SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA

SANTA MARIA VALLEY WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT, Plaintiff, v. CITY OF SANTA MARIA, et al., Defendants. AND RELATED CROSS-ACTIONS AND ACTIONS CONSOLIDATED FOR ALL PURPOSES	SANTA MARIA GROUNDWATER LITIGATION Lead Case No. CV 770214 (CONSOLIDATED FOR ALL PURPOSES) [Consolidated With Case Numbers: CV 784900; CV 785509; CV 785522; CV 787150; CV 784921; CV 785511; CV 785936; CV 787151; CV 784926; CV 785515; CV 786791; CV 787152; CV 036410] San Luis Obispo County Superior Court Case Nos. 990738 and 990739 [Assigned to Judge Jack Komar for All Purposes]

STIPULATION (JUNE 30, 2005 VERSION)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

I. INTRODUCTION -- ALL MANAGEMENT AREAS 1

A. Parties and Jurisdiction 1
B. Further Trial 2
C. Definitions 2

II. EXHIBITS 6

III. DECLARATION OF RIGHTS -- ALL MANAGEMENT AREAS 6

A. Recognition of Priority of Overlying Rights 7
B. Prescriptive Rights 7
C. Appropriative Rights 7
D. Developed Water Rights 7
E. Rights to Storage Space 7
F. Other Surface Water Rights 7

IV. PHYSICAL SOLUTION – ALL MANAGEMENT AREAS 8

A. Authority 8
B. Purposes and Objectives 8
C. Basin Management Areas 8
D. Groundwater Monitoring 9
E. New Developed Water 10
F. Severe Water Shortage Response 11

V. PHYSICAL SOLUTION: PROVISIONS SPECIFIC TO SANTA MARIA VALLEY MANAGEMENT AREA 11

A. Water Rights to Sources of Supply 11
B. Monitoring and Management 14
C. Response to Varying Conditions 15
D. Management and Administration of the Twitchell Project 17
E. New Urban Uses – Santa Maria Valley Management Area 20

VI. PHYSICAL SOLUTION: PROVISIONS SPECIFIC TO NIPOMO MESA MANAGEMENT AREA 21

A. Supplemental Water 21
B. Rights to Use Groundwater 23
C. NMMA Technical Group 24
D. Potentially Severe and Severe Water Shortage Conditions 25
E. New Urban Uses 27

VII. PHYSICAL SOLUTION: PROVISIONS SPECIFIC TO NORTHERN CITIES MANAGEMENT AREA 28

VIII. INJUNCTION – ALL MANAGEMENT AREAS 29

A. Use Only Pursuant to Stipulation 29
B. Injunction Against Transportation From the Basin 29

C. No Third Party Beneficiaries 29

IX. RESERVED JURISDICTION – ALL MANAGEMENT AREAS 30

A. Reserved Jurisdiction; Modifications, Cancellations, Amendments 30
B. Noticed Motion 31
C. *De Novo* Nature of Proceeding 31
D. Filing and Notice 31

X. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS – ALL MANAGEMENT AREAS 31

A. Unenforceable Terms 31
B. Water Quality 32
C. Duty to Cooperate 32
D. Stipulating Parties Under Public Utilities Commission Regulation 32
E. Designation of Address, for Notice and Service 33
F. No Loss of Rights 33
G. Intervention After Judgment 33
H. Stipulation and Judgment Binding on Successors, Assigns, etc. 34
I. Costs 34
J. Non-Stipulating Parties 34
K. Counterparts 35
L. Effective Date 35

I. INTRODUCTION -- ALL MANAGEMENT AREAS

The Stipulating Parties hereby stipulate and agree to entry of judgment containing the terms and conditions of this Stipulation.

A. Parties and Jurisdiction

1. Plaintiff and Cross-Defendant Santa Maria Valley Water Conservation District ("District") is a water conservation district organized under California Water Code section 74000, *et seq*. The District does not pump Groundwater from the Basin.

2. Defendants, Cross-Complainants and Cross-Defendants the City of Santa Maria ("Santa Maria"), City of Guadalupe ("Guadalupe"), Southern California Water Company ("SCWC"), Nipomo Community Services District ("NCSD"), Rural Water Company ("RWC"), City of Arroyo Grande ("Arroyo Grande"), City of Pismo Beach ("Pismo Beach"), City of Grover Beach ("Grover Beach") and Oceano Community Services District ("Oceano") rely, in part, on Groundwater to provide public water service to customers within the Basin.

3. Cross-Defendant County of San Luis Obispo ("San Luis Obispo") is a subdivision of the State of California. Cross-Defendant San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District ("SLO District") is a public entity organized pursuant to the laws of the State of California. Neither San Luis Obispo nor SLO District pumps Groundwater from the Basin.

4. Cross-Defendant County of Santa Barbara ("Santa Barbara") is a subdivision of the State of California. Santa Barbara does not pump Groundwater from the Basin.

5. Numerous other Cross-Defendants and Cross-Complainants are Overlying Owners. Many of these Overlying Owners pump Groundwater from the Basin, while others do not currently exercise their Overlying Rights. Those Overlying Owners who are Stipulating Parties are identified on Exhibit "A".

6. This action presents an *inter se* adjudication of the claims alleged between and among all Parties. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action and over the Parties herein.

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B. Further Trial

The Stipulating Parties recognize that not all Parties have entered into this Stipulation and that a trial will be necessary as to all non-Stipulating Parties. No Stipulating Party shall interfere or oppose the effort of any other Stipulating Party in the preparation and conduct of any such trial. All Stipulating Parties agree to cooperate and coordinate their efforts in any trial or hearing necessary to obtain entry of a judgment containing the terms and conditions of this Stipulation. No Stipulating Party shall have any obligation to contribute financially to any future trial.

C. Definitions

As used in this Stipulation, the following terms shall have the meanings herein set forth:

1. *Annual or Year* – That period beginning January 1 and ending December 31.

2. *Annual Report* – The report prepared and filed with the Court annually for each Management Area.

3. *Appropriative Rights* – The right to use surplus Native Groundwater for reasonable and beneficial use.

4. *Available State Water Project Water* – The amount of SWP Water an Importer is entitled to receive in a given Year based upon the California Department of Water Resources final Table A allocation.

5. *Basin* - The groundwater basin described in the Phase I and II orders of the Court, as modified, and presented in Exhibit "B".

6. *Developed Water* – Groundwater derived from human intervention as of the date of this Stipulation, which shall be limited to Twitchell Yield, Lopez Water, Return Flows, and recharge resulting from storm water percolation ponds.

7. *Groundwater* – Twitchell Yield, Lopez Water, Return Flows, storm water percolation, Native Groundwater and all other recharge percolating within the Basin.

8. *Importer(s)* – Any Party who brings Imported Water into the Basin. At the date of this Stipulation, the Importers are Santa Maria, SCWC, Guadalupe, Pismo Beach, and Oceano.

9. *Imported Water* – Water within the Basin, originating outside the Basin that absent human intervention would not recharge or be used in the Basin.

10. *Lopez Project* – Lopez Dam and Reservoir located on Arroyo Grande Creek, together with the associated water treatment plant, delivery pipeline and all associated facilities, pursuant to State Water Resources Control Board permit No. 12814 (A-18375) and pending application No. A-30826.

11. *Lopez Water* – Groundwater within the Basin derived from the operation of the Lopez Project.

12. *Management Areas* – The three areas within the Basin that have sufficient distinguishing characteristics to permit the water resources and facilities of each area to be individually managed. The Management Areas are: the Northern Cities Management Area, the Nipomo Mesa Management Area, and the Santa Maria Valley Management Area, as shown on Exhibit "C".

13. *Management Area Engineer* – The individual(s) or consulting firm(s) that are hired to prepare the Monitoring Plan(s) and Annual Report(s) for one or more of the Management Areas.

14. *Monitoring Parties* – Those Parties responsible for conducting and funding each Monitoring Program.

15. *Monitoring Program* – The data collection and analysis program to be conducted within each Management Area sufficient to allow the preparation of the Annual Report.

16. *Native Groundwater* – Groundwater within the Basin, not derived from human intervention, that replenishes the Basin through precipitation, stream channel infiltration, tributary runoff, or other natural processes.

17. *New Developed Water* – Groundwater derived from human intervention through programs or projects implemented after the date of this Stipulation.

18. *New Urban Uses* – Municipal and industrial use which may occur on land that, as of January 1, 2005, was located: 1) within the boundaries of a municipality or its sphere of influence, or within the process of inclusion in its sphere of influence; or 2) within the certificated

service area of a publicly regulated utility. The New Urban Use areas are identified in Exhibit "D". New Urban Uses does not include the current DJ Farms development within Guadalupe City limits (including Santa Barbara County APN 113-080-18, 113-080-24).

19. *Nipomo Mesa Management Area or NMMA* – That Management Area shown on Exhibit "C".

20. *Nipomo Mesa Management Area Technical Group* – The committee formed to administer the relevant provisions of the Stipulation regarding the Nipomo Mesa Management Area.

21. *Northern Cities Management Area* – That Management Area which is part of Zone #3 of the San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District as shown on Exhibit "C".

22. *Northern Cities* – Arroyo Grande, Pismo Beach, Grover Beach and Oceano.

23. *Northern Parties* – The Northern Cities, the Overlying Owners within the Northern Cities Management Area, San Luis Obispo and the SLO District.

24. *Overlying Right* – The appurtenant right of an Overlying Owner to use Native Groundwater for overlying, reasonable and beneficial use.

