FEE EXEMPT

1 2 3 4 5	TRACY J. EGOSCUE (SBN 190842) TARREN A. TORRES (SBN 275991) EGOSCUE LAW GROUP, INC. 3834 Pine Ave. Long Beach, CA 90807 Tel/Facsimile: (562) 988-5978 tracy@egoscuelaw.com tarren@egoscuelaw.com Attorneys for OVERLYING (AGRICULTURAL) POOL	
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8	STIDERIOR COTIRT OF	F THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
9		TY OF SAN BERNARDINO
	FOR THE COUNT	TOT SAN DEKNAKDINO
0	CHINO BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER	Case No. RCVRS 51010
2	DISTRICT,	Assigned for All Purposes to the
3	Plaintiff,	Honorable Stanford E. Reichert
4	V.	DECLARATION OF TRACY J. EGOSCUE IN SUPPORT OF
5 6 7 8	CITY OF CHINO et al., Defendants.	AGRICULTURAL POOL'S OPPOSITION TO CITY OF CHINO'S CORRECTED MOTION FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF ATTORNEYS FEES AND EXPENSES PAID TO THE AGRICULTURAL POOL AND OPPOSITION TO ONTARIO JOINDER
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8		1 IE IN SUPPORT OF AGRICULTURAL POOL'S

JOINDER

1. I am an attorney licensed to practice in the State of California. Based upon my own personal knowledge and experience, I can competently attest to the following facts.

2. I was admitted to the California State Bar in 1997.

I, Tracy J. Egoscue, declare as follows:

- 3. I am the President of the law firm Egoscue Law Group, Inc.
- 4. Egoscue Law Group, Inc. serves as legal counsel for the Chino Basin Overlying (Agricultural) Pool Committee (hereafter "Agricultural Pool") and this Declaration is made in support of the Agricultural Pool's Opposition to City of Chino's Corrected Motion For Reimbursement Of Attorney's Fees And Expenses Paid To The Agricultural Pool, and Agricultural Pool's Opposition to City of Ontario's Joinder to Chino's Motion.
- 5. On July 26, 2021, I filed the Agricultural Pool's Motion for Attorney's Fees requesting payment of the \$165,694.75 in dispute for fiscal year 2019/20.
- 6. I attended the November 5, 2021 hearing on the Agricultural Pool's Motion for Attorney's Fees where I argued in support of the motion. A certified copy of the November 5, 2021 transcript is attached hereto as **Exhibit A**.
- 7. On January 4, 2022, I filed the Agricultural Pool's Notice of Appeal of the Court's November 5, 2021 order (signed December 3, 2021).
- 8. All funds in escrow have been returned by Watermaster in accordance with the Court's December 3, 2021 order.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 24th day of January 2022 in the City of Long Beach and County of Los Angeles, State of California.

By: Tracy J. Goscus
TRACY J. GOSCUE

Exhibit A
Hearing Transcript
November 5, 2021

1 SAN BERNARDINO, CALIFORNIA, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2021 2 PM SESSION DEPARTMENT S-35 3 HONORABLE STANFORD REICHERT, JUDGE 4 5 APPEARANCES: For the Chino Basin Watermaster, SCOTT SLATER, 6 7 Attorney at Law, and BRADLEY HERREMA, Attorney at Law; for the Agricultural Pool, 8 9 TRACY EGOSCUE, Attorney at Law; for the City of Ontario, FREDERIC FUDACZ, Attorney at Law; 10 11 for the State of California Department of 12 Justice and Agricultural Pool, MARILYN LEVIN, Deputy Attorney General and CAROL BOYD, 13 14 Deputy Attorney General; for the Cucamonga 15 Valley Water District, STEVEN ANDERSON, 16 Attorney at Law; for the Jurupa Community 17 Services District, ROBERT DONLAN, Attorney 18 at Law, and SHAWNDA GRADY, Attorney at Law; 19 for the City of Pomona, THOMAS BUNN, Attorney 20 at Law; for the City of Ontario, SCOTT BURTON, 21 Attorney at Law; GINA NICHOLLS, Attorney at Law, 22 and CHRIS QUACH, Attorney at Law and 23 COURTNEY JONES, Attorney at Law; for the Inland 24 Empire Utilities Agency, JEAN CIHIGOYENETCHE, 25 Attorney at Law; ELIZABETH CALCIANO, Attorney

at Law, for the City of Chino Hills; for the

Monte Vista Water District and Monte Vista Water

District Irrigation Company, ANDREW GAGEN, Attorney

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1	at Law; for the Three Valleys Municipal
2	Water District, STEVEN KENNEDY, Attorney at Law;
3	JOHN SCHATZ, Attorney at Law, for the Appropriative
4	Pool; JIMMY GUTIERREZ, Attorney at Law, for the
5	City of Chino; for the City of San Bernardino,
6	STEPHANIE GUTIERREZ, Attorney at Law.
7	Also present are interested parties.
8	(Cathy Albritton, C.S.R., Official Reporter, C-7137)
9	THE COURT: Okay, so this is Judge Reichert. I'm
10	on the record now on the Watermaster case. So let me go
11	through the appearances on the record.
12	So let's start with Steven Anderson on behalf of
13	Cucamonga Valley Water District?
14	MR. ANDERSON: Present. Thank you, your Honor.
15	THE COURT: Thank you.
16	Chris Berch?
17	MR. BERCH: Present, your Honor, for the Jurupa
18	Community Services District.
19	THE COURT: Thank you.
20	Okay. Bob Bowcock?
21	MR. BOWCOCK: Present, your Honor.
22	THE COURT: Thank you.
23	Carol Boyd on behalf of the State of California?
24	MS. BOYD: Present, your Honor. Thank you.
25	THE COURT: Thank you.
26	Thomas Bunn on behalf of the City of Pomona?
27	Present, your Honor. Good afternoon.
28	THE COURT: Good afternoon.

