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CITY OF SAN BUENAVENTURA

EXEMPT FROM FILING FEES PURSUANT
TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 6103

11
12 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
13 COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

14
15 SANTA BARBARA CHANNELKEEPER, a
California non-profit corporation,

16 Petitioner,

17 v.

18 STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL
19 BOARD, et al,

20 Respondents.

21 CITY OF SAN BUENAVENTURA, et al.,

22 Cross-Complainant,

23 v.

24 DUNCAN ABBOTT, an individual, et al.,

25 Cross-Defendants.
26
27
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Case No. 19STCP01176

Judge: Hon. William F. Highberger

**STATUS REPORT FROM CITY OF
SAN BUENAVENTURA AND CASITAS
MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT**

Status Conference Date: Nov. 21, 2025

Status Conference Time: 10:00 a.m.

Dept.: 10

Action Filed: Sept. 19, 2014

Trial Date: Not Set

1 Defendant and Cross-Complainant the City of San Buenaventura (Ventura) and Cross-
2 Defendant Casitas Municipal Water District (Casitas) submit this Status Report regarding
3 mediation efforts in advance of the Court’s November 21, 2025 Status Conference. Although this
4 Status Report is submitted by Ventura and Casitas directly, Ventura and Casitas have shared this
5 Status Report with the other current parties to the structured mediation in advance of this filing.

6 **I. STATUS UPDATE**

7 At the last Status Conference, the Court heard concerns from Casitas regarding the pace of
8 the mediation and the progress of the discussions to fully resolve Ventura’s Cross-Complaint.
9 Although Casitas did not at that time request a trial date for the Phase 1 trial, Casitas indicated to
10 the Court that it might make that request in the future.

11 Since that Status Conference, Casitas and Ventura have been working to address the
12 concerns expressed by Casitas. Casitas and Ventura have made significant progress toward
13 resolving these concerns by discussing a resolution that would divide the Ventura River
14 Watershed into two management areas—the San Antonio Creek Sub-Watershed and the Ventura
15 River Sub-Watershed. At present, Casitas and Ventura are actively negotiating the terms of a
16 settlement that would resolve the need for a Phase 1 trial and simplify the management of the San
17 Antonio Creek Sub-Watershed (consisting of the Ojai Basin, the Upper Ojai Basin and the Sub-
18 Watershed associated with San Antonio Creek and its tributaries). Under this framework, the
19 Ojai Basin would be managed in accordance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
20 (SGMA) and the Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency’s Groundwater Sustainability
21 Plan (GSP). Casitas would manage the other portions of the San Antonio Creek Sub-Watershed.

22 Casitas and Ventura are aggressively working to document the terms of this resolution and
23 believe that they will be in a position by the January 16, 2026, Status Conference to request a
24 hearing date to consider this resolution. At this time, Casitas and Ventura intend to circulate the
25 proposed settlement to other interested parties for comment in advance of the January 16, 2026,
26 Status Conference.

27 Although present efforts are focused on resolving the need for the Phase 1 trial and
28 establishing a simplified management structure for the San Antonio Creek Sub-Watershed, the


1 parties continue to work on a management solution for the balance of the Ventura River
2 Watershed, generally referred to as the mainstem of the Ventura River or the Ventura River Sub-
3 Watershed. For example, Ventura continues to regularly engage with the State Water Resources
4 Control Board, the Department of Fish & Wildlife and Santa Barbara Channelkeeper to seek an
5 acceptable resolution and will continue to do so. While this portion of the Watershed is expected
6 to take additional time to resolve, Casitas and Ventura are optimistic that this two-step approach
7 will ultimately lead to a comprehensive judgment and physical solution for the entire Watershed,
8 while avoiding the need for costly and distracting litigation.

9 **II. CONCLUSION**

10 Casitas and Ventura are optimistic that they will have a settlement for the San Antonio
11 Creek Sub-Watershed described above by January 16, 2026. In the interim, Casitas and Ventura
12 will continue to implement the Interim Order.

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14 Dated: November 14, 2025

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