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12 Attorneys for  
13 City of Ontario

14 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
15 COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

16 CHINO BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER  
17 DISTRICT,

18 Plaintiff,

19 v.

20 CITY OF CHINO, et al.,

21 Defendants.

CASE NO. RCVRS 51010

ASSIGNED FOR ALL PURPOSES TO  
HONORABLE STANFORD E. REICHERT

DECLARATION OF SCOTT BURTON IN  
SUPPORT OF CITY OF ONTARIO'S EX  
PARTE APPLICATION BY NEW  
COUNSEL FOR AN ORDER TO EXCEED  
PAGE LIMIT FOR CITY OF ONTARIO'S  
REPLY MEMORANDA IN SUPPORT OF  
APPLICATION FOR AN ORDER TO  
EXTEND TIME UNDER JUDGMENT,  
PARAGRAPH 31(C) TO CHALLENGE  
WATERMASTER ACTION/DECISION  
ON NOVEMBER 18, 2021 TO APPROVE  
THE FY 2021/2022 ASSESSMENT  
PACKAGE; OR, ALTERNATIVELY,  
CITY OF ONTARIO'S CHALLENGE

Ex Parte Hearing:  
Date: April 8, 2022  
Time: 1:30 p.m.  
Dept.: S35

1 I, Scott Burton, declare as follows:

2 1. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated in this Declaration and, if called as a  
3 witness, could and would testify competently to those facts.

4 2. I am the Utilities General Manager at the City of Ontario ("Ontario").

5 3. I make this Declaration in support of Ontario's Ex Parte Application by New  
6 Counsel for an Order to Exceed Page Limit for City of Ontario's Reply Memoranda in Support of  
7 Application for an Order to Extend Time Under Judgment, Paragraph 31(c) to Challenge  
8 Watermaster Action/Decision on November 18, 2021 to Approve the FY 2021/2022 Assessment  
9 Package; or, Alternatively, City of Ontario's Challenge.

10 4. On November 1, 2021, Ontario sent a letter to Mr. Kavounas, Watermaster General  
11 Manager, that outlined questions and comments to the draft Fiscal Year 2021/2022 Assessment  
12 Package. Ontario requested that the Watermaster explain the basis for exempting 23,000 acre-feet  
13 (AF) of water produced from the Metropolitan Water District's ("MWD") Chino Basin Conjunctive  
14 Use Program ("CUP"), also known as the Dry Year Yield Storage and Recovery Program  
15 ("DYYP"), as identified in the draft Fiscal Year 2021/2022 Assessment Package, from the  
16 Watermaster assessment and the Desalter Replenishment Obligation ("DRO") assessment.

17 5. On November 18, 2021, the Watermaster Board approved the Fiscal Year  
18 2021/2022 Assessment Package. Ontario understood that resolution of the questions and comments  
19 raised regarding the DYYP would not affect the ability to retroactively address the Fiscal Year  
20 2021-2022 Assessment Package. The Watermaster staff report also confirmed that the assessment  
21 package could always be changed retroactively if warranted.

22 6. In an effort to exhaust all administrative remedies, on January 5, 2022, the  
23 Watermaster, Ontario, CVWD, and FWC met to discuss the DYYP issues and began good faith  
24 negotiations.

25 7. On January 24, 2022, Ontario, CVWD, and FWC met to discuss a draft settlement  
26 term sheet and to continue good faith negotiations. During this meeting, Ontario mentioned that if  
27 this issue needed to be raised in Court, conflict waivers might be necessary. No objections or

28

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1 agreements were raised concerning such waivers and Ontario continued to actively work with the  
2 Parties and Watermaster to reach a resolution.

3 8. Also on January 24, 2022, Ontario sent a letter to Mr. Kavounas, the Watermaster  
4 General Manager, detailing Ontario's concerns with Watermaster's administration of the DYYP.  
5 A true and correct copy of the letter dated January 24, 2022, is attached hereto as Exhibit 1 and  
6 incorporated herein by reference.

7 9. On January 27, 2022, the Watermaster presented a staff report to the Watermaster  
8 Board in response to Ontario's concerns that were reiterated in the January 24, 2022 letter and in  
9 response to the Watermaster Board's direction on November 18, 2021. However, when asked,  
10 Watermaster's general counsel stated that he was "not prepared to provide a legal opinion in this  
11 moment." It was understood by Ontario that in order to comply with the Watermaster Board's  
12 direction on November 18, 2021, a report with legal counsel's opinion would be forthcoming.

13 10. On January 27, 2022, Ontario sent a request to FWC for a conflict of interest waiver  
14 due to Ontario's normal legal counsel for regional utility initiatives also provides other legal  
15 services to FWC. On the same day, Ontario started looking at other options for legal counsel.

16 11. On February 3, 2022, Ontario sent a revised draft settlement terms sheet that  
17 addressed comments received during the January 24, 2022 meeting.