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               Elizabeth Calciano on behalf of the City of Chino
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      Hills?
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               MS. CALCIANO: Present, your Honor.
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               THE COURT: Thank you.
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               Jean Cihigoyenetche on behalf of the Inland Empire
      Utilities?
 6
 7
               MR. CIHIGOYENETCHE: Present, your Honor. Thank
 8
      you.
 9
               THE COURT:
                           Thank you.
10
               Ron Craig on behalf of the City of Chino Hills?
11
               MR. CRAIG: Present, your Honor.
12
               THE COURT: Thank you.
13
               James Curatalo from Watermaster?
14
               MR. CURATALO: Present, your Honor. Thank you.
15
               THE COURT: Thank you.
16
               Robert Donlan on behalf of Jurupa Community
17
      Services?
18
               MR. DONLAN: Present, your Honor. Thank you.
19
               THE COURT: Ms. Egoscue?
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               MS. EGOSCUE: Present, your Honor. Thank you.
21
               THE COURT: On behalf of the Overlying Agricultural
22
      Pool -- that would be Agricultural Pool actually.
23
               And Eduardo Espinoza on behalf of Cucamonga Valley
24
      Water District?
25
               MR. ESPINOZA: I'm present, your Honor. Thank you.
26
               THE COURT:
                          Thank you.
27
               Mr. Fred Fudacz on behalf of the City of Ontario?
28
               MR. FUDACZ: Present, your Honor. Good afternoon.
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1	THE COURT: Good afternoon.
2	Andrew Gagen from Monte Vista Water District?
3	MR. GAGEN: I'm here, your Honor. Thank you.
4	THE COURT: Thank you.
5	Mike Gardner from Chino Basin Watermaster?
6	MR. GARDNER: Thank you, your Honor. I am present.
7	THE COURT: Thank you.
8	Brian Geye on behalf of the Chair of the Non Ag
9	Pool?
10	Mr. Brian? Geye?
11	THE JUDICIAL ASSISTANT: No check in.
12	THE COURT: Not here. Okay.
13	Mr. Gutierrez from the City of Chino?
14	MR. GUTIERREZ: Good afternoon, your Honor.
15	Present in the courtroom.
16	THE COURT: Thank you. Thank you very much.
17	Shawnda Grady from Jurupa Community Services?
18	MS. GRADY: Present, your Honor.
19	THE COURT: Thank you.
20	Alan Hubsch on behalf of the Non Ag Pool?
21	MR. HUBSCH: Alan Hubsch is present. Thank you.
22	THE COURT: Thank you.
23	David Jesus on behalf of the Watermaster?
24	Not present. Okay.
25	Courtney Jones on behalf of the City of Ontario?
26	
	MS. JONES: Present, your Honor. Thank you.
27	MS. JONES: Present, your Honor. Thank you. THE COURT: Thank you.
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      Municipal Water District?
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               MR. KENNEDY: Good afternoon, your Honor. Present.
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               THE COURT: Thank you.
               Marilyn Levin on behalf of the State of California?
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 5
               MS. LEVIN: Good afternoon, your Honor. Present.
 6
      Thank you.
 7
               Gina Nicholls on behalf of the City of Ontario?
               MS. NICHOLLS: Present, your Honor.
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 9
               THE COURT: Thank you.
               Jeff Pierson from Watermaster?
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11
               MR. PIERSON: Good afternoon, your Honor. Present.
12
      And I'm Vice Chair of your board and Chairman of the
13
      Advisory Committee and Vice Chair of the Overlying
14
      Agricultural Pool. Thank you.
15
               THE COURT: All right. Thank you, sir.
16
               And Chris Quach on behalf of the City of Ontario?
17
               MR. QUACH: Present, your Honor.
                                                Thank you.
18
               THE COURT: Justin Scott-Coe from Monte Vista Water
      District?
19
20
               MR. SCOTT-COE: Present, your Honor. Thank you.
21
               THE COURT: And Janine Wilson from Watermaster?
22
               MS. WILSON: Present, your Honor.
23
               THE COURT:
                           Thank you.
               Kyle Brochard on behalf of the City of Upland?
24
25
               MR. BROCHARD: Present, your Honor.
26
               THE COURT: And Scott Burton on behalf of the City
27
      of Ontario?
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               MR. BURTON: Present, your Honor.
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               THE COURT: Okay. And I will just ask, Steve Elie
 2
      from Watermaster?
 3
               No response.
               And Betty Folsom? Representing herself apparently.
 4
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      No answer.
                  Okay.
               Edgar Foster from Watermaster?
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 7
               MR. FOSTER: Present, your Honor.
               THE COURT:
 8
                           Thank you.
 9
               Mr. Herrema representing Watermaster?
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               MR. HERREMA: Good afternoon, your Honor.
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               THE COURT: Good afternoon.
12
               Pete Kavounas from Watermaster?
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               MR. KAVOUNAS: Good afternoon, your Honor.
14
      Kavounas present. Thank you.
15
               THE COURT:
                           Bob Kuhn from Chino Basin Watermaster?
16
               MR. KUHN: Present, your Honor.
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               THE COURT: Thank you.
18
               And let me keep rolling down here just to make sure
19
      I got everybody.
20
               Dawn Martin, County of San Bernardino present or
21
      not?
            Any response? No response.
22
               Stephanie Reimer from Monte Vista Water?
23
               No response.
24
               Christina Robb from City of Chino?
25
               No response.
26
               Mr. Schatz on behalf of the Appropriative Pool?
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               MR. SCHATZ: Good afternoon, your Honor.
28
               THE COURT: Thank you. Okay.
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And Mr. Schwartz from Monte Vista? Any response?
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      No.
               And Elsa Sham from City of Pomona, any response?
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      No.
               And Mr. Slater on behalf of Watermaster?
 5
               MR. SLATER: Yes, your Honor.
 6
 7
               THE COURT: Afternoon.
               Mr. Tanaka on behalf of the Cucamonga Valley Water
 8
      District?
 9
               No response.
10
               Anna Truong from -- actually a party? Ms. Truong?
11
12
      Any response?
               Your Honor, that's Anna Truong Nelson from
13
14
      Watermaster.
               THE COURT: Okay. Thank you. Got it.
15
               And Mr. Wildermuth, is he here today? No? Okay.
16
               All right. And then I've got Stephanie Gutierrez
17
      for the City of San Bernardino?
18
               MS. GUTIERREZ: Yes. Present, your Honor.
19
20
      you.
               THE COURT: Thank you.
21
22
               Anybody on the phone that -- for whom I need to
      take an appearance? Going once? Going twice? That's it.
23
               Anybody in the courtroom from whom I need to take
24
25
      an appearance but whom I've missed? Going once? Going
26
      twice? That's everybody. Okay.
               So we are here today on the motion for the attorney
27
      fees by the Aq Pool and The Court has read and considered
28
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the paperwork, briefing, and so forth.