25. *Overlying Owner(s)* – Owners of land overlying the Basin who hold an Overlying Right.

26. *Party* – Each Person in this consolidated action, whether a Stipulating Party or a non-Stipulating Party.

27. *Person* – Any natural person, firm, association, organization, joint venture, partnership, business, trust, corporation, or public entity.

28. *Public Hearing* – A hearing after notice to all Parties and to any other person legally entitled to notice.

29. *Return Flows* – Groundwater derived from use and recharge within the Basin of water delivered through State Water Project facilities.

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30. *Santa Maria Valley Management Area* – That Management Area shown on Exhibit "C".

31. *Severe Water Shortage Conditions* – Those conditions, as separately defined in a Severe Water Shortage Response Plan for each Management Area, that trigger certain discretionary and mandatory responses by the Stipulating Parties upon order of the Court.

32. *Severe Water Shortage Response Plan* – The discretionary and mandatory responses for each Management Area that are to be implemented when Severe Water Shortage Conditions exist.

33. *State Water Project Water* or *SWP Water* – Water imported through the State of California State Water Resources Development System pursuant to Division 6, Part 6, Chapter 8, of the California Water Code.

34. *Stipulating Party* – A Party that has signed this Stipulation, as listed in Exhibit "A", or its heirs, executors, administrators, trustees, successors, assigns, and agents.

35. *Storage Space* – The portion of the Basin capable of holding water for subsequent reasonable and beneficial uses.

36. *SWP Contract(s)* – Those series of contracts that entitle the Importers to use SWP facilities to bring Imported Water into the Basin.

37. *Twitchell Management Authority* or *TMA* – The committee formed to administer the relevant provisions of the Stipulation regarding the Santa Maria Valley Management Area.

38. *Twitchell Participants* – Those Stipulating Parties holding rights to Twitchell Yield.

39. *Twitchell Project* – Dam and reservoir authorized by Congress as the "Santa Maria Project" on September 3, 1954 (Public Law 774, 83d Congress, ch. 1258, 2d session, 68 Stat. 1190) and located on the Cuyama River, approximately six miles upstream from its junction with the Sisquoc River, pursuant to that certain License For Diversion And Use of Water, License No. 10416, issued by the State Water Resources Control Board.

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40. *Twitchell Water* – Groundwater derived from operation of the Twitchell Project.

41. *Twitchell Yield* – The total amount of Groundwater allocated annually to the Twitchell Participants.

II. EXHIBITS

The following Exhibits are attached to this Stipulation and incorporated herein:

1. *Exhibit "A"*, list identifying the Stipulating Parties and the parcels of land bound by the terms of this Stipulation.

2. *Exhibit "B"*, Phase I and II Orders, as modified, and the attached map depicting the Santa Maria Basin.

3. *Exhibit "C"*, map of the Basin and boundaries of the three Management Areas.

4. *Exhibit "D"*, map identifying those lands as of January 1, 2005: 1) within the boundaries of a municipality or its sphere of influence, or within the process of inclusion in its sphere of influence; or 2) within the certificated service area of a publicly regulated utility; and a list of selected parcels that are nearby these boundaries which are excluded from within these areas.

5. *Exhibit "E"*, 2002 Settlement Agreement between the Northern Cities and Northern Landowners.

6. *Exhibit "F"*, the agreement among Santa Maria, SCWC and Guadalupe regarding the Twitchell Project and the TMA.

7. *Exhibit "G"*, the Court's Order Concerning Electronic Service of Pleadings and Electronic Posting of Discovery Documents dated June 27, 2000.

8. *Exhibit "H"*, the form of memorandum of agreement to be recorded.

III. DECLARATION OF RIGHTS -- ALL MANAGEMENT AREAS

The terms and conditions of this Stipulation set forth a physical solution concerning Groundwater, SWP Water and Storage Space, consistent with common law water rights priorities.

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A. Recognition of Priority of Overlying Rights

Except as expressly modified by the settlement agreement among the Northern Parties (Exhibit "E"), all Overlying Owners that are also Stipulating Parties have a prior and paramount Overlying Right, whether or not yet exercised.

B. Prescriptive Rights

As to the Stipulating Parties, no Party has proved prescriptive rights to any Native Groundwater. Future use by the Stipulating Parties will not be adverse and will not ripen into a prescriptive right as between the Stipulating Parties.

C. Appropriative Rights

Consistent with the specific provisions governing each Management Area, the Stipulating Parties owning and exercising Appropriative Rights have the right to the reasonable and beneficial use of Native Groundwater that is surplus to the reasonable and beneficial uses of the Stipulating Parties that are Overlying Owners. New appropriative uses shall be subordinate to existing appropriations and shall be prioritized on a first in time, first in right basis.

D. Developed Water Rights

The Stipulating Parties owning Developed Water or New Developed Water have the right to its reasonable and beneficial use, consistent with the specific provisions governing each Management Area. The right to use Developed Water is a right to use commingled Groundwater and is not limited to the corpus of that water.

E. Rights to Storage Space

The Court shall reserve jurisdiction over the use of the Storage Space, and any Party may apply to the Court for the approval of a project using Storage Space. The Court must approve any project using Storage Space before any Party can claim a right to stored water from that project. The Stipulating Parties agree that Groundwater derived from Developed Water is exempt from the Court approval requirements of this Paragraph.

F. Other Surface Water Rights

Nothing in this Stipulation affects or otherwise alters common law riparian rights or any surface water rights, unless expressly provided in this Stipulation.

IV. PHYSICAL SOLUTION – ALL MANAGEMENT AREAS

A. Authority

Pursuant to Article X, section 2 of the California Constitution, the Stipulating Parties agree that the Court has the authority to enter a judgment and physical solution containing the terms and conditions of this Stipulation. Unless the Court imposes this physical solution, potential changes in water use could affect Basin adequacy and integrity. The Declaration of Rights is a component of this physical solution.

B. Purposes and Objectives

The terms and conditions of this Stipulation are intended to impose a physical solution establishing a legal and practical means for ensuring the Basin's long-term sustainability. This physical solution governs Groundwater, SWP Water and Storage Space, and is intended to ensure that the Basin continues to be capable of supporting all existing and future reasonable and beneficial uses. This physical solution is: 1) a fair and equitable basis for the allocation of water rights in the Basin; 2) in furtherance of the mandates of the State Constitution and the water policy of the State of California; and 3) a remedy that gives due consideration to applicable common law rights and priorities to use Groundwater and Storage Space, without substantially impairing any such right.

C. Basin Management Areas

Development and use of Groundwater, SWP Water and Storage Space have historically been financed and managed separately in three Management Areas. For example, only the Northern Parties have paid for, managed, and benefited from the Lopez Project; whereas only Santa Maria Valley parties have paid for, managed, and benefited from the Twitchell Project. In contrast, the Nipomo Mesa parties have not been involved in the funding or management of either the Twitchell or Lopez Projects.

The Stipulating Parties agree that Groundwater, SWP Water and Storage Space can be more efficiently allocated and managed in three Management Areas, given the physical, geographical, political, economic, and historic conditions. The three Management Areas, as shown on Exhibit "C," are as follows: Northern Cities Management Area; Nipomo Mesa Management

Area; and Santa Maria Valley Management Area. The Stipulating Parties intend that management through three Management Areas will preserve the Basin's integrity.

D. Groundwater Monitoring

1. *Monitoring Program*. A Monitoring Program shall be established in each of the three Management Areas to collect and analyze data regarding water supply and demand conditions. Data collection and monitoring shall be sufficient to determine land and water uses in the Basin, sources of supply to meet those uses, groundwater conditions including groundwater levels and quality, the amount and disposition of Developed Water supplies, and the amount and disposition of any other sources of water supply in the Basin. The Northern Cities Management Area shall not be required to include in its Monitoring Program or Annual Reports quantification of groundwater recharge from the Lopez Project or storm water percolation ponds, unless the Court orders inclusion of this information.

Within one hundred and eighty days after entry of judgment, representatives of the Monitoring Parties from each Management Area will present to the Court for its approval their proposed Monitoring Program. The Management Area Engineers shall freely share available well data, groundwater models, and other products and tools utilized in monitoring and analysis of conditions in the three Management Areas, consistent with the confidentiality provisions of this Stipulation.

Absent a Court order to the contrary, all Stipulating Parties shall make available relevant information regarding groundwater elevations and water quality data necessary to implement the Monitoring Program approved for their respective Management Area. The Monitoring Parties shall coordinate with the Stipulating Parties to obtain any needed data on reasonable terms and conditions. Metering may only be imposed on Stipulating Parties upon a Court order following a showing that such data is necessary to monitor groundwater conditions in the Basin, and in the case of an Overlying Owner, that Overlying Owner has failed to provide information comparable to that provided by other Overlying Owners. The confidentiality of well data from individual owners and operators will be preserved, absent a Court order or written consent.

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2. *Monitoring Parties*. The Monitoring Parties are as follows:

(a) Santa Maria Valley Management Area – The Twitchell Management Authority.

(b) Northern Cities Management Area – The Northern Cities.

(c) Nipomo Mesa Management Area – The NMMA Technical Group.

3. *Annual Reports*. Within one hundred and twenty days after each Year, the Management Area Engineers will file an Annual Report with the Court. The Annual Report will summarize the results of the Monitoring Program, changes in groundwater supplies, and any threats to Groundwater supplies. The Annual Report shall also include a tabulation of Management Area water use, including Imported Water availability and use, Return Flow entitlement and use, other Developed Water availability and use, and Groundwater use. Any Stipulating Party may object to the Monitoring Program, the reported results, or the Annual Report by motion.

