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12 INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

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14  
15 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
16 FOR THE COUNTY OF ORANGE, CIVIL COMPLEX CENTER

17 MOJAVE PISTACHIOS, LLC; et al.,

18 Plaintiffs,

19 v.

20 INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER  
21 DISTRICT; et al.,

22 Defendants.

Case No. 30-2021-01187275-CU-OR-CJC

*[Related to: Case No. 30-2021-01187589-CU-  
WM-CXC; Case No. 30-2021-01188089-CU-  
WM-CXC; Case No. 30-2022-01239479-CU-  
MC-CJC; Case No. 30-2022-01239487-CU-  
MC-CJC; Case No. 30-2022-01249146-CU-  
MC-CJC]*

Assigned For All Purposes To:  
The Honorable William Claster, Dept. CX101

**NOTICE OF RULING FROM THE  
10/14/2025 HEARING AND STATUS  
CONFERENCE**

**RELATED TO ROA 1797, 1845, 1848,  
1855, 1856**

1 INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER  
2 DISTRICT,  
3 Cross-Complainant,  
4 v.  
5 ALL PERSONS WHO CLAIM A RIGHT  
6 TO EXTRACT GROUNDWATER IN THE  
7 INDIAN WELLS VALLEY  
8 GROUNDWATER BASIN NO. 6-54  
9 WHETHER BASED ON  
10 APPROPRIATION, OVERLYING RIGHT,  
11 OR OTHER BASIS OF RIGHT, AND/OR  
12 WHO CLAIM A RIGHT TO USE OF  
13 STORAGE SPACE IN THE BASIN; et al.,  
14 Cross-Defendants.

12 SEARLES VALLEY MINERALS INC.,  
13 Cross-Complainant,  
14 v.  
15 ALL PERSONS WHO CLAIM A RIGHT  
16 TO EXTRACT GROUNDWATER IN THE  
17 INDIAN WELLS VALLEY  
18 GROUNDWATER BASIN NO. 6-54  
19 WHETHER BASED ON  
20 APPROPRIATION, OVERLYING RIGHT,  
21 OR OTHER BASIS OF RIGHT, AND/OR  
22 WHO CLAIM A RIGHT TO USE OF  
23 STORAGE SPACE IN THE BASIN; et al.,  
24 Cross-Defendants.

23 AND RELATED CASES.

In All Related Cases

**Next Status Conference:**

**Date: February 6, 2026**

**Time: 11:00 a.m.**

**Dept.: CX101**

Complaint Filed: November 19, 2019

Phase 1 Trial Date: April 28, 2025

Phase 2 Trial Date: June 1, 2026

1 **NOTICE OF RULING**

2 **TO ALL PARTIES AND ATTORNEYS OF RECORD:**

3 **PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that on October 14, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., the Court held (a) a  
4 hearing on the United States' Ex Parte Application for Relief Re Phase 2 Discovery ("United  
5 States' Application") in the above-captioned action; and (b) a Further Status Conference in the  
6 above-captioned action and all related actions.

7 A. The Court made the following rulings:

8 1. Ruling on the United States' Application: The Court DENIED in part and  
9 GRANTED in part the United States' Application in the above-captioned action. The Court  
10 DENIED the United States' request for a stay of all discovery deadlines relating to the Phase 2  
11 trial until appropriations funding the Department of Justice and other federal agencies are  
12 restored. The Court GRANTED the United States' request for an extension of certain deadlines,  
13 as follows:

14 a. The United States' deadline to respond to the Indian Wells Valley Water  
15 District's discovery requests is extended from October 24, 2025 to **November 7, 2025**;

16 b. The deadline for all parties to serve responsive expert reports for Phase 2  
17 is extended from November 14, 2025 to **December 5, 2025** (*First Amended Case Management*  
18 *Order Re: Phase 2 Trial, item (7)*);

19 c. Rather than running from November 24, 2025 to February 10, 2026, the  
20 deposition period for Phase 2 begins **December 15, 2025 and ends February 27, 2026** (*First*  
21 *Amended Case Management Order Re: Phase 2 Trial, item (8)*); and

22 d. The date discovery closes for Phase 2 is extended from February 10, 2026  
23 to **February 27, 2026** (*First Amended Case Management Order Re: Phase 2 Trial, item (9)*).