It's your motion, Ms. Egoscue. Anything you want to add to the paperwork?

MS. EGOSCUE: Your Honor, it appears that you have quite a full docket this afternoon. I just briefly would like to address The Court with going to your order issued in May of this year, briefly. Your order indicated that the two sides, the two pools could meet to attempt to deal with the issue, and unfortunately that was unsuccessful.

I'd like The Court to understand on behalf of the Agricultural Pool that the Pool is ready and willing to adhere to the order of May, and in so doing did endeavor to enter into good faith negotiations with the Appropriative Pool before the motion was filed. Subsequent to the motion being filed, there were again attempts to settle this matter, and those were also unsuccessful. And this happened, Your Honor, all up until very recently attempts were made. So there were numerous attempts.

Pursuant to your order, the Agricultural Pool filed the Motion for Attorney Fees. The motion is fairly straight forward. We believe it adheres to not only your order but also the Code, and indicates that the construction of the contractual agreement, that you have further clarified with your order, has been adhered to. The contest that was filed and has not yet been adjudicated, the subject of that contest that was filed with Watermaster because as Your Honor is very aware, only Watermaster can adjudicate so to speak storage agreements.

The Agricultural Pool filed the contest. The Agricultural Pool was subject to a motion that in effect cut off the contest by the certain member agencies of the Appropriative Pool. However, the contest itself, as the papers reflect, was not adverse to the Appropriative Pool. So in following your order, Your Honor, we filed a motion on behalf of the Agricultural Pool with the -- not only the invoices properly redacted to protect attorney/client privilege, but also supported by a declaration filed by the attorney for the Agricultural Pool which is myself and the chair of the Agricultural Pool who testified on the record, your Honor, that the work that was performed was to the benefit of the Agricultural Pool.

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In closing, Your Honor, I'd like to reflect that to render an opinion contrary to what the Agricultural Pool is advocating would essentially take the Agricultural Pool out of a process of overseeing and providing input on storage This input and its oversight which is guaranteed not only by the judgment that indicated that storage agreements could be disputed, but also, your Honor, by the Peace Agreement and the Watermaster rules and regulations. Again, to reiterate, the contest was filed to the Watermaster in response to the Watermaster making an assignment of storage agreements that the Agricultural Pool The expenses that were incurred as a result were contested. appropriate. They were proper. They were for the benefit of the Agricultural Pool and we believe that the papers reflect that and provide more than sufficient evidence both

under your order and pursuant to the Code. Thank you, your Honor.

THE COURT: Thank you.

Who would like to speak on behalf of the Appropriate Pool?

MR. FUDACZ: Maybe I can lead off, your Honor, if you would.

THE COURT: Yes.

MR. FUDACZ: Fred Fudacz on behalf of the City of Ontario.

THE COURT: Go ahead, please.

MR. FUDACZ: Your Honor, I think it's abundantly clear that not withstanding Ms. Egoscue's statement, the Ag Pool hasn't complied with your May 28th court order.

That court order required in Paragraph 7 to provide the attorney fee bills to the Appropriative Pool before filing this motion. That was not done. And under Paragraph 8 of your order, your May 28 order, they were supposed to provide meaningful input as to the attorney's fees and provide the bills themselves minimally redacted so that both the Appropriative Pool and your Honor could review them in a meaningful way. That clearly wasn't done. For the two fiscal years in contention here, the 2019-2020 fiscal year, no fees at all, no legal bills at all were provided for the first six months.

For the rest of that fiscal year and the following fiscal year redactions were extensive. It just takes a quick glance at the bills to understand that, your Honor.

They're just blacked out. And we calculated that some 90 percent of the work that was presented at those bills was essentially redacted. So we don't know what was done. We don't know if what was done complies with your court order. We don't know how many hours were spent on tasks that worked in compliance with your court order. And, frankly, the Ag Pool acknowledges that they don't have to give us the bills in a meaningful way.

They cite the Syers case which obviously has nothing to do with the situation which we're faced with when The Court ordered the Ag Pool to present these legal bills in a meaningful way. That didn't happen. And we have a court order that excludes certain expenses which certainly wasn't the case of the Syers case. And on top of that, Syers involved extensive declarations where tasks were broken down into minute elements and specific times allocated to each such task.

Beyond that, perhaps most falling, the Ag Pool challenges the need to demonstrate that these legal fees were reasonable and necessary. Apparently they're arguing that we are supposed to pay for unreasonable and unnecessary legal expense. That isn't consistent with Civil Code 1770 which your court adopted as part of your May 28th order.

The Ag Pool was presented the straw man argument that somehow the Appropriative Pool is designed to preclude the Ag Pool from participating meaningfully in the Basin.

That simply isn't true. All we're saying is that as a matter of public policy, we need to know what they're doing.

As this court rightly pointed out, asking the Appropriative Pool to pay for these expenses without seeing the bills is a violation of due process and fundamental fairness. And these are public dollars we're talking about. We have a responsibility to the public to account for them. To do that without meaningful documentation flies in the face of public policy considerations.

And we're not saying they can't participate. All we're saying is "Give us the bills. Let us review them."

