



THE COUNTY COUNSEL
COUNTY OF ORANGE

333 W. SANTA ANA BLVD., SUITE 407
SANTA ANA, CA 92701
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 1379
SANTA ANA, CA 92702-1379
(714) 834-3300
FAX: (714) 834-2359

Julia C. Woo
Deputy County Counsel
(714) 834-6046

February 15, 2019

Sent Via Drop Box

LEON J. PAGE
COUNTY COUNSEL
JAMES C. HARMAN
CHIEF ASSISTANT
JACK W. GOLDEN
MARIANNE VAN RIPER
SENIOR ASSISTANTS
KAREN L. CHRISTENSEN
ANGELICA CASTILLO DAFTARY
ROBERT N. ERVAIS
LAURA D. KNAPP
TERI L. MAKSOUDIAN
MARK D. SERVINO
NICOLE A. SIMS
DANA J. STITS
NICOLE M. WALSH
SUPERVISING DEPUTIES
JASON C. BROWN
DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION
JANELLE B. PRICE
LAURIE A. SHADE
DANIEL H. SHEPHARD
STEVEN C. MILLER
CAROLYN S. FROST
NIKHIL G. DAFTARY
JEANNIE SU
WENDY J. PHILLIPS
MICHAEL A. HAUBERT
BRAD R. POSIN
SAUL REYES
AURELIO TORRE
DEBBIE TORREZ
JACQUELINE GUZMAN
ANDREA COLLIER
PAUL M. ALBARIAN
D. KEVIN DUNN
LORI A. TORRISI
MASSOUD SHAMEL
SHARON VICTORIA DURBIN
REBECCA S. LEEDS
ELIZABETH A. PEJEAU
LAUREN C. KRAMER
GABRIEL J. BOWNE
JULIA C. WOO
MARK A. BATARSE
ADAM C. CLANTON
KRISTEN K. LEONG
ERIC A. DIVINE
JAMES D. P. STEINMANN
VANESSA D. ATKINS
SUZANNE E. SHOAI
DEBORAH B. MORSE
MATTHEW S. SPRUSSLER
KAYLA N. WATSON
CAROLYN M. KHOUZAM
ANNIE J. LOO
RONALD T. MAGSAYSAY
JOHN P. CLEVELAND
SAMARA BELGARDE
CHRISTOPHER S. ANDERSON
JUSTIN A. GRAHAM
BRITTANY McLEAN
JEFFREY A. STOCK
MARK N. SANCHEZ
GOLNAZ ZANDIEH
CYNTHIA G. INDA
STEPHANIE L. WATSON
RAY DIAZ
JESSICA PAULSON-DUFFY
BENJAMIN L. BERNARD
JON-MICHAEL R. BRADLEY
PATRICK K. BRUSO
MEG K. TANAKA
MARY RITCHIE
ANN LEE
TIFFANY PONCY
DEPUTIES

Heather Halsey, Esq.
Executive Director
Commission on State Mandates
980 Ninth Street, Suite 300
Sacramento, CA 95814



RE: Test Claim No. 17-TC-24: Request to Disallow Late Filed Comments of Department of Finance, or, in the Alternative, for Extension to File Rebuttal

Dear Ms. Halsey:

I write in regard to the January 29, 2019 comments filed by the Department of Finance ("Department") concerning the above-referenced test claim. The County of Orange ("Claimant") requests that the Department's late-filed comments be disallowed from the record of these proceedings, or, alternatively, that the Claimant be granted an extension of time to file a rebuttal to the Department's comments. The reasons for granting this request are set forth below.

Procedural Background

In correspondence dated November 21, 2018, Commission staff approved requests by the Department, the State Board and the Santa Ana Board, for an extension of time to file comments and submit the administrative record on Claimant's test claim. This approval established a due date of January 28, 2019 for comments on the test claim for all three entities.

In correspondence dated January 23, 2019, despite Claimant's test claim not having been consolidated with any other related test claim,¹ Commission staff approved, in a single letter, a second request made by the State Board, the Santa Ana Board, and the San Diego Board (collectively, "Water Boards"), for a further extension of time to file comments and submit the administrative records on Test Claims 17-TC-05 and 17-TC-07 through 17-TC-28. This approval established a new due date of March 29, 2019, for the Water Boards' comments on these twenty-two test claims; it did not extend the January 28, 2019, due date for Department's comments as to any test claim.

