

FILED SUPERIOR COURT COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO RANCHO CUCAMONGA DISTRICT

DEC 2 1 2007

By - Jojo m Take Deputy

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO, RANCHO CUCAMONGA DIVISION

CHINO BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT.

CASE NO. RCV 51010

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Plaintiff,

ORDER CONCERNING MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF PEACE II DOCUMENTS

13 v.

Defendants.

Date: Submitted on Nov. 29, 2007

THE CITY OF CHINO, et al.

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I. Introduction

A. Watermaster's Filings

On October 25, 2007, Chino Basin Watermaster filed a Motion for Approval of Peace II Documents. Watermaster's motion requests Court approval of three proposed Judgment amendments, a proposed amendment to the Peace Agreement, a Purchase and Sale Agreement for water from the Overlying (Non-Agricultural) Pool, a Supplement to the Optimum Basin Management Program ("OBMP") Implementation Plan, a Peace II Agreement, and proposed amendments to Watermaster's Rules and Regulations. Watermaster requested a November 29, 2007 hearing on the motion

On November 15, 2007, Watermaster filed a Transmittal of Supplemental Documents,

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which included the 2007 CBWM Groundwater Model Documentation and Evaluation of the Peace II Project Description, Final Report, dated November 2007. On December 13, 2007, Watermaster filed its Second Transmittal of Supplemental Documents, which included several stipulations.

Watermaster filed its Response to Special Referee's Preliminary Comments and Recommendations on Motion for Approval of Peace II Documents on December 14, 2007. The Watermaster's Response noted: "The technical issues raised by the Referee are addressed in a separate document that is being prepared by Mark Wildermuth, which will be filed at a later date." (Watermaster Response p. 2, fn. 2) Mr. Wildermuth's Letter Report to Watermaster on the subject "Evaluation of Alternative 1C and Declining Safe Yield" (December 18, 2007) was filed with the Court December 19, 2007.

B. Filings in Support of Watermaster's Motion

Numerous filings have been received in support of the Motion. On November 9, 2007, Fontana Union Water Company, San Antonio Water Company, and Monte Vista Water District filed Joinders to Watermaster's motion. The City of Pomona filed a Statement in Support of the motion, also on November 9, 2007. On November 13, 2007, Inland Empire Utilities Agency ("IEUA") filed a Joinder to Watermaster's motion and Declaration of Richard Atwater. Also on November 14, 2007, the City of Chino Hills, the City of Upland, the Agricultural Pool, and Cucamonga Valley Water District filed Joinders to Watermaster's motion.

On November 15, 2007, Western Municipal Water District filed a Joinder to Watermaster's motion and Declaration of John Rossi. Also on November 15, 2007, the City of Ontario filed a Joinder to the motion and Declaration of Kenneth Jeske. The third filing on November 15, 2007, was Three Valleys Municipal Water District's Joinder to the motion and Declaration of Jeff Kightlinger. On November 26, 2007, the City of Chino filed a Joinder and Statement in Support of Watermaster Motion to Approve Peace II Documents.

On November 29, 2007, Watermaster and the Chino Basin Water Conservation District entered into and filed a stipulation stating the Conservation District's support for the Court's approval of the Peace II Measures in consideration for certain clarifications. Watermaster's

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second transmittal, filed on November 29, 2007, included a Declaration from Ronald Craig on behalf of the City of Chino Hills, and a Declaration from Eldon Horst for Jurupa Community Services District, both in support of approval of the Peace II Measures.

C. Court's Order to Show Cause

An Order to Show Cause Why Court Should Not Continue the Hearing on Motion for Approval of Peace II Documents ("OSC") was issued on November 15, 2007. The OSC stated the Court intended to continue the hearing on Watermaster's Motion "... absent sufficient cause being shown by, among other things, testimony of Mark Wildermuth elicited on November 29, 2007," (OSC p. 4, lns. 24-25) The Chino Basin Water Conservation District filed a Response to the OSC on November 19, 2006, and Watermaster filed a Response to Order to Show Cause and Conservation District on November 26, 2007.