4. *Management Area Engineer*. The Monitoring Parties may hire individuals or consulting firms to assist in the preparation of the Monitoring Programs and the Annual Reports. Except as provided below for the Santa Maria Valley Management Area, the Monitoring Parties, in their sole discretion, shall select, retain and replace the Management Area Engineer.

E. New Developed Water

1. Stipulating Parties in each Management Area may prepare and implement plans to develop, salvage or import additional water supplies.

2. The Stipulating Parties that pay, or otherwise provide consideration, for New Developed Water are entitled to use it to the extent the New Developed Water augments the water supplies in that Management Area. If more than one Stipulating Party finances or participates in generating New Developed Water, rights to the supply of New Developed Water shall be proportional to each Stipulating Party's financial contribution or other consideration, or as otherwise mutually agreed to by the participating Stipulating Parties. This paragraph does not apply to Return Flows.

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3. The Stipulating Parties who desire to claim New Developed Water supplies must bring a motion, and obtain an order from the Court, quantifying and allocating the rights to the New Developed Water, before they have the prior right to the New Developed Water.

F. Severe Water Shortage Response

This physical solution sets forth a Severe Water Shortage Plan for each Management Area which is intended to provide an effective response to Severe Water Shortage Conditions that may develop within each or all of the Management Areas. The specific Severe Water Shortage Plans for each Management Area are incorporated herein and made a part of the physical solution.

V. PHYSICAL SOLUTION: PROVISIONS SPECIFIC TO SANTA MARIA VALLEY MANAGEMENT AREA

As supplemented by the provisions of this Stipulation that apply to all Management Areas, the following terms govern rights to Groundwater, SWP Water and Storage Space in the Santa Maria Valley Management Area.

A. Water Rights to Sources of Supply

1. *Overlying Rights*. The Stipulating Parties who are Overlying Owners within the Santa Maria Valley Management Area each have the prior and paramount right to use Native Groundwater. Subject to Paragraph V(C)(2)(b)(vi), all Overlying Rights are appurtenant to the overlying land and cannot be assigned or conveyed separate or apart from those lands.

2. *Appropriative Rights*. The Parties listed in Exhibit "A" are the owners of Appropriative Rights exercised in the Santa Maria Valley Management Area. Each Appropriative Right is limited to Native Groundwater that is surplus to reasonable and beneficial uses of the Stipulating Parties that are Overlying Owners in the Santa Maria Valley Management Area. New appropriative uses shall be subordinate to existing Appropriative Rights and shall be prioritized on a first in time, first in right basis.

3. *Developed Water*. The Stipulating Parties owning Developed Water have the right to its reasonable and beneficial use, subject only to the Severe Water Shortage Plan. On an annual basis, the Stipulating Parties shall have the right to the reasonable and beneficial use of Developed Water that is surplus to the reasonable and beneficial uses of the owners of that

Developed Water. The right to use Developed Water is a right to use commingled Groundwater and is not limited to the corpus of that water.

(a) New Developed Water. The ownership and use of New Developed Water shall be subject to Court order.

(b) Twitchell Water.

(i) *Amount.* The Twitchell Project annually provides a variable amount of Developed Water that augments the Groundwater in the Santa Maria Valley Management Area. Twitchell Yield is thirty-two thousand acre-feet per year ("afy").

(ii) *Division of Twitchell Yield.* Twitchell Yield shall be divided as follows: 80% to Santa Maria, SCWC and Guadalupe, and 20% to the Overlying Owners within the District who are Stipulating Parties.

a. The Twitchell Yield allocated to Santa Maria, SCWC and Guadalupe is suballocated pursuant to the agreement among Santa Maria, SCWC and Guadalupe, as attached and incorporated herein as Exhibit "F".

b. The Twitchell Yield allocated to the Overlying Owners who are Stipulating Parties within the District shall be equally allocated to each acre of land within the District owned by these Stipulating Parties. Concurrently with the execution of this Stipulation, each of these Stipulating Parties shall report their acreage of overlying land within the District on a parcel specific basis. Within one hundred and twenty days of the effective date of this Stipulation, the Management Area Engineer shall create a list of all the Stipulating Parties and their respective allocation of the Twitchell Yield.

(iii) *Recapture of Twitchell Yield.* The right to use Twitchell Yield is a right to use commingled Groundwater and is not limited to the corpus of that water.

(iv) *Transfer of Twitchell Yield.* Twitchell Yield may be transferred, temporarily or permanently, only between Stipulating Parties and the transfer market shall be as open and competitive as practical. A memorandum of agreement summarizing each transfer shall be filed with the Court and provided to the TMA. Any such memorandum of agreement shall state the Parties to the transfer, the amount of Twitchell Yield transferred, the price per acre-

foot, and the Party responsible for the financial obligation associated with the Twitchell Yield.

(v) *Carryover.* Any portion of Twitchell Yield that is not used in a given Year shall not be carried over into the following Year.

(c) State Water Project Water.

(i) *Import and Use of State Water Project Water.* Santa Maria, SCWC and Guadalupe all have SWP Contracts. Santa Maria will import and use within the Santa Maria Valley Management Area not less than 10,000 acre-feet each Year of Available SWP Water, or the full amount of Available SWP Water if the amount physically available is less than 10,000 acre-feet in a given Year under Santa Maria's SWP Contract. Guadalupe will import and use within the Santa Maria Valley Management Area a minimum of 75% of its Available SWP Water. SCWC will import and use within the Basin all its Available SWP Water. Santa Maria, SCWC and Guadalupe will not voluntarily relinquish or terminate their current SWP Contracts, and shall seek renewal of these SWP Contracts.

(ii) *Return Flows.*

a. Fixed Amount. The Return Flows available to each Importer is fixed based on a percentage of the annual amount of SWP Water the Importer uses within the Basin. The fixed percentage for each importer is as follows: (a) Santa Maria 65%; (b) SCWC 45%; and (c) Guadalupe 45%. The percentage provided to SCWC and Guadalupe shall be adjusted through a Court order if: a) either entity increases its use of water imported into the Basin, b) the applicable method of wastewater treatment and discharge to the Basin is altered, or c) good cause is shown.

b. Recapture. The right to use Return Flows does not attach to the corpus of SWP water deliveries or the treated SWP wastewater discharged into the Basin but is a right to use the commingled Groundwater. The Importer's right to Return Flows is assignable in whole or in part, subject to necessary accounting.

c. Quantification of Return Flows. Return Flows equal the total amount of SWP Water used by the Importer in the prior five Years, divided by five, and then multiplied by the Importer's percentage as provided in Paragraph V(A)(3)(c)(ii)(a) above.

d. Carryover. Any portion of Return Flows that is not used in a given Year shall not be carried over into the following Year.

B. Monitoring and Management

1. *Status of Management Area*. Current Groundwater and SWP Water supplies are sustaining existing water uses. Changes in land and water use and demographic conditions can be expected to occur, possibly resulting in changes in water supply or demand requirements.

2. *Need for Monitoring*. Monitoring and reporting of changes in land and water use and demographic conditions are necessary to ensure that water supplies continue to be sufficient to support water uses.

3. *Monitoring Program*.

(a) Annual Report: Content and Processing.

The Annual Report shall include an analysis of the relationship between projected water demands and projected water supplies.

(i) The Annual Report shall be prepared and signed by the Management Area Engineer, and shall be simultaneously submitted to the Court and the TMA.

(ii) Within forty-five days of submission, the TMA shall hold a noticed public hearing to take comments on and consider for adoption the Annual Report. No later than forty-five days from the date of the public hearing, the TMA shall submit to the Court its recommendations regarding the Annual Report.

(iii) Within one hundred and twenty days of the date of the submission of the Annual Report to the Court, it shall conduct a noticed hearing on the Annual Report. Any Party may submit comments on the Annual Report. After the hearing, the Court shall accept the Annual Report or direct its modification.

(b) Management Area Engineer

(i) Absent the unanimous consent of the TMA, the Management Area Engineer shall not concurrently be employed by any Party holding rights to use Groundwater in the Santa Maria Valley Management Area.

(ii) The Management Area Engineer shall initially be the engineering firm of Luhdorff & Scalmanini. Luhdorff & Scalmanini shall be the Management Area Engineer for a minimum of the shorter of five years from the date of this Stipulation or the date upon which Mr. Joseph Scalmanini discontinues full time work for that firm.

(iii) The TMA shall employ the following process to replace the Management Area Engineer:

a. The TMA shall solicit candidates for Management Area Engineer through a public process. All submissions and candidate materials shall be available to any Party upon request. The TMA shall conduct its interview through a public process to the extent practical, and include District and Overlying Owner representatives in the candidate review process.

b. Once a short list of candidates (less than five) for Management Area Engineer is obtained, the TMA shall hold a noticed public hearing to take comments on and consider the candidates for Management Area Engineer. The TMA shall make a reasonable effort to select the Management Area Engineer with a unanimous vote. If the TMA unanimously endorses a candidate, that nominee shall be recommended to the Court. Otherwise, the short list of candidates shall be submitted.

c. The Court shall appoint the Management Area Engineer following a noticed hearing.

4. *Funding*. The TMA shall pay for the Monitoring Program for the Santa Maria Valley Management Area, which includes the cost of the Management Area Engineer and the Annual Report. The cost of the Monitoring Program shall be divided among the Twitchell Participants on the same basis as the allocation of their Twitchell Yield.