If you want to do something in secret and not provide the bills to us, you can go ahead and do that, but you got to do that on your own nickel. You've got to pay for it like the other pools do. This is a special circumstance where Your Honor's interpreted Section 5.4. And it's just a matter of who pays, not what the Pool can do.

And I should point out that in the last fiscal year -- excuse me while I catch a breath --

THE COURT: Sure.

MR. FUDACZ: -- the last fiscal year, we paid 1.8 million dollars in non legal expenses to support the operation of Watermaster that would have been assessed normally to the Ag Pool but for 5.4. That was done with no real commotion. Those expenses went through the extensive Watermaster review process and, you know, the public policy concerns about paying those expenses were met, but here we have a very different situation where we get no legal bills or bills that are redacted to the point of it's just not being intelligible.

So the time I think Your Honor is to bring this matter to a conclusion. The history of this controversy, I think, demands that. We filed this motion -- filed our own motion seeking clarification of 5.4 and what attorney's fees were to be paid or not way back in September of 2020. Prior to that we sent a letter. A number of -- Appropriative Pool members sent a letter to the Ag Pool requesting these very invoices. That request was refused. We met with Ag Pool representatives prior to filing our motion. We asked for the invoices. The invoices were not produced. Only then did we file our motion. And in opposition to that motion, there was no attempt on the Ag Pool to produce the invoices that are predicate under any rational understanding of 5.4 to pay that.

Your Honor sent us to mediation before

Judge Lichtman. The invoices were not presented at that

time. And finally The Court came out with an order in

May of 2021 that basically told the Ag Pool, you folks have

got to produce these invoices. You can redact them, but you

can't redact them to the point you can't understand what's

going on and that is what happened.

Thereafter, we engaged in good faith settlement talks with the Ag Pool. Again, requesting in those meetings the invoices. They weren't forthcoming. We sent a letter following onto that, again requesting the invoices in some meaningful way where we could evaluate what was done and what was appropriate and what might not be appropriate. We even offered to provide a continuance of the hearing which

was then set for October to allow that to happen. That was rebuffed.

As far as the storage contest not being adversarial is just kind of untenable. This is an independent proceeding. We have a hearing officer presented -- appointed, Mr. Buchholz (phonetic), who used to be the executive officer of the regional board. He is in position as a hearing officer for the contest between the Ag Pool and members of the Appropriative Pool. And the whole intent of that contest is to deprive Appropriative Pool members of their water. Water that is in storage or stored water that is sought to be transferred. We're talking about hundreds, if not millions -- hundreds of thousands if not millions of dollars of public monies.

This is certainly adversarial in a way that violates your court order. So what we're left with is an Ag Pool motion that seeks payment of all of the attorney fees for two fiscal years without presenting any substantial evidence, sufficient evidence, to support that payment. And what we'd ask The Court to do is in accordance with your order, Section 8, to render a decision effecting that order that was issued in May that the Ag Pool isn't entitled to payment for any of those fees for the reason they haven't supplied sufficient evidence, haven't provided the bills that back up the obligation to pay. Thank you.

THE COURT: Thank you.

Anyone else on the Appropriative Pool?

MR. GUTIERREZ: Yes, your Honor. Jimmy Gutierrez

from the City of Chino. I'd like to discuss benefit and detriment for a minute. Your court order highlights it, and I think it's important in this context because one issue of course is what Mr. Fudacz raised which is the invoices themselves. I think the more fundamental basic matter here is the services that the Ag Pool wants us to pay. Now it's clear that the Ag Pool can hire their lawyer, pay the lawyer whatever they want, ask the lawyer to do whatever they want. We have no desire or intent to interfere with that right. But it's a different story when we're being asked to pay for that. And I want to start off by talking just a minute about the judgment as the basis for the framework for understanding that none of these services that the Ag Pool requested benefitted the Ag Pool. Let me explain why.

Under the judgment, the Ag Pool has the absolute first right to the water in the basin to the tune of 82,000 acre feet a year. There's an assessment to that allocation to the Non Overlying Ag Pool. There's an allocation to the Appropriators. But because the Ag Pool has diminished due to the conversion of land for agricultural purposes to urban purposes which the Appropriators then hold the responsibility for serving. Because of that change, the Ag Pool produces less and less water. And what they don't produce under the judgment goes to the Appropriators. I think you know that. But the point here is that the Ag Pool gets all the water it needs. It gets all the water first. It suffers no detriment if there's a reduction in the Safe Yield because as you know the judgment requires the

Appropriative Pool to reduce its allocation if there's a reduction of Safe Yield. The Aq Pool does not suffer any loss if the safe yield is reduced unless of course the safe yield goes below 82,000 acre feet. But because they're producing so much less, it may not have a practical effect. So with that in mind, your Honor, let's talk about They're seeking services for -- excuse me -the contest. they're seeking payment for services to fund the contest and they state that the contest is not adverse to the Appropriators. In the declaration that Ms. Egoscue filed she attached as Exhibit A to her declaration the contest

that was filed by the Ag Pool in May of 2017.

And I want to read one sentence from that letter. (Reading:)

It's page 2, under the topic, Basis for Contest and it reads:

The Ag Pool contests the application for storage of excess carryover water by members of the Appropriative Pool in amounts as shown in the assessment package approved November 17 2016.

(End of reading.)

They're challenging the right of the Appropriators to have an agreement with Watermaster that's required under the judgment in order to be able to store the water that they don't use, use it for a future date or even selling it. That's the essence of the contest. And that's certainly

adverse to the Appropriators. But more than that, there is no need for the Agricultural Pool to contest it, and there is no benefit that the Agricultural Pool would get. And I will tell you why, because that first sentence says that they're contesting the amount that had already been approved in the assessment package of the prior year.