¹ On or about November 16, 2018, with the Water Boards' concurrence, Claimant submitted a request to consolidate all test claims on the Water Code Section 13383 Trash Orders issued by the Santa Ana Regional Board, which, at that time, included Test Claims 17-TC-07 through 17-TC-24. The State Board and Regional Board again supported the consolidation in their November 19, 2019 submittal. This request remains outstanding.

On or about January 29, 2019, the Department submitted comments on test claim 17-TC-24, which Commission staff correctly designated as a “Late Filing.”

Basis for Request

Section 1183.2 of the Commission’s regulations provides that written comments concerning a test claim “shall be certified, filed and served within 30 days from the date the test claim...is issued for comment.”² Section 1187.9 of regulations also provides that any party or interested party may request an extension of time by filing a request with the executive director before the date set for filing of comments.³ The Department did not request an extension of time beyond January 28 to file comments. For this reason, Department’s late-filed comments should not be considered in these proceedings, and Claimant should be relieved from submitting rebuttal thereto.⁴

If, however, the Commission has a valid legal basis for allowing Department’s comments as if timely filed, and chooses to so allow, Claimant, in the alternative, requests an extension of time to submit rebuttal comments, pursuant to section 1187.9. This extension of time should coincide with the due date for Claimant’s rebuttal to the Water Boards’ comments, which are currently due on March 29, 2019. Furthermore, the due date of any rebuttal should not be before Claimant has received notice that the administrative record has been submitted and is available for review. Thus, under this alternative, unless extended, Claimant’s rebuttal to comments of the Department and the Water Boards would tentatively be due 30 days after service of the Water Boards’ comments and the administrative record, assuming the administrative record is concurrently submitted.⁵

Disallowing the Department’s late-filed claims, or alternatively, granting Claimant the requested extension of time, is consistent with section 1187.9. The hearing on Claimant’s test claim is currently scheduled for July 28, 2023. Aligning the submission deadline for all rebuttal comments – to a date after preparation of the administrative record – will not require postponement of the hearing date. Additionally, this extension would not result in prejudice to any party or interested party, and there is otherwise no good cause for denying this request. To the contrary, granting the extension would impart much needed clarity and administrative efficiency at this point in the proceedings, by aligning deadlines for rebuttal comments from claimants across the various related test claims. Because the Commission has not yet granted the pending request for consolidation of the Water Code Section 13383 Trash Order Test Claims relating to orders issued by the Santa Ana Board, at present, these test claims are not formally being managed together, and the various claimants are left with no option but to expend time and resources to individually make these types of case management requests in an ad hoc fashion. To avoid procedural confusion and the unnecessary duplication of

² 2 C.C.R. 1183.2 (b). All references to the Commission’s regulations shall be to chapter 2.5 of Division 2 of the California Code of Regulations.

³ 2 C.C.R. 1187.9.

⁴ It should be noted that Department’s late-filed comments also fail to comply with the certification requirement of section 1183.2.

⁵ 2 C.C.R. 1183.3(a).

Heather Halsey, Esq.
February 15, 2019
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effort, Claimant urges you to reconsider consolidating Test Claims 17-TC-07 through 17-TC-28 now, rather than waiting until all comments are received and the record reviewed (as indicated in your January 23, 2019 letter).

For the above reasons, Claimant requests that the Department's late-filed comments be disallowed and not considered as part of these proceedings. Alternatively, in the event the Commission determines that there is a valid legal basis to allow the late-filed comments, Claimant requests an extension of time to file a rebuttal, until the latter of 30 days after the availability of the administrative record or the due date of rebuttal to anticipated comments from the Water Boards.

Your prompt consideration and determination as to this request is greatly appreciated.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing, signed on February 15, 2019, is true and correct to the best of my personal knowledge, information or belief.