C. Response to Varying Conditions

1. *Early Response to Avoid Severe Water Shortage Conditions*. If the Management Area Engineer determines that projected demands are expected to materially exceed projected water supplies, then the Management Area Engineer may recommend programs and projects to augment the Management Area's water supplies. The Stipulating Parties will collabo-

rate on a response based upon current conditions, but absent Severe Water Shortage Conditions, implementation of programs and projects will not be mandated.

The Stipulating Parties may voluntarily participate in any recommended program or project, either through financial or other contributions. The Stipulating Parties that contribute to such a program or project shall have a priority to the water supplies generated by that program or project with Court approval. The Stipulating Parties agree to aggressively pursue New Developed Water sources, including necessary funding.

2. *Severe Water Shortage Conditions and Response*.

(a) Determination. Severe Water Shortage Conditions shall be found to exist when the Management Area Engineer, based on the results of the ongoing Monitoring Program, finds the following: 1) groundwater levels in the Management Area are in a condition of chronic decline over a period of not less than five Years; 2) the groundwater decline has not been caused by drought; 3) there has been a material increase in Groundwater use during the five-Year period; and 4) monitoring wells indicate that groundwater levels in the Santa Maria Valley Management Area are below the lowest recorded levels.

(b) Response.

(i) If the Management Area Engineer determines that Severe Water Shortage Conditions exist within the Santa Maria Valley Management Area, the Management Area Engineer shall file and serve, as part of its Annual Report, findings and recommendations to alleviate such shortage conditions or the adverse effects caused by such water shortage.

(ii) Upon the filing of the Annual Report, the Court shall hold a noticed hearing regarding the existence and appropriate response to the Severe Water Shortage Conditions. If, after that hearing, the Court finds that Severe Water Shortage Conditions exist in the Santa Maria Valley Management Area, the Court shall first order all use of Groundwater to be limited to: (a) for Guadalupe, Santa Maria and SCWC, their Developed Water; (b) entitled Stipulating Parties to their New Developed Water; and (c) for the Overlying Owners, the Native Groundwater plus any Developed Water to which individual Overlying Owners are entitled.

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(iii) The Court may also order Stipulating Parties to address specific adverse effects caused by the Severe Water Shortage Conditions. The responses may include, but are not limited to: (a) measures recommended in the Annual Report and the related Court proceedings; and (b) other measures intended to address localized problems in the Santa Maria Valley Management Area directly related to the Severe Water Shortage Conditions.

(iv) The Court may adjust the Groundwater use limitations imposed on any Stipulating Party(ies) who implement programs or projects providing additional water supplies within the Santa Maria Valley Management Area.

(v) If the Court finds that Management Area conditions have deteriorated since it first found Severe Water Shortage Conditions, the Court may impose further limitations on Groundwater use. If the Court imposes further limitations on Groundwater use, a Stipulating Party shall be exempt from those limitations to the extent: (a) the Stipulating Party can demonstrate that it has already implemented limitations in its Groundwater use, equivalent to those ordered by the Court; or (b) the Stipulating Party can demonstrate that further limitations would not avoid or reduce the deteriorating conditions.

(vi) During Severe Water Shortage Conditions, the Stipulating Parties may make agreements for temporary transfer of rights to pump Native Groundwater, voluntary fallowing, or the implementation of extraordinary conservation measures. Transfers of Native Groundwater must benefit the Management Area and be approved by the Court.

D. Management and Administration of the Twitchell Project

1. *Operational Parameters.* All Twitchell Project operations (operation and maintenance and capital projects) will be performed consistent with the following parameters (Operational Parameters):

(a) Maximize recharge of the Santa Maria Valley Management Area from Twitchell Water, including without limitation, the avoidance of impacts on recharge resulting from ongoing accumulation of silt to the maximum extent practical.

(b) Operate the Twitchell Project in accordance with the requirements of applicable law including, without limitation, the requirements of the Bureau of Reclamation

and Army Corps of Engineers.

(c) Operate the Twitchell Project in accordance with industry standards and best management practices.

2. *Twitchell Project Manual*.

(a) The TMA will hire and pay for a professional engineering consulting firm with expertise in dam and reservoir operations and maintenance, acceptable to the District and the TMA, to develop an integrated operation and maintenance procedure manual ("Twitchell Project Manual") and provide recommendations for capital and maintenance projects that are consistent with the Operational Parameters.

(b) The District shall hold one or more public hearings to solicit input regarding the content of the Twitchell Project Manual.

(c) Within eighteen months of entry of the judgment, the TMA and the District shall adopt a final Twitchell Project Manual.

(d) Any disagreement between the District and the TMA regarding the content of the final Twitchell Project Manual shall be presented for Court review and determination pursuant to the judicial review provisions provided in this Stipulation.

(e) The District will exercise its discretionary authority to conduct all its operation and maintenance activities for the Twitchell Project in accordance with the Twitchell Project Manual.

3. *Twitchell Project Funding*.

(a) District will maintain its current operation and maintenance (O&M) assessments. These funds will be used for District staff salaries, property, equipment, rent, expenses, and other day-to-day operations, and will be expended consistent with the Twitchell Project Manual to the extent it is applicable.

(b) The TMA will separately fund, administer, construct and manage any additional Twitchell Project expenses or projects, including Capital Improvement Projects (see below) and O&M, (Extraordinary Project Operations) consistent with the Twitchell Project Manual. The TMA and the District will make reasonable efforts to work cooperatively to imple-

ment Extraordinary Project Operations.

(c) Consistent with the provisions of this Paragraph V(D), the District and the TMA shall be responsible for ensuring the ongoing operational integrity of the Twitchell Project and the maintenance of the Twitchell Yield. The Stipulating Parties expect that this ongoing responsibility may involve significant expenditures. Within 120 days of the effective date of this Stipulation, and annually thereafter, the Twitchell Participants shall establish an operating budget for the TMA to fund its responsibilities set forth in this Stipulation. For the first five years following the PUC approval as provided below, the TMA's annual budget shall be established at an amount between $500,000 to $700,000. Following the initial budgeting period, the TMA shall set its budget in three- to five-year increments, as it deems necessary to meet its obligations to preserve the Twitchell Yield. Any unused revenues shall be segregated into a reserve account, for future funding needs of the Twitchell Project. The Stipulating Parties agree to cooperate and coordinate their efforts to enable the TMA to fulfill its responsibilities as provided in this Stipulation.

4. *Twitchell Management Authority*.

(a) The TMA shall be comprised of one representative of each of the following parties: Santa Maria, Guadalupe, Southern California Water Company, the District, and Overlying Landowners holding rights to Twitchell Yield.

(b) Only those parties holding an allocation of Twitchell Yield shall be voting members of the TMA. Voting shall be based on each party's proportionate allocation of Twitchell Yield.

(c) The TMA shall be responsible for all the Extraordinary Project Operations.

(d) The TMA shall be responsible for developing proposals for Capital Improvement Projects relating to the Twitchell Project. Capital Improvement Projects shall mean projects involving the expenditure of funds for the improvement or enhancement of the Twitchell Project, but shall not include normal operation, maintenance or repair activities.

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(e) Upon the development of a proposal for a Capital Improvement Project, the TMA shall, in cooperation with the District, hold one or more public hearings to solicit input.

(f) Following the public hearing process, the TMA may vote on whether to implement the Capital Improvement Project.

(g) The cost of TMA-sponsored Extraordinary Project Operations and Capital Improvement Projects shall be divided among Twitchell Participants on the same basis as the allocation of their Twitchell Yield.

(h) The District shall assume operation and maintenance responsibility for any TMA sponsored Capital Improvement Project to the extent practical within the District's day-to-day operations.

5. *Regulatory Compliance*. The TMA or the District shall provide advance notice to the Court and all Parties of the initiation of any regulatory proceeding relating to the Twitchell Project.

6. *Existing Contracts*. The Twitchell Reservoir Project will continue to be governed by and subject to the terms and conditions of the December 1955 agreement between the District and the Santa Barbara County Water Agency and nothing in this Stipulation is intended to modify the rights or obligations provided in that agreement. To the extent that the approval of Santa Barbara County Water Agency or the United States Bureau of Reclamation is required in connection with the implementation of this Stipulation, the Stipulating Parties agree to work cooperatively to obtain such approval(s).

E. New Urban Uses – Santa Maria Valley Management Area

1. New Urban Uses shall obtain water service from the local public water supplier. The local public water supplier shall provide water service on a reasonable and non-discriminatory basis.

2. New municipal and industrial uses on land adjacent to or within one-quarter mile of the boundary line depicted in Exhibit D shall comply with any applicable Corporations Code provisions and negotiate in good faith to obtain water service from the local

public water supplier, before forming a mutual water company to provide water service.

3. No modification of land use authority. This Stipulation does not modify the authority of the entity holding land use approval authority over the proposed New Urban Uses.

4. New Urban Uses shall provide a source of supplemental water to offset the water demand associated with that development. For the purposes of this section, supplemental water shall include all sources of Developed Water, except: i) Twitchell Water, ii) storm water percolation ponds existing as of the date of entry of the judgment, or iii) Overlying Owners' right to use of surplus Developed Water.

VI. PHYSICAL SOLUTION: PROVISIONS SPECIFIC TO NIPOMO MESA MANAGEMENT AREA

As supplemented by the provisions of this Stipulation that apply to all Management Areas, the following terms shall apply to the Nipomo Mesa Management Area.