24 2. Amended Case Management Order: The Court ordered the Indian Wells Valley  
25 Water District to submit an amended Case Management Order for Phase 2 in light of the Court's  
26 ruling on the United States' Application.

27 3. Next Status Conference: The Court set a Further Status Conference in the  
28 above-captioned action and all related actions for **February 6, 2026, at 11:00 a.m., in**

1 **Department CX101** of the Orange County Superior Court, Civil Complex Center, located at  
2 751 West Santa Ana Boulevard, Santa Ana, California 92701. The Court indicated that if the  
3 Further Status Conference is not needed, the Further Status Conference would be taken off  
4 calendar.

5 4. Joint Status Report: The Court ordered the parties to submit one Joint Status  
6 Conference Statement ahead of the Further Status Conference, which shall be filed under Case  
7 No. 30-2021-01187275-CU-OR-CJC no later than **January 31, 2026**. The parties to indicate in  
8 the Joint Status Conference Statement whether any developments have occurred in the cases and  
9 whether the Status Conference may be taken off calendar.

10 5. Notice: The Court ordered Indian Wells Valley Water District to give notice.

11 B. The Court issued the following Minute Orders:

12 1. Attached as Exhibit “1” and incorporated by this reference is a true and correct  
13 copy of the Court’s October 14, 2025 Minute Order in the above-captioned action (Case  
14 No. 30-2021-01187275-CU-OR-CJC);

15 2. Attached as Exhibit “2” and incorporated by this reference is a true and correct  
16 copy of the Court’s October 14, 2025 Minute Order in the related case bearing Case  
17 No. 30-2021-01187589-CU-WM-CXC, consolidated with Case No. 30-2021-01188089-CU-  
18 WM-CXC; and

19 3. Attached as Exhibit “3” and incorporated by this reference is a true and correct  
20 copy of the Court’s October 14, 2025 Minute Order in the related case bearing Case  
21 No. 30-2022-01239487-CU-MC-CJC.

22 DATED: October 14, 2025 MURPHY & EVERTZ LLP

23  
24  
25 By: /s/ Emily L. Madueno

26 Douglas J. Evertz  
27 Emily L. Madueno  
28 Attorneys for Defendant, Cross-Complainant, &  
Cross-Defendant  
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

# **EXHIBIT 1**

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,  
COUNTY OF ORANGE  
CIVIL COMPLEX CENTER**

**MINUTE ORDER**

DATE: 10/14/2025

TIME: 10:00:00 AM

DEPT: CX101

JUDICIAL OFFICER PRESIDING: William Claster

CLERK: G. Hernandez

REPORTER/ERM: Ryan Wheeler CSR# 13717

BAILIFF/COURT ATTENDANT: . None, None

CASE NO: **30-2021-01187275-CU-OR-CJC** CASE INIT.DATE: 02/16/2021

CASE TITLE: **Mojave Pistachios, LLC vs. Indian Wells Valley Water District**

CASE CATEGORY: Civil - Unlimited CASE TYPE: Other Real Property

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EVENT ID/DOCUMENT ID: 74678578

**EVENT TYPE:** Ex Parte

MOVING PARTY: United States of America

CAUSAL DOCUMENT/DATE FILED: Ex Parte Application - Other For Relief Re Phase 2 Discovery, 10/10/2025

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EVENT ID/DOCUMENT ID: 74610061

**EVENT TYPE:** Status Conference

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**APPEARANCES**

Scott Slater and Amy Steinfeld, from Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP, present for Cross - Defendant,Plaintiff(s) remotely.