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What happened was in November of 2016, as usual, the Watermaster adopts what's called an assessment package. That assessment package deals with all of the amount of water in storage and it deals with all of the finances of the pools. And in that assessment package, there was a description of the amount of water that every Appropriator had in storage, either as excess carryover water or as supplemental water. An Exhibit C to -- excuse me --Attachment C to Exhibit A contains the Watermaster staff report. And what's clear from reading the documents is that the amount of water that each Appropriator had carried over and that each Appropriator had acquired supplemental water was tracked carefully by Watermaster every year even though they didn't enter into an agreement. But it was tracked every year and it was described in the assessment package. And that assessment package really was the final determination of what storage rights every party had then.

Now what's also interesting is that the members of the Appropriative Pool -- excuse me -- the Ag Pool who sat on the advisory committee voted to approve that assessment package and the amount of water in storage. And they did not oppose it within the time permitted for them to do under

the judgment. Therefore, the determination of the amount of water that every Appropriator had in storage had become final. And I say that because the contest could not go forward for the simple reason that it already been determined, and that the Ag Pool had waived its right to contest it.

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Now, one thing further, in May 2017, I filed a letter with the Watermaster Board asking them to make this determination. The Watermaster Board did not act on it, and it hasn't been acted on since. But the point here, your Honor, is that there wasn't any need to challenge it because they couldn't win. They already approved it. They already waived their right. So all of this money that they've expended and they want us to pay challenging these agreements would not have produced anything of benefit to them and it would absolutely have been detrimental to the Appropriators. Conceivably the Appropriators would not have been able to store that water, would not be able to use it, would not be able to sell it. And the Aq Pool didn't have a right to that water. It could have benefitted from it because of what I said about their rights under the judgment.

Now let me go to the services for the 2020 lease calculation. That's another area of legal services that the Ag Pool requests the Appropriative Pool to pay. They've hired consultants. They did a lot of legal work, and I don't know if you recall, but Watermaster filed a motion to set the Safe Yield for 2020 and after. And the Ag Pool

filed a response, but in effect the Aq Pool had asked for a retroactive determination that the Safe Yield for the period of 2010 through 2020 should be set at 125,000 acre feet versus the 135 acre feet that this court had already established. The City of Chino opposed that on the basis of collateral estoppel. The Ag Pool had argued that there was an over production. The Court found there was no over production. Why am I raising this? I'm raising it because that effort on the Safe Yield Reset, if successful, would have produced a deficit for each Appropriator because if the Safe Yield had been reduced from 125 to 135 after the Appropriators for ten years had relied 135,000 allocation every Appropriator would have owed back the water to the tune of 125,000 acre feet total to the basin. So that act was adverse and potentially detrimental to the Appropriators. And, again, it would not have benefitted the Ag Pool because of what I said earlier. The Ag Pool gets all the water it needs first. It suffers no loss unless the Safe Yield goes below 82,000 acre feet. And perhaps that's not that clear to The Court from the papers, but I think if you read Exhibit A, they're fairly short documents, you'll clearly see that what I've stated about the contest does not benefit the Ag Pool and would be detrimental to the Appropriators as well as the efforts they made on the 2020 Safe Yield Reset. Their challenge to Watermaster was not only should you deal with the 2020 Reset, but you should go back and redo the 2010 Reset. That's all I have to add, your Honor.

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THE COURT: Thank you.

Any further argument in opposition of the motion?

Okay, let me go back to Ms. Egoscue. It's your motion. You get the last word.

MS. EGOSCUE: Thank you, your Honor. I go to your order. Your order specifically says, on Page 8, that the discussion that we are having today, the subject of the pending motion is the special assessment of \$165,000. As the papers reflect, the Appropriative Pool has withheld payment post this dispute that you clearly directed us to bring to your attention. So they have refused to pay and they're here before you saying that your order precludes them or allows them to ignore that the 5.4 contractual obligation that you clearly ruled they could not ignore.

where you clearly say in Paragraph 5 that the ruling of the court is for the specific attorney fee dispute between the two pools. It is not intended to have any general effect on any other party or pool and does not give the Appropriative Pool any legal basis to object to any asked effect or any other budget items. So all these other issues are noise. They are supposed to attest to the \$165,000 which was the subject of the motion. The Agricultural Pool provided the invoices subsequent to that, properly redacted to protect attorney/ client privilege. However, also providing a declaration of support.

Moving forward, your Honor. Should the

Appropriative Pool actually follow your order and begin to pay for the 5.4 contractual obligation, then the Agricultural Pool is prepared to provide invoices that are completely unredacted which has been expressed on numerous times to the Appropriative Pool. So I will ask The Court to ignore the rest of this that has to do with the Safe Yield whether or not the Agricultural Pool is acting to the benefit of the pool.

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If Your Honor would like to have a subsequent hearing regarding the contest and regarding why the Agricultural Pool not only filed a contest that hasn't been adjudicated so all of the issues that were brought up by opposing counsel are relevant. The evidence is not before Your Honor. It's not part of the record, and it is completely irrelevant. And quite frankly their characterization of the contest is offensive. If, Your Honor would like to have an evidentiary hearing regarding both the contest, what is happening with storage, and the Safe Yield Reset which as Your Honor understands was as a result of the massive epic drought the basin is undergoing, the Agricultural Pool would be more than happy to have that hearing.

Regardless of all of the noise, the motion regarding the 165,000 and some change that has been properly supported, it is not about the subsequent years that they have refused to pay in violation of the court order. And the Agricultural Pool requests relief for this quite frankly blatant attempt to shut down the Agricultural Pool. These

arguments should be obvious, Your Honor.

In conclusion, if you order anything to the contrary as to what the Agricultural Pool is requesting, anything that the Agricultural Pool does moving forward will be considered adverse to the Appropriative Pool and therefore you've effectively rendered the Agricultural Pool and its right pursuant to the judgment and the Peace Agreement irrelevant. Thank you very much, your Honor.

THE COURT: Any further argument?

Going once? Going twice? Submitted. Give me a short recess. I'll be right back.

(A short recess was held.)

