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CASITAS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT a California  
7 special district

8 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
9 FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, DISTRICT

10 SANTA BARBARA CHANNELKEEPER, a  
California non-profit corporation,  
11  
Petitioner,  
12  
vs.  
13  
14 STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL  
BOARD, et. al.,  
15  
Respondents.

Case No. 19STCP01176

Judge: Hon. William F. Highberger  
Dept: 10

**DECLARATION OF CASITAS  
MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT  
GENERAL MANAGER MICHAEL FLOOD  
IN SUPPORT OF JOINT EX PARTE  
APPLICATION FOR AN ORDER TO  
CONTINUE THE CURRENT STAY FOR  
AN ADDITIONAL SIX MONTHS TO  
MARCH 30, 2024**

*[Filed concurrently with the Joint Ex Parte  
Application and [Proposed] Order]*

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17 CITY OF SAN BUENA VENTURA, et. al.,  
Cross-Complainant,  
18  
vs.  
19  
20 DUNCAN ABBOTT, an individual, et al.,  
Cross-Defendants.  
21

Date: September 27, 2023  
Time: 3:30 P.M.  
Dept.: 10

Date Action Filed: September 19, 2014  
Trial Date: Not Set

**DECLARATION OF MICHAEL FLOOD**

I, Michael Flood, declare:

1. I am the General Manager of Casitas Municipal Water District (“Casitas”). I have personal knowledge of the facts set forth in this declaration, and if called as a witness, could competently testify to all matters set forth herein.

2. I make this declaration in support of the Joint Application for an order from the Court continuing the current stay in this action for an additional six (6) months to March 30, 2024.

3. I have been appointed by the Casitas Board to serve on the Casitas Negotiating Team in connection with the mediation in this matter.

4. In this role, I have attended all mediation sessions held with the mediator, David Ceppos, and representatives of the cities of Ojai and Ventura and the East Ojai Group (collectively the “Initial Mediation Parties”) as well as representatives of the Ventura River Water District (VRWD), Meiners Oaks Water District (MOWD), the Wood-Clyaessens Foundation (Foundation), Rancho Matilija Mutual Water Company (Rancho Matilija) and the Ventura County Watershed Protection District (Watershed Protection District).

5. Since the last extension of the stay in March of 2023, I have attended Mediation Session 6 on March 23, 2023, Mediation Session 7 on April 21, 2023 and Mediation Session 8 on May 23, 2023.

6. In my role on the Casitas Negotiating Team, I have also participated in other meetings with the mediator as requested, and in other meetings with other Ventura Watershed stakeholders to discuss possible components of a physical solution and associated governance structure and the development of a management plan that is envisioned to benefit Steelhead in the Ventura River.

7. I believe that the parties in the mediation are making good progress towards a resolution of the issues presented in the litigation. Since the last extension approved by the Court, the parties have made substantial progress regarding the management structure/governance for the proposed physical solution, as well as progress on technical issues related to the development of a

1 management plan that is intended to benefit Steelhead in the Ventura River as part of the physical  
2 solution. The Parties are also working hard to prepare for direct discussions with the State Water  
3 Resources Control Board (State Board) and the California Department of Fish & Wildlife  
4 (CDFW), and there have been informative communications and concepts exchanged between the  
5 mediation parties and CDFW/State Board via the Mediator during recent months. While much  
6 additional work is required, the progress that is being made suggests to me that additional  
7 mediation should be pursued.

8           8. While significant progress has been made towards a final settlement and physical  
9 solution, it will not be feasible to complete the mediation by September 30, 2023. More work is  
10 required by the mediating parties, and other parties, including the State Board and CDFW, before  
11 a proposal will be ready for the Court’s consideration. In addition, due to events involving the  
12 health of the mediator and his family that were unforeseen and uncontrollable, the structured  
13 mediation faced unanticipated delays in July and August of 2023 that necessitate additional time.

14           9. Obtaining an additional six months extension of the stay to March 30, 2024 should  
15 provide the parties with time to continue to making diligent progress towards a settlement.

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

18           Executed this 12th day of September, 2023 at Oak View, California.

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Michael Flood  
General Manager, Casitas MWD