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11 Attorneys for Cross-Defendant
 CASITAS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT,
 12 a California special district

13 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

14 FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES - SPRING STREET COURTHOUSE

15 SANTA BARBARA CHANNELKEEPER, a
 California non-profit corporation,

16 Petitioner,

17 v.

18 STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL
 19 BOARD, a California State Agency;
 CITY OF SAN BUENA VENTURA, a
 20 California municipal corporation, incorrectly
 named as CITY OF BUENA VENTURA,

21 Respondents.

22 CITY OF SAN BUENA VENTURA, a
 23 California municipal corporation,

24 Cross-Complainant,

25 v.

26 DUNCAN ABBOTT, et al.

27 Cross-Defendants.
 28

Case No. 19STCP01176

Hon. William F. Highberger; Dept: 10

**STATUS CONFERENCE REPORT OF
 CROSS DEFENDANT CASITAS
 MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT**

DATE: June 24, 2020
 TIME: 2:30 p.m.
 DEPT.: 10

Date Action Filed: September 19, 2014
 Trial Date: None Set

1 **STATUS CONFERENCE REPORT**

2 Cross-Defendant CASITAS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT, a California special
3 district (“Casitas”) submits this Status Conference Report (“Report”) in advance of the Status
4 Conference scheduled for June 24, 2020 at 2:30 p.m. Casitas has reviewed the Status Conference
5 Report submitted and circulated by the City of San Buenaventura (“City”), and reports separately
6 to supplement the City’s filing, and update the court on Casitas’ activities and perspectives.

7 **I. SERVICE ISSUES**

8 Generally, Casitas takes no position with the City’s efforts to effectuate service in this
9 action, except to say it does not oppose the ex parte application for additional time to serve the
10 pending cross-complaint. Given such service issues, however, Casitas believes that the responsive
11 date for form answers should be continued from its presently scheduled September 8, 2020 date, to
12 a point later in October, when the scope of the parties, and the interests they represent, is a bit
13 more clear.

14 Further, Casitas believes that the date for Initial Disclosures called for under Code of Civil
15 Procedure section 842 should likewise be deferred for all parties, until the City has substantially
16 completed service on all of those it would join in the litigation, and the matter is more fully “at
17 issue.” Code of Civil Procedure section 842 calls for such disclosures six months after a party has
18 appeared. Casitas believes the action would proceed more efficiently if these Initial Disclosures
19 were coordinated among parties. It therefore suggests that all parties who have not yet made such
20 disclosures might have until six months following the City’s attempts to serve are complete, save
21 for any then-pending published service that may be required.

22 **II. PHYSICAL SOLUTION AND REQUEST FOR FURTHER STATUS**
23 **CONFERENCE**

24 Casitas was previously involved in the discussions of the consumptive users toward
25 development of a stipulated judgment and physical solution. Casitas withdrew from such
26 discussions in mid-March, 2020, based in large measure on political and legal differences Casitas
27 had with the progress of the City’s service of the action, and the progress of the discussions.
28 Casitas’ withdrawal was not intended to signal an abandonment of efforts toward a locally

1 generated, long-term physical solution to both water and species issues in the watershed, but rather
2 the need for more collaboration on the scope of the litigation participants, the necessity of the
3 litigation as a forum for such physical solution discussions, and the interface between water
4 management and litigation goals.

5 Casitas has invited the City to direct, one-on-one discussions of these topics, to reach
6 common understandings on mutual interests, and identify the impact of any irreconcilable
7 differences. An initial meeting has been held, and Casitas is committed to pursuing additional
8 sessions, which it hopes will put the ongoing efforts at crafting a physical solution back on a
9 footing Casitas can actively support.

10 Casitas has no objection to the City's request that the court set a further Status Conference
11 for mid to late July.

12
13 Dated: June 17, 2020

RUTAN & TUCKER, LLP
DOUGLAS J. DENNINGTON
DAVID B. COSGROVE

14
15 By: 

16 David B. Cosgrove
17 Attorneys for Cross-Defendant
18 CASITAS MUNICIPAL
19 WATER DISTRICT,
20 a California special district
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PROOF OF SERVICE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF ORANGE

I am employed by the law office of Rutan & Tucker, LLP in the County of Orange, State of California. I am over the age of 18 and not a party to the within action. My business address is 611 Anton Boulevard, Suite 1400, Costa Mesa, California 92626-1931. My electronic notification address is pjohnson@rutan.com.

On June 17, 2020, I served on the interested parties in said action the within:

STATUS CONFERENCE REPORT OF CROSS DEFENDANT CASITAS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

as stated below:

By transmission via E-Service to File & ServeXpress as listed on File & ServeXpress service list.

Executed on June 17, 2020, at Costa Mesa, California.

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

Patricia Johnson

(Type or print name)

/s/ Patricia Johnson

(Signature)