D. Special Referee Reports

Special Referee Anne Schneider's Preliminary Comments and Recommendations on Motion for Approval of Peace II Documents ("Preliminary Report") was filed on November 27. 2007. The Special Referee filed her Final Report and Recommendations on Motion for Approval of Peace II Documents on December 20, 2007.

E. November 29, 2007 Court Hearing

The Court held a hearing on November 29, 2007, with testimony from Mr. Manning and Mr. Wildermuth. The Reporter's Transcript was available December 11, 2007.

II. Discussion

An extraordinary effort has been made to get the motion, all of the supporting and supplemental pleadings and other documents, and the Special Referee reports filed before the end of 2007. The Court has considered all of the pleadings, declarations, reports and other documents, as well as the testimony presented on November 29, 2007. It is obvious that everyone involved in the "Peace IT" process has been working diligently. Moreover, the Court is appreciative of the way this case has been managed in recent years. The Court appreciates all of your efforts, including but not limited to the parties, the attorneys, Watermaster and its attorney, the Special Referee, and the Technical Expert's education of the Court in this complex matter.

A. Guidance Regarding the Roles of Watermaster and the Special Referee

Watermaster asserts that the traditional role of Watermaster and its interaction with the Court is made more complex in Chino Basin by the existence of a Special Referee.

Watermaster states that no other adjudicated groundwater basin has both a Watermaster and a Special Referee, and notes that the Judgment does not provide for a referee. (Watermaster Response, *supra*, p. 3, lns. 11-16.) Watermaster asks for guidance as to Watermaster's and the Special Referee's roles.

1. Watermaster's Role

The Court accepts Watermaster's analysis of its role: "Watermaster's legal existence emanates from the Judgment. All of Watermaster's enumerated powers originate within and arise from the Judgment. It is not a public agency or private entity that has been formed under some general or special law. Its duty is 'to administer and to enforce the provisions of this Judgment and any subsequent instructions or orders of the Court hereunder.' [Citation.] As all special masters, Watermaster operates as an extension of the Court and to meet the needs of the Court in carrying out its obligations under the Judgment and Article X, Section 2 of the California Constitution." (Watermaster Resp. to Sp. Ref. Prelim. Comments, p. 2, Ins. 22-25 and p. 3, Ins. 1-3.) Although it is not stated in Watermaster's pleadings, it is important to note that it is not Watermaster's duty to be an advocate for any, or for all, of the parties. Watermaster's position with respect to the parties should be neutral.

2. Special Referee's Role

The Court also accepts the Special Referee's analysis of the role of a referee: "The role of the Special Referee is to (1) provide the court with as full and complete explanations as possible of what the Watermaster requests or of issues that have been brought to the court; and (2) to make recommendations to the court as appropriate." (Sp. Rev. Fin. Report, p. 3, Ins. 4-6.) The Special Referee's role is this case is discussed further below.

3. Courts Favor Referee in Water Law Determinations

The recommendation that trial courts obtain expert advice in water law decisions was recognized by the California Supreme Court long ago: "... in view of the complexity of the

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factual issues in water cases and the great public interests involved, [it has been recommended] that the trial courts seek the aid of the expert advice and assistance provided for in that section [former Water Code Section 24, now Water Code Section 2000]." (City of Pasadena v. City of Alhambra (1949) 33 Cal.2d 908, 917.)

In this case, it was the parties who first suggested to the Court in the early 1990's that an order of reference be made to Anne Schneider. That was in connection with motions entitled Joint Motion to Interpret, Enforce, Carry-out, Modify, Amend or Amplify the Judgment Herein (dated August 25, 1992) and California Steel Industries, Inc.'s Notice of Motion to Interpret, Enforce, Carry-out, Modify, Amend, or Amplify Paragraph 7, Page 66 of Exhibit G of the 1978 Judgment (dated March 25, 1993).

Then in April 1997, the Court, on its own motion, ordered a reference to Anne Schneider under Code of Civil Procedure Section 639, subdivision (d). In that instance, the reference to Anne Schneider was made as an alternative to ordering a reference to the SWRCB under Water Code Sections 2000 et seq., in connection with a Motion for Order that Audit Commissioned by Watermaster is not a Watermaster Expense and Motion to Appoint a Nine-Member Watermaster Board. (Ruling and Order of Special Reference, dated April 29, 1997, pp. 7, & 10.)