THE COURT: Back on the record. The Court rules as follows:

The Court denies the motion in -- almost in its entirety because the fees and costs claimed in the billing were either completely adverse or The Court did -- could not determine the meaning because of the heavy redaction or they do not -- for that reason. The Court was quite clear in its order that the redactions not deny due process insofar as forcing the party to pay a bill it has not seen. And the redactions in the bills as set forth in my order on page 7, The Court found redactions to be so extensive to make most of the bills meaningless for review by the opposing counsel and a determination by The Court. The Court only found the billing for which The Court could make a determination that they were not adverse or as follows -- or so heavily redacted as to be meaningless or as follows: Give me just a

moment.

It is a total of \$10,149.50, and I will list them out. This has to do with the mediation. On October -- I'm sorry -- December 3, there was a charge for researching a list of mediators, \$687. On December 4, there was a preparation of the mediation brief, \$750. On December 7 -- these are all 2020 -- there was a review of the mediation e-mail for mediation review of the e-mail from the mediator and scheduling a teleconference, \$1375.

On December 7, there was a review and edits to the mediation brief, \$525. On December 9, there was updates to the proposed mediator list, \$75. On December 10, there was a teleconference with the mediator, the mediation case manager, \$1375. Then on December 11, the mediation hearing itself, \$3712.50. Then December 15, a draft mediation statement to the court, \$825. And December 28, a review of the draft mediation fees briefed to the court, another \$825. When I add those all up, it's \$10,149.50.

Yes, Ms. Egoscue?

MS. EGOSCUE: Your Honor, you had ordered previously that the Agricultural Pool would have to assume its own costs of mediation. Therefore, the papers did not request reimbursement from those costs. And that's also why Your Honor, that was clearly reflected in the papers.

THE COURT: Thank you. Actually, I'd forgotten that.

MS. EGOSCUE: Yes. As much as I hate to point out further defeat on behalf of the part of my client, I did not

want you to make that clear error based upon a previous ruling.

THE COURT: Thank you. I do remember that now. I confess among all my other activities, that aspect of the Court's previous rulings, I'd simply forgotten. I appreciate your highly credible and professional response, Ms. Egoscue. Thank you very much. So the motion is denied in its entirety.

That's it for today. Thank you.

MS. EGOSCUE: Thank you, your Honor.

MR. SLATER: Your Honor, if I might just, as a matter of scheduling, making sure we get on your calendar, we have a piece of -- hopefully, it will be --

MS. EGOSCUE: Why don't you come use this microphone.

THE COURT: Oh, yes. Thanks, Ms. Egoscue.

MR. SLATER: Thank you, your Honor. It's unusual we don't have anything to say. So just on the item of calendaring, as you'll remember from the Skinny Storage discussion, we were going to have some rules and regulations which were necessary to implement the Skinny Storage provision, those are -- have -- an internal draft has been prepared and is in the midst of being circulated to the parties and so I would expect given the time frame of where we are, that a -- perhaps a January or February time frame for us to be able to bring those back to you, if that were acceptable. And then I have one other thing to tell you about.

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               THE COURT: Okay. I have something to tell you
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      about as well. Let's go off the record for a minute.
                (A discussion was held off the record.)
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               THE COURT: Let's go back on the record and see how
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      my Friday afternoons in January look.
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               Is that what we are looking at, Mr. Slater?
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               MR. SLATER: Yes, your Honor.
               THE COURT: Okay.
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               MR. SLATER: Later in the month probably would be
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      better.
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               THE COURT: Same here.
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               Ms. Kim?
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               THE JUDICIAL ASSISTANT: The 28th is already
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      booked.
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               THE COURT: I'm gone the 21st.
16
               THE JUDICIAL ASSISTANT: Right.
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               THE COURT: How about February 4th?
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               MR. SLATER: Yes, your Honor. That would be
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      perfect.
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               THE COURT: Are we okay February 4 or have I
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      already booked that up?
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               THE JUDICIAL ASSISTANT: We are open.
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               THE COURT: How about February 4?
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               MR. SLATER: Sold, your Honor.
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               THE COURT: So what I should put on calendar then
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      is a hearing re status report. I would say, let's go
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      broader, status report, Skinny Storage, which would be that
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    and whatever else.
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THE COURT: Status report, "Skinny" storage and I will know what that means.

MR. SLATER: I think our General Manager may like local storage limitation solution, but skinny storage --

THE COURT: We all know what we mean.

MR. SLATER: We do.

THE COURT: Yes.

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MR. SLATER: And if that's okay, then I have just a sort of reckoning with the fact that it has been ten years and in reality it's been 21 for me now. And I think, your Honor, is aware of this. There's a -- the Dean of Humanities from the Indiana University is a guy named Bill Blomquist. Dr. Bill, as we call him. He wrote a book famously cited about ground water management in California called "Dividing the Waters." And in the spring of this year, he published an update called "The Realities of Adaptive Management of Ground Water." And it's a study on the Chino Basin in its entirety and brings us through the current time. And we were going to be -- we will be arranging for Bill to make some form of a presentation where we sure will invite your Honor to that, and, regardless, we will plan to lodge a copy with you and then provide you with an opportunity to get highlights of that and maybe some discussion, if you have any. And it may be that the February 4 time frame works for doing that, too.

THE COURT: That would be great. You're very kind. Thank you very much. I will read it with great interest.

MR. SLATER: Thank you, your Honor.

