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February 22, 2019
**Commission on
State Mandates**

February 22, 2019

Via Drop Box

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

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

Dear Ms. Halsey:

I write in regard to the untimely comments filed by the Department of Finance (“Department”) on January 29, 2019, concerning the above-referenced test claim. The City of Laguna Woods (“Claimant”) requests that the Department’s untimely comments be disallowed from the record of these proceedings, or, in the event that the Department is allowed to file late comments, that Claimant be granted an extension of time to file a rebuttal to late comments submitted by the Department. 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 Water Resources Control Board (“State Board”) and the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board (“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 Claimant’s test claim for all three state agencies.

In correspondence dated January 23, 2019, despite Claimant’s test claim not having been consolidated with other related test claims,¹ Commission staff approved, in a single letter, a second request made by the State Board and the Santa Ana Board (collectively, “Water Boards”), for a further extension of time to file comments and submit 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,

¹ On or about November 16, 2018, the County of Orange (“County”) submitted a request to consolidate all test claims on the Water Code Section 13383 Trash Orders issued by the Regional Board, which, at that time, included Test Claims 17-TC-07 through 17-TC-24. The State Board and Regional Board supported the consolidation in their November 19, 2018 submittal to the Commission. The County’s request remains outstanding.

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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.

On or about January 29, 2019, the Department submitted comments on test claim 17-TC-17, 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 the Commission's 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 officially relieved by the Commission from submitting rebuttal thereto.⁴

Alternatively, if the Department is allowed to file late comments without first complying with the Commission's regulations, then Claimant requests an extension of time to submit rebuttal comments, pursuant to 2 Cal. Code. Regs. section 1187.9. The extension granted should coincide with the due date for Claimant's rebuttal to the Water Boards' comments, which are currently due on March 29, 2019. By providing an extension in this manner, Claimant will not be forced as a result of the Department's non-compliance with the Commission's regulations to file rebuttal comments twice—to its prejudice. Furthermore, the due date of any rebuttal by Claimant should not be before Claimant has received notice that the administrative record has been submitted and is available for review by Claimant. Thus, if the Commission allows the Department's late filing, then Claimant's rebuttal to the comments of the Department and the Water Boards would tentatively be due 30 days after service of the Water Boards' comments or the administrative record, whichever is served later.⁵

Disallowing the Department's untimely comments, or alternatively, granting Claimant the requested extension described herein, is consistent with 2 Cal. Code Regs. section 1187.9. Filing all rebuttal comments at the same time – and after preparation of the administrative record – will not require postponement of the test claim's hearing date, currently scheduled for May 27, 2022. Additionally, this extension, precipitated by the Department's non-compliance with regulatory

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, and should be disallowed for that reason as well.

⁵ 2 C.C.R. 1183.3(a).

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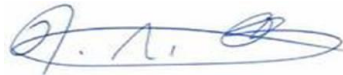
timeframes,⁶ would not result in prejudice to any party or interested party, and there is otherwise no good cause for denying this request.

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

I declare under penalty of perjury that the facts in the foregoing letter, signed on February 22, 2019, is true and correct to the best of my personal knowledge, information or belief.

Sincerely,

RUTAN & TUCKER, LLP



Jeremy N. Jungreis

JNJ:tv

cc: David Cosgrove, City Attorney
Per Commission Mailing List

⁶ The Commission has been rigorous in its enforcement of deadlines associated with the filing of test claims, going so far as to suggest that test claims must be submitted well in advance of the deadline for filing published in the Commission's own regulations. Accordingly, should the Commission decide to exercise leniency as to deadlines for the Department, Claimant would certainly expect, as a matter of due process, that such leniency be even-handedly applied to parties before the Commission that are not state agencies.

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.

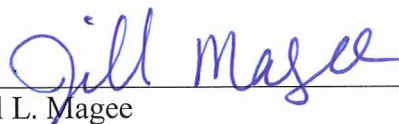
On February 22, 2019, I served the:

- **Notice of Extension Request Approval issued February 22, 2019**
- **Claimant's Request for Extension of Time filed February 22, 2019**

Water Code Section 13383(a) Phase I MS4 Trash Order Issued to City of Laguna Woods, Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board, Effective June 2, 2017, 17-TC-17
City of Laguna Woods, 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 22, 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: 2/15/19

Claim Number: 17-TC-17

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

Claimant: City of Laguna Woods

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.)

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

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

Cindy Black, *City Clerk, City of St. Helena*

1480 Main Street, St. Helena, CA 94574

Phone: (707) 968-2742

ctzafoopoulos@cityofsthelema.org

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

Daniel Carrigg, Deputy Executive Director/Legislative Director, *League of California Cities*

1400 K Street, Suite 400, Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 658-8222

Dcarrigg@cacities.org

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

Michael Coleman, *Coleman Advisory Services*

2217 Isle Royale Lane, Davis, CA 95616

Phone: (530) 758-3952

coleman@muni1.com

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

Sunny Han, Project Manager, *City of Huntington Beach*
2000 Main Street, Huntington Beach, CA 92648
Phone: (714) 536-5907
Sunny.han@surfcity-hb.org

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

Jeremy Jungreis, Attorney, *Rutan & Tucker, LLP*
Claimant Representative
611 Anton Boulevard, 14th Floor, Costa Mesa, CA 92626
Phone: (714) 338-1882
jjungreis@rutan.com

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

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

Christopher Macon, City Manager, *City of Laguna Woods*
24264 El Toro Road, Laguna Woods, CA 92637
Phone: (714) 639-0500
cmacon@cityoflagunawoods.org

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

Jane McPherson, Financial Services Director, *City of Oceanside*
300 North Coast Highway, Oceanside, CA 92054
Phone: (760) 435-3055
JmcPherson@oceansideca.org

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
meredithcmiller@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

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

Johnnie Pina, Legislative Policy Analyst, *League of Cities*
1400 K Street, Suite 400, Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 658-8214
jpina@cacities.org

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

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

Carla Shelton, *Commission on State Mandates*
980 9th Street, Suite 300, Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 323-3562
carla.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

Michelle Skaggs Lawrence, City Manager, *City of Oceanside*
300 North Coast Highway, Oceanside, CA 92054
Phone: (760) 435-3055
citymanager@oceansideca.org

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

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

Patrick Whitnell, General Counsel, *League of California Cities*

1400 K Street, Suite 400, Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 658-8281

pwhitnell@cacities.org

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