Alison Toivola, from Best Best & Krieger LLP, present for Cross - Defendant,Cross - Complainant,Defendant(s) remotely.

Judith Coleman, from U.S. Dept. of Justice, present for Cross - Defendant(s) remotely.

Nick Karno and Justin Lee, from Office of the Los Angeles City Attorney, present for Cross - Defendant(s) remotely.

Irene Whitcombe, from Deputy Attorney General, present for Cross - Defendant(s) remotely.

S. Gwen Atherton, from LeBeau Thelen, LLP, present for Cross - Defendant(s) remotely.

Sean Hood and Derek Hoffman, from Fennemore Dowling Aaron LLP, present for Cross - Defendant,Defendant(s) remotely.

Kyle H. Brochard, from Richards, Watson & Gershon, present for Cross - Defendant,Cross - Complainant(s).

Jeffrey V. Dunn, from Best Best & Krieger LLP, present for Cross - Defendant(s).

Christine M. Carson, from Aleshire & Wynder, LLP, present for Cross - Defendant(s) remotely.

Emily Madueno of Murphy & Evertz appearing remotely for Indian Wells Valley Water District;  
Douglas J. Evertz appearing in person for Indian Wells Valley Water District;

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Hearing held with participants appearing remotely and in person.

STATUS CONFERENCE

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DATE: 10/14/2025

MINUTE ORDER

Page 1

DEPT: CX101

Calendar No.

Status Conference held and completed.

A Status Conference is scheduled for 02/06/2026 at 11:00 AM in Department CX101.

A joint status conference statement is to be filed on or before 01/31/2026.

UNITED STATES' EX PARTE APPLICATION FOR RELIEF RE PHASE 2 DISCOVERY

The Ex-Parte Application is GRANTED as to the alternative relief proposed by the moving party as follows: The United States' deadline to respond to the Water District's discovery requests is November 7, 2025; responsive expert reports for all parties are due December 5, 2025; the deposition period runs December 15, 2025, to February 27, 2026, and discovery closes on February 27, 2026.

All other requests set forth in the Ex-Parte Application are DENIED.

An amended case management order which incorporates the above dates is to be submitted to the Court.

Court orders Indian Wells Valley Water District to give notice.

# **EXHIBIT 2**

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,  
COUNTY OF ORANGE  
CIVIL COMPLEX CENTER**

**MINUTE ORDER**

DATE: 10/14/2025

TIME: 10:00:00 AM

DEPT: CX101

JUDICIAL OFFICER PRESIDING: William Claster

CLERK: G. Hernandez

REPORTER/ERM: Ryan Wheeler CSR# 13717

BAILIFF/COURT ATTENDANT: . None, None

CASE NO: **30-2021-01187589-CU-WM-CXC** CASE INIT.DATE: 03/08/2021

CASE TITLE: **Mojave Pistachios, LLC vs. Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority**

CASE CATEGORY: Civil - Unlimited CASE TYPE: Writ of Mandate

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EVENT ID/DOCUMENT ID: 74610058

**EVENT TYPE:** Status Conference

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**APPEARANCES**

Amy Steinfeld, from Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP, present for Petitioner(s) remotely.

Jeffrey V. Dunn, from Best Best & Krieger LLP, present for Petitioner(s).

James Worth, from McMurtrey, Hartsock & Worth, present for Respondent, Defendant, Interested Party(s) remotely.

Douglas J. Evertz, from MURPHY & EVERTZ LLP, present for Respondent, Defendant, Interested Party(s).

Kyle H. Brochard, from Richards, Watson & Gershon, present for Respondent(s).

Emily Madueno of Murphy & Evertz appearing remotely for Indian Wells Valley Water District;  
Alison Toivola of Best Best & Krieger appearing remotely for Searles Valley Minerals, Inc.

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Hearing held with participants appearing remotely and in person.

Status Conference held and completed.