1 MR. FUDACZ: Your Honor? 2 THE COURT: Yes. MR. FUDACZ: If I may, before you go onto the next 3 4 matter. In your May 28th order, you indicated that if the 5 motion was not filed by the Ag Pool by a certain date in 6 7 accordance with your May 28th order, that The Court will order vacated the assessments subject to the current 8 dispute. And the parties' payment of the assessments, 9 subject to the current dispute, reimburse to the paying 10 11 party. 12 I guess the question is, is that something Your Honor is going to effect on your own? Do we need to file 13 something to effect that? We have a bunch of money sitting 14 in escrows. I think some clarity on that may be required. 15 THE COURT: I agree, but I'm not sure that I want 16 17 to start clarifying things that I'm not prepared to clarify today. 18 19 MR. FUDACZ: Okay. 20 THE COURT: For fear I may cause more problems than 21 I solve. 22 Does somebody want to propose something or put this 23 on the February 4 calendar or something else? 24 MR. SLATER: If that's okay, we're soon to have 25 holidays here, if that's all right. THE COURT: Yes. And so if you would like to put 26 27 on calendar also on February 4 is this reimbursement plan? MR. FUDACZ: Exactly. Now I don't know, this could 28

1 be handled by, you know, credits or payments. Or, you know, 2 there might be a number of ways to accomplish it. But I didn't know if Your Honor intended to effect that on your 3 own, and I'm hearing no. So it sounds like we need a date 4 5 to effect that. MS. EGOSCUE: Your Honor? 6 7 THE COURT: Ms. Egoscue? MS. EGOSCUE: Your Honor, my client is going to 8 9 have to appeal this decision today. 10 THE COURT: Of course. 11 MS. EGOSCUE: So I would like to just clarify that 12 whatever you do, we have a firm date as to when we should 13 seek appeal. So if you are going to have a subsequent 14 hearing in February, especially considering that my client 15 is almost out of funds, we would like to know if we should 16 start the appeal clock today or --17 THE COURT: I would start it today. As far as I'm 18 concerned, my order is final and everyone heard it. The motion is denied. 19 20 If you want it reduced to writing, Mr. Slater and 21 Mr. Herrema usually do that right away. 22 MR. SLATER: We will be happy to do that Your 23 Honor. 24 MS. EGOSCUE: Thank you, your Honor. So this is 25 just some subsequent motion that the members of the 26 Appropriative Pool will be filing then? 27 THE COURT: Yes, I think. 28 MS. EGOSCUE: Thank you, your Honor.

1 THE COURT: Let me make sure I'm not again saying 2 something that will cause more problems than it solves. MR. GUTIERREZ: Yes, your Honor, we would like to 3 have this matter clarified so reserving February 4th for a 4 motion for that clarification would be appropriate. THE COURT: The motion for clarification is just 6 7 how to reimburse or how to pay the money back. Right? 8 MR. SLATER: Yes. 9 THE COURT: So I don't think that needs to be part 10 of your appeal, Ms. Eqoscue. You're actually appealling the 11 actual ruling of denial if I've got that correct? 12 MS. EGOSCUE: That is correct, Your Honor. 13 THE COURT: So what I would suggest to do, unless 14 someone has a better suggestion, is ask Mr. Slater to 15 prepare an order. I'll sign it immediately. I will send it 16 straight back to Watermaster, so -- with a Notice of Entry 17 of Order so everyone knows exactly when the time starts 18 running and it will be in the next week. Before a week from 19 today. 20 MS. EGOSCUE: Thank you, Your Honor. 21 THE COURT: Thank you for making the request for 22 clarification. 23 MS. EGOSCUE: Thank you. 24 THE COURT: So get the order done. I will sign it, 25 send it back. I'm not -- The order is on the denial.

technicalities. And so we can talk about those on the 4th,

but let's get Ms. Egoscue's going -- Ms. Egoscue's appeal

appeal will be on the denial, not the reimbursement

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going as soon as possible for the obvious reasons as she 1 2 stated. So how does that sound? Understood, Your Honor. MR. SLATER: 3 MR. FUDACZ: I think I would reiterate 4 Mr. Gutierrez' request for a date particularly if your Honor 5 is talking about retirement in May. It would be nice to at 6 7 least have a date so Your Honor is around so we could talk to you about this in case it's necessary. 8 THE COURT: I will put on February 4 an additional 9 hearing regarding procedures for reimbursement. How is 10 11 that? Is that adequately descriptive? 12 MR. FUDACZ: Okay. THE COURT: Because if you want to brief it or 13 14 something, I will read the briefs or -- I'm not going to set a date. We can talk about it. It sounds like it needs to 15 run on a parallel track but not an immediate track unless 16 I'm missing something, Ms. Egoscue? 17 18 Am I missing something? MS. EGOSCUE: Your Honor, the interesting 19 reimbursement, it's actually regarding funds held in escrow. 20 21 There is no harm to the Appropriative Pool for the 22 subsequent payment because they have not made it. 23 THE COURT: Okay. 2.4 MS. EGOSCUE: So in my opinion, unless I can be shown otherwise, this would just be a motion that the 25 26 Appropriative Pool member agencies file regarding the escrow agreement that quite frankly the Watermaster holds. But 2.7

Mr. Slater if you have -- the only issue I could see is, how

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do you stay any kind of decision pending the appeal? 1 But, Mr. Slater, I will --2 MR. SLATER: Conferring with Mr. Kavounas, we 3 4 believe the 165--- was never transmitted, and so it is 5 sitting in escrow. MS. NICHOLLS: While we are waiting for that, 6 7 please. This is Gina Nicholls on behalf of the City of Ontario. May I speak, your Honor? 8 THE COURT: Sure. 9 10 MS. NICHOLLS: I just want to clarify. I think 11 your original suggestion, the purpose of the hearing, the 12 procedure for reimbursements is more appropriate than 13 focusing on the escrow because there are more funds at issue 14 than just the escrow. I can enumerate that. But for 15 simplicity here, I would just request that the hearing be 16 more broadly stated than the procedure for reimbursement and 17 then we can, you know if necessary brief what the elements 18 of that are. But it is more than just the escrow. 19 THE COURT: Mr. Slater? 20 MR. SLATER: Your Honor, here's what we propose to 21 do. We will validate the fact that the 165,000 is held in 22 escrow and has not been released. If Your Honor wants to 23 reserve time on the calendar to consider the subject 24 generally, we always welcome a visit with Your Honor. But 25 the 165 is in escrow. 26 THE COURT: Got it. 27 How about this, how about if someone wants to file 28 a motion with a proposal for how this money gets -- from

1 escrow gets returned, and then someone -- if there is some opposition, someone can voice it. And I'll put it on 3 calendar for February 4th? 4 How does that sound? 5 MR. GUTIERREZ: That's sound fine, your Honor. 6 City of Chino would be willing to file such a motion. 7 THE COURT: Okay. Your Honor, if we -- I'm just going 8 MR. SLATER: to offer this to counsel here. According to Mr. Kavounas, 9 10 the money was assessed among the members of the 11 Appropriative Pool. We have records of that, and it can be 12 released back from escrow to the parties in the precise 13 amount that they contributed. So insofar as the 165, we 14 have the payment track that goes from the Appropriators to 15

THE COURT: Forthwith.