A. Supplemental Water

1. *MOU.* NCSD has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") with Santa Maria which contemplates the wholesale purchase and transmission from Santa Maria to the NMMA of a certain amount of water each Year (the "Nipomo Supplemental Water"). All water delivered pursuant to the MOU for delivery by NCSD to its ratepayers shall be applied within the NCSD or the NCSD's sphere of influence as it exists at the time of the transmission of that water.

2. The NCSD agrees to purchase and transmit to the NMMA a minimum of 2,500 acre-feet of Nipomo Supplemental Water each Year. However, the NMMA Technical Group may require NCSD in any given Year to purchase and transmit to the NMMA an amount in excess of 2,500 acre-feet and up to the maximum amount of Nipomo Supplemental Water which the NCSD is entitled to receive under the MOU if the Technical Group concludes that such an amount is necessary to protect or sustain Groundwater supplies in the NMMA. The NMMA Technical Group also may periodically reduce the required amount of Nipomo Supplemental Water used in the NMMA so long as it finds that groundwater supplies in the NMMA are not

endangered in any way or to any degree whatsoever by such a reduction.

3. The Stipulating Parties agree to support (and, conversely, not to oppose in any way or to encourage or assist any other Person or party in opposing or challenging) the implementation of the MOU, which includes environmental and regulatory permits and approvals, the approval of a wholesale water supply agreement between Santa Maria and NCSD, and the alignment and construction of a pipeline and related infrastructure necessary to deliver the Nipomo Supplemental Water from Santa Maria to the NMMA ("Nipomo Supplemental Water Project"). ConocoPhillips retains the right to object to or provide input on the alignment of any pipelines associated with the Nipomo Supplemental Water Project if they might interfere with the location of existing ConocoPhillips pipelines. The Stipulating Parties retain their rights to be compensated for any interest or property acquired in implementing the Nipomo Supplemental Water Project.

4. NCSD and Santa Maria shall employ their best efforts to timely implement the Nipomo Supplemental Water Project, subject to their quasi-judicial obligations specified for administrative actions and in the California Environmental Quality Act.

5. The enforcement of the provisions of Paragraph VI(D) below is conditioned upon the full implementation of the Nipomo Supplemental Water Project, including the Yearly use of at least 2,500 acre-feet of Nipomo Supplemental Water (subject to the provisions of Paragraph VI(A)(2) above) within the NMMA. In the event that Potentially Severe Water Shortage Conditions or Severe Water Shortage Conditions are triggered as referenced in Paragraph VI(D) before Nipomo Supplemental Water is used in the NMMA, NCSD, SCWC, Woodlands and RWC agree to develop a well management plan that is acceptable to the NMMA Technical Group, and which may include such steps as imposing conservation measures, seeking sources of supplemental water to serve new customers, and declaring or obtaining approval to declare a moratorium on the granting of further intent to serve or will serve letters. In the event that it becomes apparent that the Nipomo Supplemental Water will not be fully capable of being delivered, any Stipulating Party may apply to the Court, pursuant to a noticed motion, for appropriate modifications to this portion of the Stipulation and the judgment entered based upon the

terms and conditions of this Stipulation, including declaring this Paragraph VI to be null and void, and of no legal or binding effect.

6. Once the Nipomo Supplemental Water is capable of being delivered, those certain Stipulating Parties listed below shall purchase the following portions of the Nipomo Supplemental Water Yearly:

NCSD - 66.68%

Woodlands Mutual Water Company - 16.66%

SCWC - 8.33%

RWC - 8.33%

B. Rights to Use Groundwater

1. ConocoPhillips and its successors-in-interest shall have the right to the reasonable and beneficial use of Groundwater on the property it owns as of the date of this Stipulation located in the NMMA ("ConocoPhillips Property") without limitation, except in the event the mandatory action trigger point (Severe Water Shortage conditions) described in Paragraph VI(D) (2) below is reached. Further, any public water supplier which provides water service to the ConocoPhillips Property may exercise that right subject to the limitation described in Paragraph VI(D)(2).

2. Overlying Owners that are Stipulating Parties that own land located in the NMMA as of the date of this Stipulation shall have the right to the reasonable and beneficial use of Groundwater on their property within the NMMA without limitation, except in the event the mandatory action trigger point (Severe Water Shortage Conditions) described in Paragraph VI(D)(2) below is reached.

3. The Woodlands Mutual Water Company shall not be subject to restriction in its reasonable and beneficial use of Groundwater, provided it is concurrently using or has made arrangements for other NMMA parties to use within the NMMA, the Nipomo Supplemental Water allocated to the Woodlands in Paragraph VI(A)(5). Otherwise, the Woodlands Mutual Water Company shall be subject to reductions equivalent to those imposed on NCSD, RWC and SCWC, as provided in Paragraph VI(D)(1-2).

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C. NMMA Technical Group

1. The NMMA Technical Group shall include representatives appointed by NCSD, SCWC, ConocoPhillips, Woodlands Mutual Water Company and an agricultural Overlying Owner who is also a Stipulating Party.

2. The NMMA Technical Group shall develop a Monitoring Program for the NMMA ("NMMA Monitoring Program"), which shall be consistent with the Monitoring Program described in Paragraph IV(D). The NMMA Monitoring Program shall also include the setting of well elevation and water quality criteria that trigger the responses set forth in Paragraph D below. The Stipulating Parties shall provide monitoring and other production data to the NMMA Technical Group at no charge, to the extent that such data has been generated and is readily available. The NMMA Technical Group shall adopt rules and regulations concerning measuring devices and production reports that are, to the extent feasible, consistent with the Monitoring Programs for other Management Areas. If the NMMA Technical Group is unable to agree on any aspect of the NMMA Monitoring Program, the matter may be resolved by the Court pursuant to a noticed motion.

3. The NMMA Technical Group meetings shall be open to any Stipulating Party. NMMA Technical Group files and records shall be available to any Stipulating Party upon written request. Notices of the NMMA Technical Group meetings, as well as all its final work product (documents) shall be posted to groups.yahoo.com/group/NipomoCommunity/

4. The NMMA Technical Group functions shall be funded by contribution levels to be negotiated by NCSD, SCWC, RWC, ConocoPhillips, and Woodlands Mutual Water Company. In-lieu contributions through engineering services may be provided, subject to agreement by those parties. The budget of the NMMA Technical Group shall not exceed $75,000 per year without prior approval of the Court pursuant to a noticed motion.

5. Any final NMMA Technical Group actions shall be subject to *de novo* Court review by motion.

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D. Potentially Severe and Severe Water Shortage Conditions

1. Caution trigger point (Potentially Severe Water Shortage Conditions)

(a) Characteristics. The NMMA Technical Group shall develop criteria for declaring the existence of Potentially Severe Water Shortage Conditions. These criteria shall be approved by the Court and entered as a modification to this Stipulation or the judgment to be entered based upon this Stipulation. Such criteria shall be designed to reflect that water levels beneath the NMMA as a whole are at a point at which voluntary conservation measures, augmentation of supply, or other steps may be desirable or necessary to avoid further declines in water levels.

(b) Responses. If the NMMA Technical Group determines that Potentially Severe Water Shortage Conditions have been reached, the Stipulating Parties shall coordinate their efforts to implement voluntary conservation measures, adopt programs to increase the supply of Nipomo Supplemental Water if available, use within the NMMA other sources of Developed Water or New Developed Water, or implement other measures to reduce Groundwater use.

2. Mandatory action trigger point (Severe Water Shortage Conditions)

(a) Characteristics. The NMMA Technical Group shall develop the criteria for declaring that the lowest historic water levels beneath the NMMA as a whole have been reached or that conditions constituting seawater intrusion have been reached. These criteria shall be approved by the Court and entered as a modification to this Stipulation or the judgment to be entered based upon this Stipulation.

(b) Responses. As a first response, subparagraphs (i) through (iii) shall be imposed concurrently upon order of the Court. The Court may also order the Stipulating Parties to implement all or some portion of the additional responses provided in subparagraph (iv) below.

(i) For Overlying Owners other than Woodlands Mutual Water Company and ConocoPhillips, a reduction in the use of Groundwater to no more than 110% of

the highest pooled amount previously collectively used by those Stipulating Parties in a Year, prorated for any partial Year in which implementation shall occur, unless one or more of those Stipulating Parties agrees to forego production for consideration received. Such forbearance shall cause an equivalent reduction in the pooled allowance. The base Year from which the calculation of any reduction is to be made may include any prior single Year up to the Year in which the Nipomo Supplemental Water is transmitted. The method of reducing pooled production to 110% is to be prescribed by the NMMA Technical Group and approved by the Court. The quantification of the pooled amount pursuant to this subsection shall be determined at the time the mandatory action trigger point (Severe Water Shortage Conditions) described in Paragraph VI(D)(2) is reached. The NMMA Technical Group shall determine a technically responsible and consistent method to determine the pooled amount and any individual's contribution to the pooled amount. If the NMMA Technical Group cannot agree upon a technically responsible and consistent method to determine the pooled amount, the matter may be determined by the Court pursuant to a noticed motion.

(ii) ConocoPhillips shall reduce its Yearly Groundwater use to no more than 110% of the highest amount it previously used in a single Year, unless it agrees in writing to use less Groundwater for consideration received. The base Year from which the calculation of any reduction is to be made may include any prior single Year up to the Year in which the Nipomo Supplemental Water is transmitted. ConocoPhillips shall have discretion in determining how reduction of its Groundwater use is achieved.

(iii) NCSD, RWC, SCWC, and Woodlands (if applicable as provided in Paragraph VI(B)(3) above) shall implement those mandatory conservation measures prescribed by the NMMA Technical Group and approved by the Court.