4. Referee Status in this Case

In April 1998, the Court first ordered a reference to Anne Schneider in connection with an uncontested matter: the development of an Optimum Basin Management Program for Chino Basin ("OBMP"). Special Referee Schneider was asked "to report and make recommendations to the court concerning the contents, implementation, effectiveness, and shortcomings of the optimum basin management plan." (Ruling, dated Feb. 19, 1998, p. 9, lns. 12-16.) The Court authorized the Special Referee "to conduct hearings, if necessary, to ensure the development of all essential elements of the program." (Id. at p. 10, lns. 13-14.)

Since that appointment, the Special Referee has been providing expert advice and conducting workshops either at the Court's request or the request of the parties or Watermaster, as authorized in various court orders. For example, Watermaster requested that a workshop be held to present to the Court through the Special Referee, the Interim Plan for Management of

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Subsidence. (See Order Scheduling Workshop, dated June 19, 2002, p. 2, lns. 6-10.) The Special Referee also has been requested to monitor the Peace II process and the plan for future desalters and related activities. (Order Re-Appointing Nine-Member Board, dated Feb. 9, 2006, p. 5, lns. 9-17.) It should be clear from this discussion that the Special Referee in this case does not necessarily function as the typical referee described in Watermaster's Response to the Special Referee's Preliminary Report, at page 4.

This Court has said on many occasions that the assistance provided by the Special Referee is invaluable. It is the desire of the Court that the Special Referee continue to monitor the contents, implementation, effectiveness and shortcomings (if any) of the OBMP. It is suggested in the Special Referee's Final Report that because of Watermaster's involvement in negotiations related to the OBMP "the Special Referee may be less constrained than Watermaster in raising questions and voicing concerns...." (Sp. Ref. Final Report, p. 3, Ins. 13-16.) In participating in the parties' negotiations, Watermaster must not forget that its function is to meet the needs of the Court in carrying out its obligations under the Judgment and Article X, Section 2 of the California Constitution.

B. Findings Pertaining to Watermaster's Motion

Watermaster's motion requests review and court approval under paragraphs 15 and 31 of the Judgment. Under paragraph 15, the Court reserves jurisdiction to make further or supplemental orders "as may be necessary or appropriate for interpretation, enforcement or carrying out" the Judgment and "to modify, amend or amplify" any of its provisions. Under Judgment paragraph 31, in reviewing Watermaster decisions, "[T]he Court shall require the moving party to notify the active parties....of a date for taking evidence and argument, and on the date so designated shall review de novo the question at issue. Watermaster's findings or decision, if any, may be received in evidence at said hearing, but shall not constitute presumptive or prima facie proof of any fact in issue."

In addition to the testimony offered at the hearing on November 29, 2007, Watermaster has presented several declarations and other documentary evidence in support of its motion. The Court has considered all of the evidence presented by Watermaster and finds there is substantial

evidence to support Watermaster's implied findings that the proposed Judgment amendments and other Peace II documents will promote the public interest, will protect the rights of the parties, and are consistent with California Constitution Article X, section 2. The key points relied upon by Watermaster, and which were proved to the Court, are enumerated on page 9 of the Special Referee's Final Report and Recommendations on Motion for Approval of Peace II Documents, and are incorporated herein by reference.

III. Order

SUBJECT TO THE CONTINUING JURISDICTION OF THE COURT, AND TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE CONDITIONS SUBSEQUENT LISTED BELOW, the Court hereby makes the following orders:

- 1. The amendments to Judgment Exhibit "I", Judgment Paragraph 8, and Judgment Exhibit "G" are hereby approved.
- Watermaster shall proceed in accordance with the second amendment to the Peace Agreement.
- Watermaster's adoption of Resolution 07-05 is approved and Watermaster shall
 proceed in accordance with the terms of the resolution and the documents attached
 thereto.
- 4. The Court hereby adopts the recommendations made in Special Referee's Final Report and Recommendations on Motion for Approval of Peace II Documents, which are incorporated herein by reference.
- A hearing is set for Thursday, May 1, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. for the Court to review
 Watermaster's compliance with the first four conditions listed below.