A Further Status Conference is scheduled for 02/06/2026 at 11:00 AM in Department CX101.

A joint status conference statement is to be filed on or before 01/31/2026.

Court orders Indian Wells Valley Water District to give notice.

# **EXHIBIT 3**

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,  
COUNTY OF ORANGE  
CIVIL COMPLEX CENTER**

**MINUTE ORDER**

DATE: 10/14/2025

TIME: 10:00:00 AM

DEPT: CX101

JUDICIAL OFFICER PRESIDING: William Claster

CLERK: G. Hernandez

REPORTER/ERM: Ryan Wheeler CSR# 13717

BAILIFF/COURT ATTENDANT: . None, None

CASE NO: **30-2022-01239487-CU-MC-CJC** CASE INIT.DATE: 01/05/2022

CASE TITLE: **Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority vs. Searles Valley Minerals Inc.**

CASE CATEGORY: Civil - Unlimited CASE TYPE: Misc Complaints - Other

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EVENT ID/DOCUMENT ID: 74610060

**EVENT TYPE:** Status Conference

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**APPEARANCES**

Kyle H. Brochard, from Richards, Watson & Gershon, present for Plaintiff(s).

Jeffrey V. Dunn, from Best Best & Krieger LLP, present for Defendant(s).

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Hearing held with participants appearing remotely and in person.

Status Conference held and completed.

A Further Status Conference is scheduled for 02/06/2026 at 11:00 AM in Department CX101.

A joint status conference statement is to be filed on or before 01/31/2026.

Court orders Indian Wells Valley Water District to give notice.

1 **PROOF OF SERVICE**

2 *Mojave Pistachios, LLC; et al. v. Indian Wells Valley Water District; et al.*

3 Orange County Superior Court – Civil Complex Center

4 The Honorable William Claster, Dept. CX101

5 Case No. 30-2021-01187275-CU-OR-CJC

6 Related to: Case No. 30-2021-01187589-CU-WM-CXC; Case No. 30-2021-01188089-  
7 CU-WM-CXC; Case No. 30-2022-01239479-CU-MC-CJC; Case No. 30-2022-01239487-CU-  
8 MC-CJC; & Case No. 30-2022-01249146-CU-MC-CJC

9 I am a resident of the State of California, over 18 years of age and not a party to this  
10 action. I am employed in the County of Orange, State of California. My business address is 650  
11 Town Center Drive, Suite 550, Costa Mesa, CA 92626.

12 On October 17, 2025, I served true copies of the following document(s) described as  
13 **NOTICE OF RULING FROM THE 10/14/2025 HEARING AND STATUS**  
14 **CONFERENCE** on the interested parties in this action as follows:

15 **PLEASE SEE SERVICE LIST**

16 **BY MAIL:** I enclosed the document(s) in a sealed envelope or package addressed to the persons  
17 at the addresses listed above and placed the envelope for collection and mailing, following our  
18 ordinary business practices. I am readily familiar with Murphy & Evertz LLP’s practice for  
19 collecting and processing correspondence for mailing. On the same day that the correspondence  
20 is placed for collection and mailing, it is deposited in the ordinary course of business with the  
21 United States Postal Service, in a sealed envelope with postage fully prepaid.

22 **BY E-MAIL OR ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION:** I caused a copy of the document(s) to  
23 be sent from e-mail address aconstant@murphyevertz.com to the persons at the e-mail addresses  
24 listed in the Service List. I did not receive, within a reasonable time after the transmission, any  
25 electronic message or other indication that the transmission was unsuccessful.

26 **BY POSTING:** I transmitted the document(s) listed above to the Case Anywhere via electronic  
27 transfer through the Internet, consistent with the Court’s December 2, 2022 Order Authorizing  
28 Electronic Filing and Service – Case Anywhere LLC.

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

Executed on **October 17, 2025**, at Costa Mesa, California.



Alexandra Constant