(iv) If the Court finds that Management Area conditions have deteriorated since it first found Severe Water Shortage Conditions, the Court may impose further mandatory limitations on Groundwater use by NCSD, SCWC, RWC and the Woodlands. Mandatory measures designed to reduce water consumption, such as water reductions, water restrictions, and rate increases for the purveyors, shall be considered.

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(v) During Severe Water Shortage Conditions, the Stipulating Parties may make agreements for temporary transfer of rights to pump Native Groundwater, voluntary fallowing, or the implementation of extraordinary conservation measures. Transfer of Native Groundwater must benefit the Management Area and be approved by the Court.

E. New Urban Uses

1. Within the sphere of influence or service area. New Urban Uses shall obtain water service from the local public water supplier. The local public water supplier shall provide water service on a reasonable and non-discriminatory basis.

2. Outside the sphere of influence or service area. New municipal and industrial uses on land adjacent to or within one quarter mile of the boundary line depicted in Exhibit D shall comply with any applicable Corporations Code provisions, including good faith negotiations with the local water purveyor(s), prior to forming a mutual water company to provide water service.

3. The ConocoPhillips property, owned as of the date of this Stipulation and located within the NMMA, is not in the sphere of influence or service area, nor is it in the process of being included in the sphere of influence, of a municipality or within the certificated service area of a publicly regulated utility as of the date of this Stipulation, nor is it adjacent to or in close proximity to the sphere of influence of a municipality or the certificated service area of a publicly regulated utility as of the date of this Stipulation, as those terms are used in Paragraphs VI(E)(1 and 2).

4. No modification of land use authority. This Stipulation does not modify the authority of the entity holding land use approval authority over the proposed New Urban Uses.

5. New Urban Uses as provided in Paragraph VI(E)(1) above and new municipal and industrial uses as provided in Paragraph VI(E)(2) above shall provide a source of supplemental water, or a water resource development fee, to offset the water demand associated with that development. For the purposes of this Paragraph, supplemental water shall include all sources of Developed Water or New Developed Water.

VII. PHYSICAL SOLUTION: PROVISIONS SPECIFIC TO NORTHERN CITIES MANAGEMENT AREA

These terms, supplemented by the provisions of this Stipulation that apply to all Management Areas, govern water rights and resources in the Northern Cities Management Area.

1. Groundwater Monitoring. Groundwater monitoring in the Northern Cities Management Area will be conducted by the Northern Cities in the manner described above.

2. Lopez Project. The Lopez Project will continue to be managed by the SLO District. The Northern Cities and Landowners will continue to bear costs of the Lopez Reservoir and no costs of the Twitchell Reservoir.

3. Independent Management Per Settlement Agreement.

(a) Existing Groundwater, SWP Water and Storage Space in the Northern Cities Management Area will continue to be allocated and independently managed by the Northern Parties in accordance with the Northern Cities and Northern Landowners' 2002 Settlement Agreement (Exhibit "E") for the purpose of preserving the long-term integrity of water supplies in the Northern Cities Management Area. That Settlement Agreement initially allocates 57% of the safe yield of groundwater in Zone 3 to the farmers and 43% to the cities; and it provides *inter alia* that any increase or decrease in the safe yield will be shared by the cities and landowners on a pro rata basis. That Settlement Agreement is reaffirmed as part of this Stipulation and its terms are incorporated into this Stipulation, except that the provisions regarding continuing jurisdiction (¶ 4), groundwater monitoring, reporting, and the Technical Oversight Committee (¶¶ 7-20) are canceled and superseded by the provisions of this Stipulation dealing with those issues.

(b) Without the written agreement of each of the Northern Cities, no party other than Northern Parties shall have any right to:

(i) pump, store, or use Groundwater or surface water within the Northern Cities Management Area; or

(ii) limit or interfere with the pumping, storage, management or usage of Groundwater or surface water by the Northern Parties within the Northern Cities

Management Area.

(c) For drought protection, conservation, or other management purposes, the Northern Parties may engage in contractual transfers, leases, licenses, or sales of any of their water rights, including voluntary fallowing programs. However, no Groundwater produced within the Northern Cities Management Area may be transported outside of the Northern Cities Management Area without the written agreement of each of the Northern Cities.

4. Current and future deliveries of water within the spheres of influence of the Northern Cities as they exist on January 1, 2005 shall be considered existing uses and within the Northern Cities Management Area.

VIII. INJUNCTION – ALL MANAGEMENT AREAS

A. Use Only Pursuant to Stipulation

Each and every Stipulating Party, their officers, agents, employees, successors and assigns, are enjoined and restrained from exercising the rights and obligations provided through this Stipulation in a manner inconsistent with the express provisions of this Stipulation.

B. Injunction Against Transportation From the Basin

Except upon further order of the Court, each and every Stipulating Party and its officers, agents, employees, successors and assigns, is enjoined and restrained from transporting Groundwater to areas outside the Basin, except for those uses in existence as of the date of this Stipulation; provided, however, that Groundwater may be delivered for use outside the Basin as long as the wastewater generated by that use of water is discharged within the Basin, or agricultural return flows resulting from that use return to the Basin.

C. No Third Party Beneficiaries

This Stipulation is intended to benefit the Stipulating Parties and no other Parties. Only a Stipulating Party may enforce the terms of this Stipulation or assert a right to any benefits of, or enforce any obligations contained in this Stipulation.

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IX. RESERVED JURISDICTION – ALL MANAGEMENT AREAS

A. Reserved Jurisdiction; Modifications, Cancellations, Amendments

Jurisdiction, power and authority are retained by and reserved to the Court as set forth in this Paragraph. Nothing in the Court's reserved jurisdiction shall authorize modification, cancellation or amendment of the rights provided under Paragraphs III; V(A, E); VI(A, B, D); VII(2, 3); VIII(A); IX(A, C); and X(A, D) of this Stipulation. Subject to this limitation, the Court shall make such further or supplemental orders as may be necessary or appropriate regarding the following:

1. enforcement of this Stipulation;
2. claims regarding waste/unreasonable use of water;
3. disputes between Stipulating Parties across Management Area boundaries;
4. interpretation and enforcement of the judgment;
5. consider the content or implementation of a Monitoring Program;
6. consider the content, conclusions, or recommendations contained in an Annual Report;
7. consider Twitchell Project operations, including, but not limited to: i) the content of the Twitchell Project Manual; ii) TMA or District compliance with the Twitchell Project Manual; iii) decisions to implement Extraordinary Project Operations; or iv) the maintenance of Twitchell Yield;
8. claims of localized physical interference between the Stipulating Parties in exercising their rights pursuant to this Stipulation; provided, however, rights to use Groundwater under this Stipulation shall have equal status; and
9. modify, clarify, amend or amplify the judgment and the Northern Parties Settlement Agreement; Provided, however, that all of the foregoing shall be consistent with the spirit and intent of this Stipulation.

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B. Noticed Motion

Any party that seeks the Court's exercise of reserved jurisdiction shall file a noticed motion with the Court. Any noticed motion shall be made pursuant to the Court's Order Concerning Electronic Service of Pleadings and Electronic Posting of Discovery Documents dated June 27, 2000, attached and incorporated as Exhibit "G". Any request for judicial review shall be filed within sixty days of the act or omission giving rise to the claim. Upon a showing of good cause, the Court may extend the sixty-day time limitation.

C. *De Novo* Nature of Proceeding

The Court shall exercise *de novo* review in all proceedings. The actions or decisions of any Party, the Monitoring Parties, the TMA, or the Management Area Engineer shall have no heightened evidentiary weight in any proceedings before the Court.

D. Filing and Notice

As long as the Court's electronic filing system remains available, all Court filings shall be made pursuant to Exhibit "G". If the Court's electronic filing system is eliminated and not replaced, the Stipulating Parties shall promptly establish a substitute electronic filing system and abide by the same rules as contained in the Court's Order.

X. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS – ALL MANAGEMENT AREAS

A. Unenforceable Terms

The Stipulating Parties agree that if any provision of this Stipulation or the judgment entered based on this Stipulation is held to be invalid, void, or unenforceable, the remaining provisions shall nevertheless continue in full force and effect; provided, however, any order which invalidates, voids, deems unenforceable, or materially alters those Paragraphs enumerated in Paragraph IX(A) or any of them, shall render the entirety of the Stipulation and the judgment entered based on this Stipulation voidable and unenforceable, as to any Stipulating Party who files and serves a motion to be released from the Stipulation and the judgment based upon the Stipulation within sixty days of entry of that order, and whose motion is granted upon a showing of good cause.

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B. Water Quality

Nothing in the Stipulation shall be interpreted as relieving any Stipulating Party of its responsibilities to comply with state or federal laws for the protection of water quality or the provisions of any permits, standards, requirements, or orders promulgated thereunder.

C. Duty to Cooperate

The Stipulating Parties agree not to oppose, or in any way encourage or assist any other party in opposing or challenging, any action, approval, or proceeding necessary to obtain approval of or make effective this Stipulation or the judgment to be entered on terms consistent with this Stipulation.

D. Stipulating Parties Under Public Utilities Commission Regulation

1. To the extent allowed by law, SCWC and RWC shall comply with this Stipulation, prior to obtaining California Public Utilities Commission ("PUC") approval. If the PUC fails to approve SCWC's and RWC's participation or fails to provide approval of the necessary rate adjustments so that SCWC and RWC may meet their respective financial obligations, including the participation in Developed Water projects, Monitoring Programs, TMA and as otherwise provided in this Stipulation, shall render the entirety of the Stipulation and those terms of any judgment based on this Stipulation invalid, void and unenforceable, as to any Stipulating Party who files and serves a notice of rescission within sixty days of notice by SCWC or RWC of a final PUC Order.