Conditions Subsequent

- By February 1, 2008, Watermaster shall prepare and submit to the Court a brief to explain the amendments to Judgment Paragraph 8 and Judgment "G".
- By February 1, 2008, Watermaster shall prepare and submit to the Court for approval
 a corrected initial schedule to replace Resolution No. 07-05 Attachment "E", together
 with an explanation of the corrections made.

- 3. By March 1, 2008, Watermaster shall prepare and submit to the Court for approval a new Hydraulic Control technical report that shall address all factors included in the Special Referee's Final Report and Recommendations. The new Hydraulic Control report shall include technical analysis of the projected decline in safe yield, and a definition and analysis of "new equilibrium" issues.
- 4. By April 1, 2008, Watermaster shall report to the Court on the status of CEQA documentation, compliance, and requirements, and provide the Court with assurances that Watermaster's approval and participation in any project that is a "project" for CEQA purposes has been or will be subject to all appropriate CEQA review.
- By July 1, 2008, Watermaster shall prepare and submit to the Court's detailed outline
 of the scope and content of its first Recharge Master Plan update, and shall report its
 progress by January 1, 2009, and July 1, 2009.
- 6. By July 1, 2008, Watermaster shall report to the Court on the development of standards and criteria by which the RWQCB will determine that hydraulic control is achieved and maintained.
- 7. By December 31, 2008, Watermaster shall prepare and submit to the Court for approval a revised schedule to replace the corrected initial schedule, which submittal shall include a reconciliation of new yield and stormwater estimates for 2000/01 through 2006/07, and a discussion of how Watermaster will account for unreplenished overproduction for that period.
- 8. By July 1, 2010, Watermaster shall prepare and submit to the Court for approval an updated Recharge Master Plan. The updated Recharge Master Plan shall include all elements listed in the Special Referee's Final Report and Recommendations.
- 9. Watermaster shall comply with all commitments it has made in the Peace II

 Documents, whether or not specifically included in these conditions subsequent.

 Watermaster is forewarned that a failure to comply with any of the above conditions subsequent will render the Court's approval of Watermaster's motion null and void. A lack of compliance with the conditions subsequent will also be seen as a failure by Watermaster, through its nine-

member Board, to perform its most important duty: to administer and to enforce the provisions of this Judgment and any subsequent instructions or orders of the Court. IT IS SO ORDERED. Dated: December 21, 2007

CHINO BASIN WATERMASTER Case No. RCV 51010 Chino Basin Municipal Water District v. The City of Chino

PROOF OF SERVICE

I declare that:

I am employed in the County of San Bernardino, California. I am over the age of 18 years and not a party to the within action. My business address is Chino Basin Watermaster, 9641 San Bernardino Road, Rancho Cucamonga, California 91730; telephone (909) 484-3888.

On December 21, 2007 I served the following:

1)) ORDER CONCERNING MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF PEACE	II DOCUMENTS
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/_x_/	BY MAIL: in said cause, by placing a true copy thereof enclosed with postage thereon fully prepaid, for delivery by United States Postal Service mail at Rancho Cucamonga, California, addresses as follows: See attached service list: Mailing List 1	
//	BY PERSONAL SERVICE: I caused such envelope to be delivered by hand to the addressee.	
<i></i> /	_/ BY FACSIMILE: I transmitted said document by fax transmission from (909) 484-3890 to the fax number(s) indicated. The transmission was reported as complete on the transmission report, which was properly issued by the transmitting fax machine.	
/_x_/	BY ELECTRONIC MAIL: I transmitted notice of availability of electronic documents by electronic transmission to the email address indicated. The transmission was reported as complete on the transmission report, which was properly issued by the transmitting electronic mail device.	
l decla correct	re under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the above is true and t.	
Execut	ted on December 21, 2007 in Rancho Cucamonga, California.	
	Janine Wilson Chino Basin Watermaster	

Attachment H Respondent Watermaster's Exhibit P Page 11 of 15

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Attachment H Respondent Watermaster's Exhibit P Page 12 of 15

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Attachment H Respondent Watermaster's Exhibit P Page 14 of 15

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