbecorp.com
Ron Craig	Rcraig21@icloud.com
Ron LaBrucherie, Jr.	ronLaBrucherie@gmail.com
Ronald C. Pietersma	rcpietersma@aol.com
Ruben Llamas	rllamas71@yahoo.com
Ryan Shaw	RShaw@wmwd.com
Sally H. Lee	shlee@ieua.org
Sam Nelson	snelson@ci.norco.ca.us
Sam Rubenstein	srubenstein@wpcarey.com
Sandra S. Rose	directorrose@mvwd.org
Sarah Foley	Sarah.Foley@bbklaw.com
Scott Burton	sburton@ontarioca.gov
Scott Slater	sslater@bhfs.com
Seth J. Zielke	sjzielke@fontanawater.com
Shawnda M. Grady	sgrady@eslawfirm.com
Shivaji Deshmukh	sdeshmukh@ieua.org
Skylar Stephens	SStephens@sdewa.org
Sonya Barber	sbarber@ci.upland.ca.us
Sonya Zite	szite@wmwd.com
Stephanie Reimer	SReimer@mvwd.org
Stephen Deitsch	stephen.deitsch@bbklaw.com
Steve Kennedy	skennedy@bmklawplc.com
Steve M. Anderson	steve.anderson@bbklaw.com
Steve Nix	snix@ci.upland.ca.us
Steve Riboli	steve.riboli@sanantoniowinery.com
Steve Smith	ssmith@ieua.org

Steve W. Ledbetter, PE	sledbetter@tkeengineering.com
Steven Andrews Engineering	sandrews@sandrewsengineering.com
Steven Flower	sflower@rwglaw.com
Steven J. Elie	selie@ieua.org
Steven J. Elie	s.elie@mpglaw.com
Steven Popelar	spopelar@jcsd.us
Steven Raughley	Steven.Raughley@cao.sbcounty.gov
Susan Palmer	spalmer@kidmanlaw.com
Sylvie Lee	slee@ieua.org
Tamer Ahmed	tamer.ahmed@cdcr.ca.gov
Tammi Ford	tford@wmwd.com
Taya Victorino	tayav@cvwdwater.com
Teri Layton	tlayton@sawaterco.com
Terry Bettencourt	miles.bettencourt@cdcr.ca.gov
Terry Catlin	tcatlin@wfajpa.org
Tim Barr	tbarr@wmwd.com
Tim Kellett	tkellett@tvmwd.com
Timothy Ryan	tjryan@sgvwater.com
Toby Moore	TobyMoore@gswater.com
Todd Minten	tminten@sbcglobal.net
Tom Barnes	tbarnes@esassoc.com
Tom Bunn	TomBunn@Lagerlof.com
Tom Cruikshank	tcruikshank@linklogistics.com
Tom Harder	tharder@thomashardercompany.com
Tom McPeters	THMcP@aol.com
Tom O'Neill	toneill@chinodesalter.org
Toni Medell	mmedel@mbakerintl.com
Tony Long	tlong@angelica.com
Toyasha Sebbag	tsebbag@cbwcd.org
Tracy J. Egoscue	tracy@egoscuelaw.com
Van Jew	vjew@wwwd.org
Vanessa Aldaz	valdaz@cbwm.org
Vanessa Campos	VCampos@ontarioca.gov
Veronica Tristan	vtristan@jcsd.us
Veva Weamer	vweamer@westyost.com
Victor Preciado	Victor_Preciado@ci.pomona.ca.us
Vivian Castro	vcastro@cityofchino.org
Wade Fultz	Wade.Fultz@cmc.com
WestWater Research, LLC	research@waterexchange.com
William J Brunick	bbrunick@bmblawoffice.com
William Urena	wurena@angelica.com