2. Any Party, or its successors or assigns, agreeing to become a new customer of SCWC or RWC, or an existing customer proposing to increase its water use through a change in land use requiring a discretionary land use permit or other form of land use entitlement, that has not executed reservation contracts for supplemental water as specified in Exhibit F will provide the following, once approved by the PUC:

(a) If in the Santa Maria Valley Management Area, a water resource development fee as specified in Exhibit F or a source of supplemental water sufficient to offset the consumptive demand associated with the new use as provided in Paragraph V(E); or

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(b) If in the NMMA, a water resource development fee, or a source of supplemental water sufficient to offset the consumptive demand associated with the new use.

3. Any Person who is not engaged in a New Urban Use and who agrees to become a customer of SCWC or RWC shall retain its right to contest the applicable water resource development fee, should that fee ever become applicable to that Person.

E. Designation of Address, for Notice and Service

Each Stipulating Party shall designate the name, address and e-mail address, if any, to be used for purposes of all subsequent notices and service, either by its endorsement on the Stipulation for entry of judgment or by a separate designation to be filed within thirty days after execution of this Stipulation. This designation may be changed from time to time by filing a written notice with the Court. Any Stipulating Party desiring to be relieved of receiving notices may file a waiver of notice on a form approved by the Court. The Court shall maintain at all times a current list of Parties to whom notices are to be sent and their addresses for purposes of service. The Court shall also maintain a full current list of names, addresses, and e-mail addresses of all Parties or their successors, as filed herein. Copies of such lists shall be available to any Person. If no designation is made, a Stipulating Party's designee shall be deemed to be, in order of priority: i) the Party's attorney of record; ii) if the Party does not have an attorney of record, the Party itself at the address specified.

F. No Loss of Rights

Nothing in this Stipulation shall be interpreted to require or encourage any Stipulating Party to use more water in any Year than is actually required. As between the Stipulating Parties, failure to use all of the water to which a Stipulating Party is entitled hereunder shall not, no matter how long continued, be deemed or constitute an abandonment or forfeiture of such Stipulating Party's rights, in whole or in part.

G. Intervention After Judgment

Any Person who is not a Party or successor to a Party, who proposes to use Groundwater or Storage Space, may seek to become a Party to the judgment through a petition for intervention. The Court will consider an order confirming intervention following thirty days notice to the

Parties. Thereafter, if approved by the Court, such intervenor shall then be a Party bound by the judgment as provided by the Court.

H. Stipulation and Judgment Binding on Successors, Assigns, etc.

The Stipulating Parties agree that all property owned by them within the Basin is subject to this Stipulation and the judgment to be entered based upon the terms and conditions of this Stipulation. This Stipulation and the judgment will be binding upon and inure to the benefit of each Stipulating Party and their respective heirs, executors, administrators, trustees, successors, assigns, and agents. This Stipulation and the judgment to be entered based the terms and conditions of this Stipulation shall not bind the Stipulating Parties that cease to own property within the Basin, or cease to use Groundwater. As soon as practical after the effective date of this Stipulation, a memorandum of agreement referencing this Stipulation shall be recorded in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties by Santa Maria, in cooperation with the Northern Cities and SCWC. The document to be recorded shall be in the format provided in Exhibit "H".

I. Costs

No Stipulating Party shall recover any costs or attorneys fees from another Stipulating Party incurred prior to the entry of a judgment based on this Stipulation.

J. Non-Stipulating Parties

It is anticipated that the Court will enter a single judgment governing the rights of all Parties in this matter. The Stipulating Parties enter into this Stipulation with the expectation that the Court will enter, as a part of the judgment, the terms and conditions of this Stipulation. This Stipulation shall not compromise, in any way, the Court's legal and equitable powers to enter a single judgment that includes provisions applicable to the non-Stipulating Parties that may impose differing rights and obligations than those applicable to the Stipulating Parties. As against non-Stipulating Parties, each Stipulating Party expressly reserves and does not waive its right to appeal any prior or subsequent ruling or order of the Court, and assert any and all claims and defenses, including prescriptive claims. The Stipulating Parties agree they will not voluntarily enter into a further settlement or stipulation with non-Stipulating Parties that provides those non-Stipulating Parties with terms and conditions more beneficial than those provided to similarly

situated Stipulating Parties.

K. Counterparts

This Stipulation may be signed in any number of counterparts, including counterparts by facsimile signature, each of which shall be deemed an original, but all of which shall together constitute one and the same instrument. The original signature pages shall be filed with Court.

L. Effective Date

This Stipulation shall be effective when signed by the Stipulating Parties listed on Exhibit "A" and accepted by the Court.

Party	**Signature, title, and date**	**Parcels Subject to Stipulation**
Attorney of Record	**Approved as to form:** By:_____ Date:_____	

PROOF OF SERVICE

I am a resident of the State of California, over the age of eighteen years, and not a party to the within action. My business address is HATCH & PARENT, 21 E. Carrillo Street, Santa Barbara, California 93101.

Pursuant to the Court's Order dated June 28, 2000, I, Gina Lane, did the following:

- Posted the following document at approximately 4:30 p.m. on June 30, 2005.

  STIPULATION (JUNE 30, 2005 VERSION)

- Mailed a Notice of Availability to all parties (designating or defaulting to mail service) on the current website's service list.

I am readily familiar with the firm's practice of collection and processing correspondence for mailing. Under that practice it would be deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on that same day with postage thereon fully prepaid in the ordinary course of business. I am aware that on motion of the party served, service is presumed invalid if postal cancellation date or postage meter date is more than one day after date of deposit for mailing in affidavit.

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

Executed on June 30, 2005, at Santa Barbara, California.

GINA M. LANE

FILED

JAN 25 2008

KIRI TORRE
Chief Executive Officer/Clerk
Superior Court of CA County of Santa Clara
BY _____ DEPUTY
ROWENA A. WALKER

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA

COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA

SANTA MARIA VALLEY WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT,

Plaintiff,

vs.

CITY OF SANTA MARIA, ET AL.,

Defendants.

AND RELATED CROSS-ACTIONS AND ACTIONS CONSOLIDATED FOR ALL PURPOSES

SANTA MARIA GROUNDWATER LITIGATION
Lead Case No. 1-97-CV-770214

(CONSOLIDATED FOR ALL PURPOSES)

[Consolidated With Case Numbers: CV 784900; CV 785509; CV 785522; CV 787150; CV 784921; CV 785511; CV 785936; CV 787151; CV 784926; CV 785515; CV 786791; CV 787152; 1-05-CV-036410]

San Luis Obispo County Superior Court Case Nos. 990738 and 990739

JUDGMENT AFTER TRIAL

This matter came on for trial in five separate phases. Following the third phase of trial, a large number of parties entered into a written stipulation dated June 30, 2005 to resolve their differences and requested that the court approve the settlement and make its terms binding on them as a part of any final judgment entered in this case. Subsequent to the execution of the stipulation by the original settling parties, a number of additional parties have agreed to be bound by the stipulation – their signatures are included in the attachments to this judgment.

The June 30, 2005 Stipulation is attached as Exhibit "1;" and all exhibits to the Stipulation are separately attached as Exhibits "1A" through "1H". The Stipulating Parties are identified on Exhibit "1A." The court approves the Stipulation, orders the Stipulating Parties only to comply with each and every term thereof, and incorporates the same herein as though set forth in full. No non-stipulating party is bound in any way by the stipulation except as the court may otherwise independently adopt as its independent judgment a term or terms that are the same or similar to such term or provision of the stipulation.

As to all remaining parties, including those who failed to answer or otherwise appear, the court heard the testimony of witnesses, considered the evidence found to be admissible by the court, and heard the arguments of counsel. Good cause appearing, the court finds and orders judgment as follows.

As used in this Judgment, the following terms shall have the meanings herein set forth:

Basin – The groundwater basin described in the Phase I and II orders of the court, as modified, with attachments and presented in Exhibit "1B".

Defaulting Parties – All persons or entities listed on Exhibit "3".

Imported Water – Water within the Basin received from the State Water Project, originating outside the Basin, that absent human intervention would not recharge or be used in the Basin.

LOG Parties – All persons or entities listed on Exhibit "2," listed under the subheading "LOG Parties".

Non-Stipulating Parties – All Parties who did not sign the Stipulation, including the Defaulting Parties and the LOG and Wineman Parties.

Parties – All parties to the above-referenced action, including Stipulating Parties, Non-Stipulating Parties, and Defaulting Parties.

Public Water Producers – City of Santa Maria, Golden State Water Company, Rural Water Company, the "Northern Cities" (collectively the Cities of Arroyo Grande, Pismo Beach, and Grover Beach, and Oceano Community Services District), and the Nipomo Community Services District.

Return Flows – All water which recharges the Basin after initial use, through the use of percolation ponds and others means, derived from the use and recharge of imported water delivered through State Water Project facilities.

Stipulating Parties – All Parties who are signatories to the Stipulation.

Stipulation – The Stipulation dated June 30, 2005 and incorporated herein as Exhibit "1," with each of its Exhibits separately identified and incorporated herein as Exhibits "1A" through "1H".

Storage Space – The portion of the Basin capable of holding water for subsequent reasonable and beneficial uses.