18 12. On February 11, 2022, Ontario requested that the Watermaster general counsel  
19 approve an extension to the 90-day period if determined necessary by Watermaster. Although the  
20 Watermaster initially indicated that it might stipulate to an extension, it ultimately refused. On the  
21 same day, FWC informed Ontario that it would not grant a conflict-of-interest waiver. When  
22 Ontario inquired about the revised draft settlement terms sheet, FWC said that they were looking  
23 at it and would talk to CVWD.

24 13. On February 14, 2022, Ontario began actively pursuing other legal representation  
25 on this specific issue.

26  
27  
28



# EXHIBIT 1

CITY OF



ONTARIO

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TREASURER

SCOTT OCHOA  
CITY MANAGER

January 24, 2022

Peter Kavounas, General Manager  
Chino Basin Watermaster  
9641 San Bernardino Road  
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730  
Email: [pkavounas@cbwm.org](mailto:pkavounas@cbwm.org)

SENT VIA EMAIL AND CERTIFIED US MAIL

**Re: Dry Year Yield Program**

Dear Peter,

The City of Ontario (Ontario) appreciates the recent Watermaster Board direction to staff and legal counsel to evaluate the concerns raised by Ontario surrounding the Dry Year Yield Storage and Recovery Program (DYYP) and related applicability to Watermaster assessments. In awaiting this legal report back to the Board, Ontario remains concerned that Watermaster is administering an unauthorized change to the DYYP that is inconsistent with the storage agreement approved by Watermaster and ordered by the Court. This has resulted in a material change to the DYYP, adversely impacts Ontario, and has the potential to further impact Parties to the Judgment in the future. The subject changes are identified in a March 20, 2019 letter agreement (2019 Letter) signed by the Metropolitan Water District (MWD), Watermaster's General Manager, and two MWD member agencies on the Watermaster Board. This was done independent of any formal Watermaster Pool/Advisory/Board approval process, which is unacceptable. The purpose of this letter is to expand on the significance of this issue and provide Watermaster with the opportunity to correct the matter as soon as possible.

**Background**

Ontario submitted comments and questions on the Draft Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Assessment Package to the Watermaster General Manager in a letter dated November 1, 2021. Ontario's letter discussed the 2019 Letter with the subject line of "Chino Basin Groundwater Storage Actions and Voluntary Purchase Methodology." While Ontario appreciates Watermaster's Staff Reports released on November 16, 2021

and January 7, 2022 regarding this matter, Ontario's concerns remain foundationally in the execution of the 2019 Letter, how it fundamentally changed the recovery aspect of the DYYP, how it is not consistent with the 2004 Court-approved agreements and that it did not go through the formal Watermaster approval process similar to other material DYYP amendments.

The DYYP consists of three sets of agreements ordered by the Court: The 2003 Funding Agreement, the 2004 Storage Agreement, and the Local Agency Agreements such as the one executed by the City of Ontario. The intent of the program is to provide greater water supply reliability by storing water in advance of dry periods and pumping the stored water in lieu of receiving imported water during droughts. The Court found that the DYYP as described in the Funding Agreement provides broad mutual benefit to the parties to the Judgment.

The Court-ordered Funding Agreement indicates that "the specific location and operation of the facilities necessary to accomplish this commitment must still be analyzed by Watermaster..." and "This approval will take the form of Watermaster approval of the Local Agency Agreements..." Consistent with the Funding Agreement, the Local Agency Agreements define each agencies' facilities and annual recovery capacity, including performance targets of an imported water shift and program water extraction for each participating agency.

The Local Agency Agreements are the foundation of the storage and recovery program storage application, subsequent analysis, approvals, and ultimately the Court-approved Storage Agreement. As stated in the 2003 Court Order, "until Watermaster and this Court approve the Local Agency Agreements and Storage and Recovery Application ... the storage and recovery program cannot be undertaken." Additionally, per the Watermaster Storage Agreement, "Any modification of facilities that is materially different than those contemplated by the Local Agency Agreements will require the filing of a new application." The intent of the performance criteria per Amendment No. 8 to the Groundwater Storage Program Funding Agreement, Exhibit G is "to reduce imported water deliveries to the Operating Parties and replace it with stored Chino Basin groundwater..." (underline added for emphasis). Recovery of water under the 2019 Letter is inconsistent with the Local Agency Agreements and is therefore inconsistent with the Court Orders and should be determined as impermissible by Watermaster as an arm of the Court. In addition, it seems to remove the DYYP performance criteria that historically served as the basis for Watermaster to waive assessments.

During the initial project development there were amendments to the Funding Agreement that pertained to the completion timing of facilities and changes in sources of funds. The only material change to the DYYP occurred with the 2015 Amendment No. 8 to the Funding Agreement, which was universally approved through the Watermaster process after the Operating Parties approved amendments to the Local Agency Agreements with the same changes to the Exhibit G Performance Criteria. While Amendment No. 8 made material changes to the program, they were nowhere near as significant as those found in the 2019 Letter which changed the amount of water each agency was able to recover, as well as when and how that water was recovered. The 2019 Letter was not accompanied by corresponding changes to the Local Agency Agreements, was not approved through the Watermaster process, and also allowed Parties without Local Agency Agreements to participate in the DYYP.