Very truly yours,

LEON J. PAGE
COUNTY COUNSEL

By 

Julia C. Woo, Deputy

Cc: Per Commission Mailing List
JCW:pmo

DECLARATION OF SERVICE BY EMAIL

I, the undersigned, declare as follows:

I am a resident of the County of Sacramento and I am over the age of 18 years, and not a party to the within action. My place of employment is 980 Ninth Street, Suite 300, Sacramento, California 95814.

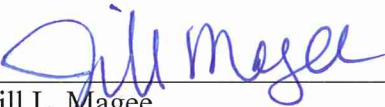
On February 20, 2019, I served the:

- **Notice of Extension Request Approval issued February 20, 2019**
- **Claimant's Request for Extension of Time filed February 19, 2019**

Water Code Section 13383(a) Phase I MS4 Trash Order Issued to County of Orange, Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board, Effective June 2, 2017, 17-TC-24
County of Orange, Claimant

By making it available on the Commission's website and providing notice of how to locate it to the email addresses provided on the attached mailing list.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct, and that this declaration was executed on February 20, 2019 at Sacramento, California.



Jill L. Magee
Commission on State Mandates
980 Ninth Street, Suite 300
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 323-3562

COMMISSION ON STATE MANDATES

Mailing List

Last Updated: 2/20/19

Claim Number: 17-TC-24

Matter: Water Code Section 13383(a) Phase I MS4 Trash Order Issued to County of Orange, Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board, Effective June 2, 2017

Claimant: County of Orange

TO ALL PARTIES, INTERESTED PARTIES, AND INTERESTED PERSONS:

Each commission mailing list is continuously updated as requests are received to include or remove any party or person on the mailing list. A current mailing list is provided with commission correspondence, and a copy of the current mailing list is available upon request at any time. Except as provided otherwise by commission rule, when a party or interested party files any written material with the commission concerning a claim, it shall simultaneously serve a copy of the written material on the parties and interested parties to the claim identified on the mailing list provided by the commission. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 2, § 1181.3.)

Rebecca Andrews, *Best Best & Krieger, LLP*
655 West Broadway, 15th Floor, San Diego, CA 92101
Phone: (619) 525-1300
Rebecca.Andrews@bbklaw.com

Socorro Aquino, *State Controller's Office*
Division of Audits, 3301 C Street, Suite 700, Sacramento, CA 95816
Phone: (916) 322-7522
SAquino@sco.ca.gov

Harmeet Barkschat, *Mandate Resource Services, LLC*
5325 Elkhorn Blvd. #307, Sacramento, CA 95842
Phone: (916) 727-1350
harmeet@calsdrc.com

Ryan Baron, *Best Best & Krieger LLP*
18101 Von Karman Avenue, Suite 1000, Irvine, CA 92612
Phone: (949) 263-2600
ryan.baron@bbklaw.com

Lacey Baysinger, *State Controller's Office*
Division of Accounting and Reporting, 3301 C Street, Suite 700, Sacramento, CA 95816
Phone: (916) 324-0254
lbaysinger@sco.ca.gov

Allan Burdick,
7525 Myrtle Vista Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95831
Phone: (916) 203-3608
allanburdick@gmail.com

J. Bradley Burgess, *MGT of America*

895 La Sierra Drive, Sacramento, CA 95864

Phone: (916)595-2646

Bburgess@mgtamer.com

Evelyn Calderon-Yee, Bureau Chief, *State Controller's Office*

Local Government Programs and Services, 3301 C Street, Suite 700, Sacramento, CA 95816

Phone: (916) 324-5919

ECalderonYee@sco.ca.gov

Gwendolyn Carlos, *State Controller's Office*

Division of Accounting and Reporting, 3301 C Street, Suite 700, Sacramento, CA 95816

Phone: (916) 323-0706

gcarlos@sco.ca.gov

Annette Chinn, *Cost Recovery Systems, Inc.*

705-2 East Bidwell Street, #294, Folsom, CA 95630

Phone: (916) 939-7901

achinnrcs@aol.com

Carolyn Chu, Senior Fiscal and Policy Analyst, *Legislative Analyst's Office*

925 L Street, Suite 1000, Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 319-8326

Carolyn.Chu@lao.ca.gov

Anita Dagan, Manager, Local Reimbursement Section, *State Controller's Office*

Local Government Programs and Services Division, Bureau of Payments, 3301 C Street, Suite 740, Sacramento, CA 95816