Wineman Parties – All persons or entities listed on Exhibit "2," under the subheading "Wineman Parties".

The following Exhibits are attached to this Judgment:

1. *Exhibit "1,"* June 30, 2005 Stipulation and the following exhibits thereto:

a. *Exhibit "1A,"* list identifying the Stipulating Parties and the parcels of land bound by the Stipulation.

b. *Exhibit "1B,"* Phase I and II Orders, as modified, with attachments.

c. *Exhibit "1C,"* map of the Basin and boundaries of the three Management Areas.

d. *Exhibit "1D,"* map identifying those lands as of January 1, 2005: 1) within the boundaries of a municipality or its sphere of influence, or within the process of inclusion in its sphere of influence; or 2) within the certificated service area of a publicly regulated utility; and a list of selected parcels that are nearby these boundaries which are excluded from within these areas.

e. *Exhibit "1E,"* 2002 Settlement Agreement between the Northern Cities and Northern Landowners.

f. *Exhibit "1F,"* the agreement among Santa Maria, Golden State and Guadalupe regarding Twitchell Project and the Twitchell Management Authority.

g. *Exhibit "1G,"* the court's Order Concerning Electronic Service of

Pleadings and Electronic Posting of Discovery Documents dated June 27, 2000.

h. *Exhibit "1H,"* the form of memorandum of agreement to be recorded.

2. *Exhibit "2,"* List of Non-Stipulating LOG and Wineman Parties and recorded deed numbers of property they owned at the time of trial.

3. *Exhibit "3,"* List of Defaulting parties.

A declaratory judgment and physical solution are hereby adjudged and decreed as follows:

1. As of the time of trial, LOG and Wineman Parties owned the real property, listed by assessor's parcel numbers, as presented in Exhibit 2.

2. The City of Santa Maria and Golden State Water Company are awarded prescriptive rights to ground water against the non-stipulating parties, which rights shall be measured and enforced as described below.

3. The City of Santa Maria and Golden State Water Company have a right to use the Basin for temporary storage and subsequent recapture of the Return Flows generated from their importation of State Water Project water, to the extent that such water adds to the supply of water in the aquifer and if there is storage space in the aquifer for such return flows, including all other native sources of water in the aquifer. The City of Santa Maria's Return Flows represent 65 percent of the amount of imported water used by the City. Golden State Water Company's Return Flows represent 45 percent of the amount of imported water used by Golden State in the basin.

4. (a) The Northern Cities have a prior and paramount right to produce 7,300 acre-feet of water per year from the Northern Cities Area of the Basin; and (b) the Non-Stipulating Parties have no overlying, appropriative, or other right to produce any water supplies in the Northern Cities Area of the Basin.

5. The Groundwater Monitoring Provisions and Management Area Monitoring Programs contained in the Stipulation, including Sections IV(D) (All Management Areas); V(B) (Santa Maria Management Area), VI(C) (Nipomo Mesa Management Area), and VII (1) (Northern Cities Management Area), inclusive, are independently adopted by the court as

necessary to manage water production in the basin and are incorporated herein and made terms of this Judgment. The Non-Stipulating Parties shall participate in, and be bound by, the applicable Management Area Monitoring Program. Each Non-Stipulating Party also shall monitor their water production, maintain records thereof, and make the data available to the court or its designee as may be required by subsequent order of the court.

6. No Party established a pre-Stipulation priority right to any portion of that increment of augmented groundwater supply within the Basin that derives from the Twitchell Project's operation.

7. The court determines that there is a reasonable likelihood that drought and overdraft conditions will occur in the Basin in the foreseeable future that will require the exercise of the court's equity powers. The court therefore retains jurisdiction to make orders enforcing the rights of the parties hereto in accordance with the terms of this judgment.

a. Groundwater

i. The overlying rights of the LOG and Wineman Parties shall be adjusted by amounts lost to the City of Santa Maria and Golden State Water Company by prescription. The prescriptive rights of the City of Santa Maria and Golden State Water Company must be measured against the rights of all overlying water producers pumping in the acquifer as a whole and not just against the LOG and Wineman Parties because adverse pumping by the said water producers was from the aquifer as a whole and not just against the non-stipulating parties. The City of Santa Maria established total adverse appropriation of 5100 acre feet per year and Golden State Water Company established adverse appropriation of 1900 acre feet a year, measured against all usufructuary rights within the Santa Maria Basin. The City of Santa Maria and Golden State Water Company having waived the right to seek prescription against the other stipulating parties, may only assert such rights against the non stipulating parties in a proportionate quantity. To demonstrate the limited right acquired by the City of Santa Maria and Golden State Water Company, by way of example, if the cumulative usufructuary rights of the LOG and Wineman Parties were 1,000 acre-feet and the cumulative usufructuary rights of all other overlying groundwater right holders within the

Basin were 100,000 acre-feet, the City of Santa Maria and Golden State Water Company would each be entitled to enforce 1% of their total prescriptive right against the LOG and Wineman Parties. That is, Golden State Water Company could assert a prescriptive right of 19 annual acre-feet, and the City of Santa Maria 51 annual acre-feet, cumulatively against the LOG and Wineman Parties, each on a proportionate basis as to each LOG and Wineman Party's individual use.

ii. The Defaulting Parties failed to appear at trial and prove any usufructuary water rights. The rights of the Defaulting Parties, if any, are subject to the prescriptive rights of the City of Santa Maria and Golden State Water Company, as well as the other rights of said parties as established herein.

b. Imported Water

The City of Santa Maria and Golden State Water Company shall have rights to Return Flows in the amount provided above.

c. Northern Cities

The rights of all Parties in the Northern Cities Management Area shall be governed as described above on page 4, lines 21 to 24.

8. The LOG and Wineman Parties have failed to sustain the burden of proof in their action to quiet title to the quantity of their ground water rights as overlying owners. All other LOG and Wineman party causes of action having been dismissed, judgment is hereby entered in favor of the Public Water Producers as to the quiet title causes of action brought by the LOG and the Wineman Parties. Legal title to said real property is vested in the Log and Wineman Parties and was not in dispute in this action.

9. Each and every Party, their officers, agents, employees, successors and assigns, are enjoined and restrained from exercising the rights and obligations provided through this Judgment in a manner inconsistent with the express provisions of this Judgment.

10. Except upon further order of the court, each and every Party and its officers, agents, employees, successors and assigns, is enjoined and restrained from transporting groundwater to areas outside the Basin, except for those uses in existence as of the date of this

Judgment; provided, however, that groundwater may be delivered for use outside the Basin as long as the wastewater generated by that use of water is discharged within the Basin, or agricultural return flows resulting from that use return to the Basin.

11. Jurisdiction, power and authority over the Stipulating Parties as between one another are governed exclusively by the Stipulation. The court retains and reserves jurisdiction as set forth in this Paragraph over all parties hereto. The court shall make such further or supplemental orders as may be necessary or appropriate regarding interpretation and enforcement of all aspects of this Judgment, as well as clarifications or amendments to the Judgment consistent with the law.

12. Any party that seeks the court's exercise of reserved jurisdiction shall file a noticed motion with the court. Any noticed motion shall be made pursuant to the court's Order Concerning Electronic Service of Pleadings and Electronic Posting of Discovery Documents dated June 27, 2000.

13. The court shall exercise *de novo* review in all proceedings. The actions or decisions of any Party, the Monitoring Parties, the TMA, or the Management Area Engineer shall have no heightened evidentiary weight in any proceedings before the court.

14. As long as the court's electronic filing system remains available, all court filings shall be made pursuant to court's Order Concerning Electronic Service of Pleadings and Electronic Posting of Discovery Documents dated June 27, 2000, or any subsequent superseding order. If the court's electronic filing system is eliminated and not replaced, the Parties shall promptly establish a substitute electronic filing system and abide by the same rules as contained in the court's Order.

15. Nothing in this Judgment shall be interpreted as relieving any Party of its responsibilities to comply with state or federal laws for the protection of water quality or the provisions of any permits, standards, requirements, or order promulgated thereunder.

16. Each Party shall designate the name, address and e-mail address, if any, to be used for purposes of all subsequent notices and service by a designation to be filed within thirty days after entry of this Judgment. This designation may be changed from time to time

by filing a written notice with the court. Any Party desiring to be relieved of receiving notices may file a waiver of notice on a form approved by the court. The court shall maintain at all times a current list of Parties to whom notices are to be sent and their addresses for purposes of service. The court shall also maintain a full current list of names, addresses, and e-mail addresses of all Parties or their successors, as filed herein. Copies of such lists shall be available to any Person. If no designation is made, a Party's designee shall be deemed to be, in order of priority: i) the Party's attorney of record; ii) if the Party does not have an attorney of record, the Party itself at the address specified.

17. All real property owned by the Parties within the Basin is subject to this Judgment. The Judgment will be binding upon and inure to the benefit of each Party and their respective heirs, executors, administrators, trustees, successors, assigns, and agents. Any party, or executor of a deceased party, who transfers property that is subject to this judgment shall notify any transferee thereof of this judgment and shall ensure that the judgment is recorded in the line of title of said property. This Judgment shall not bind the Parties that cease to own property within the Basin, and cease to use groundwater. Within sixty days following entry of this Judgment, the City of Santa Maria, in cooperation with the San Luis Obispo entities and Golden State, shall record in the Office of the County Reporter in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties, a notice of entry of Judgment.

The Clerk shall enter this Judgment.

SO ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED.

Dated: January 25, 2008

Judge of the Superior Court
JACK KOMAR