**Ontario's Concerns**

Watermaster is allowing the recovery of water from the DYYP storage account that is not consistent with the storage agreement approved via the Watermaster process and ordered by the Court in 2004. The 2019 Letter fundamentally changed the recovery side of this Watermaster approved storage and recovery program. The 2019 Letter changed the application of the Exhibit G Performance Criteria and allowed for water to be recovered outside of the Local Agency Agreements (in terms of agency, location, and quantity) without a corresponding shift off of imported water. In effect, this is production of supplemental water from storage and must be treated as such under the provisions of the Judgment and Peace Agreements.

Regarding assessments, the Judgment requires virtually all production to be assessed in order to pay for Watermaster activities in a shared fashion based on beneficial use of the Basin. Waiving assessments on some production inherently places a greater expense on the remaining production that is factored into assessments. Court approval of the Funding Agreement and Storage Agreement (and subsequent Local Agency Agreements) does not explicitly define how assessments shall be handled, but Watermaster has historically waived assessments (or assessed during in-lieu put) on water produced under the approved DYYP without objection. What is different now is that the 2019 Letter fundamentally changed the DYYP as approved by the Court, as approved by the Parties through the Local Agency Agreements, and as approved through the Watermaster process. Table 1 below shows the program as it was approved by the Court and as it has been modified by the 2019 Letter. Watermaster is not authorized by the Court or otherwise to allow DYYP water to be recovered in this manner or to exempt this production from pumping assessments. Watermaster must administer assessments consistent with the Judgment and Court Orders.

Table 1 - DYY Performance Criteria 2004 vs Draft FY 2021/22 Assessment Package

Appropriator	2004 - Original DYY Agreement		FY 2021/22 Assessment Package	
	Req. IW Shift (AF)	Req. DYY GW Take (AF)	Req. IW Shift (AF)	DYY Claim (AF)
City of Chino	1,159	1,159	0	0
City of Chino Hills	1,448	1,448	0	0
City of Ontario	8,076	8,076	0	0
City of Pomona	2,000	2,000	0	0
City of Upland	3,001	3,001	0	0
Cucamonga Valley Water District	11,353	11,353	0	20,500
Fontana Water Company	No Local Agency Agreement		0	2,500
Jurupa Community Services District	2,000	2,000	0	0
Monte Vista Water District	3,963	3,963	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>33,000</b>	<b>33,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>23,000</b>

Notes:

1. Operating Plan Varies year to year
2. Voluntary Claim is any pumping above Groundwater Baseline and below Physical Production



Additionally, the 2019 Letter impacted the broad-based benefit of the program, which is to provide greater water supply reliability by storing water in advance of dry periods and pumping the stored water in lieu of receiving imported water during droughts. Considering the current drought predicament, a participating agency's ability to access imported water has been greatly impacted by allowing the DYYP storage account to be drained outside of its originally intended purpose. This impact is further illustrated by MWD's urgent introduction in January 2022 of two newly proposed imported water delivery deferment programs that similarly seek to accomplish the original intent of the DYYP, a corresponding shift from imported water to groundwater.

**Conclusion**

The 2019 Letter fundamentally changed the recovery side of this Court-ordered and Watermaster approved storage and recovery program without the necessary approvals. The implications of these changes were not represented and/or evaluated to determine the material physical impacts on individual parties and the Chino Basin. Watermaster signed off on a material change to the recovery of water under the DYYP which is inconsistent with the Court Order and without formal review and approval through the Watermaster process. This sets an alarming precedence for future Watermaster lead endeavors and infringes upon Ontario's rights and protections under the Judgment and related Court Orders that Watermaster is charged with administering. Ontario is requesting that Watermaster cease any further implementation of the 2019 Letter and amend assessment packages as applicable.

Ontario looks forward to working collaboratively with Watermaster and impacted parties towards a resolution of these concerns.

Sincerely,



Courtney Jones, P.E.  
Water Resources and Regulatory Affairs Director

CC: Chino Basin Watermaster Board  
Eduardo Espinoza, Appropriative Pool Chair  
Brian Geye, Non-Agricultural Pool Chair  
Bob Feenstra, Agricultural Pool Chair

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 April 7, 2022 I served the following:

1. DECLARATION OF SCOTT BURTON IN SUPPORT OF CITY OF ONTARIO'S EX PARTE APPLICATION BY NEW COUNSEL FOR AN ORDER TO EXCEED PAGE LIMIT FOR CITY OF ONTARIO'S REPLY MEMORANDA IN SUPPORT OF APPLICATION FOR AN ORDER TO EXTEND TIME UNDER JUDGMENT, PARAGRAPH 31(C) TO CHALLENGE WATERMASTER ACTION/DECISION ON NOVEMBER 18, 2021 TO APPROVE THE FY 2021/2022 ASSESSMENT PACKAGE; OR, ALTERNATIVELY, CITY OF ONTARIO'S CHALLENGE

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:** 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.

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 April 7, 2022 in Rancho Cucamonga, California.



By: Janine Wilson  
Chino Basin Watermaster

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