Phone: (916) 324-4112

Adagan@sco.ca.gov

Donna Ferebee, *Department of Finance*

915 L Street, Suite 1280, Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 445-3274

donna.ferebee@dof.ca.gov

Adam Fischer, *Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board*

3737 Main Street, Suite 500, Riverside, CA 92501

Phone: (951) 320-6363

afischer@waterboards.ca.gov

Susan Geanacou, *Department of Finance*

915 L Street, Suite 1280, Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 445-3274

susan.geanacou@dof.ca.gov

Dillon Gibbons, Legislative Representative, *California Special Districts Association*

1112 I Street Bridge, Suite 200, Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 442-7887

dillong@csda.net

Catherine George Hagan, Senior Staff Counsel, *State Water Resources Control Board*

c/o San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board, 2375 Northside Drive, Suite 100, San Diego, CA 92108

Phone: (619) 521-3012

catherine.hagan@waterboards.ca.gov

Heather Halsey, Executive Director, *Commission on State Mandates*

980 9th Street, Suite 300, Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 323-3562
heather.halsey@csm.ca.gov

Chris Hill, Principal Program Budget Analyst, *Department of Finance*
Local Government Unit, 915 L Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 445-3274
Chris.Hill@dof.ca.gov

Edward Jewik, *County of Los Angeles*
Auditor-Controller's Office, 500 W. Temple Street, Room 603, Los Angeles, CA 90012
Phone: (213) 974-8564
ejewik@auditor.lacounty.gov

Anita Kerezsi, *AK & Company*
2425 Golden Hill Road, Suite 106, Paso Robles, CA 93446
Phone: (805) 239-7994
akcompanysb90@gmail.com

Lisa Kurokawa, Bureau Chief for Audits, *State Controller's Office*
Compliance Audits Bureau, 3301 C Street, Suite 700, Sacramento, CA 95816
Phone: (916) 327-3138
lkurokawa@sco.ca.gov

Michael Lauffer, Chief Counsel, *State Water Resources Control Board*
1001 I Street, 22nd Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814-2828
Phone: (916) 341-5183
michael.lauffer@waterboards.ca.gov

Kim-Anh Le, Deputy Controller, *County of San Mateo*
555 County Center, 4th Floor, Redwood City, CA 94063
Phone: (650) 599-1104
kle@smcgov.org

Erika Li, Program Budget Manager, *Department of Finance*
915 L Street, 10th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 445-3274
erika.li@dof.ca.gov

Jill Magee, Program Analyst, *Commission on State Mandates*
980 9th Street, Suite 300, Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 323-3562
Jill.Magee@csm.ca.gov

Michelle Mendoza, *MAXIMUS*
17310 Red Hill Avenue, Suite 340, Irvine, CA 95403
Phone: (949) 440-0845
michellemendoza@maximus.com

Meredith Miller, Director of SB90 Services, *MAXIMUS*
3130 Kilgore Road, Suite 400, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
Phone: (972) 490-9990
meredithmiller@maximus.com

Lourdes Morales, Senior Fiscal and Policy Analyst, *Legislative Analyst's Office*
925 L Street, Suite 1000, Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 319-8320
Lourdes.Morales@LAO.CA.GOV

Geoffrey Neill, Senior Legislative Analyst, Revenue & Taxation, *California State Association of Counties (CSAC)*

1100 K Street, Suite 101, Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 327-7500
gneill@counties.org

Andy Nichols, *Nichols Consulting*

1857 44th Street, Sacramento, CA 95819
Phone: (916) 455-3939
andy@nichols-consulting.com

Arthur Palkowitz, *Artiano Shinoff*

2488 Historic Decatur Road, Suite 200, San Diego, CA 92106
Phone: (619) 232-3122
apalkowitz@as7law.com

Jai Prasad, *County of San Bernardino*

Office of Auditor-Controller, 222 West Hospitality Lane, 4th Floor, San Bernardino, CA 92415-0018
Phone: (909) 386-8854
jai.prasad@atc.sbcounty.gov