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MR. SLATER: Forthwith. How about that?

escrow and it would be released from escrow back to the

discuss, that's fine. But insofar as the escrow 165, no

question. Watermaster can release the funds from escrow.

parties. If there's something else that they would like to

MR. FUDACZ: Your Honor, in addition, I think as Ms. Nicholls pointed out, there are funds that some people paid without putting the money into escrow. There's other monies at issue at stake as you pointed out. So I think in addition to that, a motion would be appropriate.

THE COURT: Okay.

Mr. Gutierrez, thank you for volunteering to make that motion.

How about this? How about, unless I hear an 1 2 objection, for the money in escrow, I order it be returned forthwith. And then Mr. Gutierrez can address in his motion 3 any money that's somehow got paid that isn't in escrow. 4 5 at least we can get some money returned to the parties immediately. 6 7 MR. FUDACZ: Sounds like a good plan. 8 THE COURT: I thought you would like that one. 9 Mr. Slater? MR. SLATER: Your Honor, again, the administrative 10 11 part of this, when your Honor says "forthwith," indeed we 12 can release forthwith. And with the normal functionality of 13 Watermaster, if we could say within this calendar month? 14 THE COURT: 30 days. 15 MR. SLATER: 30 days. Thank you, your Honor. And so forthwith we can release the money that is 16 17 in escrow. Anything that goes above and beyond that would 18 require a bit of an exercise on the part of Watermaster. 19 So the 165, we can release. If there's something 20 different, something trailing, probably a little hair on it, 21 we are going to have to figure that out. 22 MS. EGOSCUE: Isn't that the subject of the 23 subsequent motion, your Honor? 24 THE COURT: Yes, that would be Mr. Gutierrez' 25 motion. 26 Thank you. MR. SLATER: 27 THE COURT: So here's what I'm going to propose 28 that should also get an order, that within the next 30 days

1 from today, calendar days, I'm ordering Watermaster to 2 release the funds in escrow back to the paying parties, and 3 ask Mr. Gutierrez then within the next 30 days to file a 4 motion to address any parties' payment that did not go into 5 the escrow. How does that sound? Is that clear enough? 6 MR. SLATER: Yes. It's clear to us, Your Honor. 7 THE COURT: Well, if it's clear to you then, it's 8 clear to me then. So that's what I'm going to order. I 9 will propose that unless I hear an objection. 10 Do I hear any objections? Going once? Going 11 twice? No objections. 12 Okay, I think we have a plan at least going forward 13 to get things moving on the appeal; to get things moving 14 with the money, and to figure out if there are any loose 15 ends that need to be tied together. 16 Thank you, everyone. 17 MR. FUDACZ: Thank you, your Honor. 18 MR. SLATER: Thank you, your Honor. 19 (At which time the foregoing proceedings were concluded.) 20 --000--21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28

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SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
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                   FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO
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      CHINO BASIN MUNICIPAL
      WATER DISTRICT,
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                   Plaintiff,
                                       RCVRS 51010
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                   VS.
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      CITY OF CHINO, et.al.,
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                   Defendants.
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               REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF ORAL PROCEEDINGS
13
               BEFORE HONORABLE STANFORD REICHERT, JUDGE
1.4
                            November 5, 2021
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      APPEARANCES:
17
      FOR THE CHINO BASIN
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                            (Appearances continued on next page.)
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      REPORTED BY:
                                   CATHY A. ALBRITTON, CSR
                                    Official Reporter, C-7137
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1	SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
2	FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO
3	
4	CHINO BASIN MUNICIPAL)
5	WATER DISTRICT,)
6	Plaintiff,) RCVRS 51010
7	vs.)
8	CITY OF CHINO, et.al.,) REPORTER'S) CERTIFICATE
9	Defendants.)
10	
11	STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
12	COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO)
13	
14	I, CATHY A. ALBRITTON, C.S.R., Official Reporter o
15	the above-entitled court, do hereby certify:
16	That I am a Certified Shorthand Reporter of the
17	State of California, duly licensed to practice; that I did
18	report in Stenotype oral proceedings had upon hearing of the
19	aforementioned cause at the time and place herein before sea
20	forth; that the foregoing pages numbered 1 to 34, inclusive
21	constitute to the best of my knowledge and belief a full,
22	true, and correct transcription from my said shorthand notes
23	so taken for the date of November 5, 2021.
24	Dated at San Bernardino, California, this 12th day
25	of November, 2021.
26	1
27	Clety V
	Official\Reporter . C.S.R. No. 7137

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1	I N D E X
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4	PROCEEDINGS PAGE
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6	Argument and Ruling on Motion for Attorney
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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 January 24, 2022 served the following:

	1.	DECLATATION OF TRACY J. EGOSCUE IN SUPPORT OF AGRICULTURAL POOL'S
		OPPOSITION TO CITY OF CHINO'S CORRECTED MOTION FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF
		ATTORNEYS FEES AND EXPENSES PAID TO THE AGRICULTURAL POOL AND OPPOSITION TO ONTARIO JOINDER
x /	B,	Y 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: Master Email Distribution List
//	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.
<u>/ X _</u> /	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 January 24, 2022 in Rancho Cucamonga, California.

By: Janine Wilson

Chino Basin Watermaster

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Andy Malone

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Arthur Kidman

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Ben Peralta

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