Mark Rewolinski, *MAXIMUS*

808 Moorefield Park Drive, Suite 205, Richmond, VA 23236
Phone: (949) 440-0845
markrewolinski@maximus.com

David Rice, *State Water Resources Control Board*

1001 I Street, 22nd Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 341-5161
davidrice@waterboards.ca.gov

Brian Rutledge, Budget Analyst, *Department of Finance*

Local Government Unit, 915 L Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 445-3274
Brian.Rutledge@dof.ca.gov

Teresita Sablan, *State Water Resources Control Board*

1001 I Street, 22nd Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 341-5174
Teresita.Sablan@waterboards.ca.gov

Theresa Schweitzer, *City of Newport Beach*

100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660
Phone: (949) 644-3140
tschweitzer@newportbeachca.gov

Carla Shelton, *Commission on State Mandates*

980 9th Street, Suite 300, Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 323-3562
carla.shelton@csm.ca.gov

Camille Shelton, Chief Legal Counsel, *Commission on State Mandates*

980 9th Street, Suite 300, Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 323-3562
camille.shelton@csm.ca.gov

Natalie Sidarous, *State Controller's Office*

Division of Accounting and Reporting, 3301 C Street, Suite 700, Sacramento, CA 95816

Phone: (916) 322-7453
nSidarous@sco.ca.gov

Hope Smythe, Executive Officer, *Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board*
3737 Main Street, Suite 500, Riverside, CA 92501-3348
Phone: (951) 782-4493
Hope.Smythe@waterboards.ca.gov

Eileen Sobeck, Executive Director, *State Water Resources Control Board*
1001 I Street, 22nd Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814-2828
Phone: (916) 341-5183
Eileen.Sobeck@waterboards.ca.gov

Jim Spano, Chief, Mandated Cost Audits Bureau, *State Controller's Office*
Division of Audits, 3301 C Street, Suite 700, Sacramento, CA 95816
Phone: (916) 323-5849
jspano@sco.ca.gov

Dennis Speciale, *State Controller's Office*
Division of Accounting and Reporting, 3301 C Street, Suite 700, Sacramento, CA 95816
Phone: (916) 324-0254
DSpeciale@sco.ca.gov

Joe Stephenshaw, Director, *Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee*
California State Senate, State Capitol Room 5019, Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 651-4103
Joe.Stephenshaw@sen.ca.gov

Tracy Sullivan, Legislative Analyst, *California State Association of Counties (CSAC)*
1100 K Street, Suite 101, Suite 101, Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 327-7500
tsullivan@counties.org

Derk Symons, Staff Finance Budget Analyst, *Department of Finance*
Local Government Unit, 915 L Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 445-3274
Derk.Symons@dof.ca.gov

Jolene Tollenaar, *MGT of America*
2251 Harvard Street, Suite 134, Sacramento, CA 95815
Phone: (916) 243-8913
jolenetollenaar@gmail.com

Evelyn Tseng, *City of Newport Beach*
100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660
Phone: (949) 644-3127
etseng@newportbeachca.gov

Brian Uhler, Principal Fiscal & Policy Analyst, *Legislative Analyst's Office*
925 L Street, Suite 1000, Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 319-8328
Brian.Uhler@LAO.CA.GOV

Emel Wadhvani, Senior Staff Counsel, *State Water Resources Control Board*
Office of Chief Counsel, 1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 322-3622
emel.wadhvani@waterboards.ca.gov

Renee Wellhouse, *David Wellhouse & Associates, Inc.*

3609 Bradshaw Road, H-382, Sacramento, CA 95927
Phone: (916) 797-4883
dwa-renee@surewest.net

Julia Woo, Deputy County Counsel, *County of Orange*
Claimant Representative

333 West Santa Ana Blvd, Suite 407, Santa Ana, CA 92701
Phone: (714) 834-6046
julia.woo@coco.ocgov.com

Eric Woolery, Auditor-Controller, *County of Orange*
12 Civic Center Plaza, Room #200, Santa Ana, CA 92702
Phone: (714) 834-2450
eric.woolery@ac.ocgov.com

Hasmik Yaghobyan, *County of Los Angeles*
Auditor-Controller's Office, 500 W. Temple Street, Room 603, Los Angeles, CA 90012
Phone: (213) 974-9653
hyaghobyan@auditor.lacounty.gov