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**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

**SPRING STREET COURTHOUSE**

**[Case originated in the Kern County Superior Court]**

BOLTHOUSE LAND COMPANY, LLC, a  
California limited liability company; WM.  
BOLTHOUSE FARMS, INC., a Michigan  
corporation;

and

GRIMMWAY ENTERPRISES, INC., a Delaware  
corporation, DIAMOND FARMING COMPANY,  
a California corporation; LAPIS LAND  
COMPANY, LLC, a California limited liability  
company; RUBY LAND COMPANY, LLC, a  
Delaware limited liability company;

Plaintiffs,

vs.

ALL PERSONS CLAIMING A RIGHT TO  
EXTRACT OR STORE GROUNDWATER IN

Case No.: BCV-21-101927  
Complex Action  
(Complaint filed: 8/17/2021)

**NOTICE OF ENTRY OF AUGUST 12, 2026  
ORDER REGARDING FICTITIOUS  
ENTITIES' APPEARING WITHOUT A  
LICENSED CALIFORNIA ATTORNEY**

Honorable William F. Highberger

1 THE CUYAMA VALLEY GROUNDWATER  
2 BASIN (NO. 3-013); ALL PERSONS  
3 UNKNOWN, CLAIMING ANY LEGAL OR  
4 EQUITABLE RIGHT, TITLE, ESTATE, LIEN,  
5 OR INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY  
6 DESCRIBED IN THE COMPLAINT ADVERSE  
7 TO PLAINTIFF'S TITLE, OR ANY CLOUD  
8 UPON PLAINTIFF'S TITLE THERETO; DOES 1  
9 THROUGH 5000 and THE PERSONS NAMED  
10 AS DEFENDANTS IDENTIFIED ON EXHIBIT  
11 D TO THIS COMPLAINT as may be amended  
12 from time to time,

13 Defendants.

14 **TO ALL PARTIES AND TO THEIR ATTORNEYS OF RECORD:**

15 PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on August 12, 2026 the Court issued an Order Regarding  
16 Fictitious Entities' Appearing Without A Licensed California Attorney, a true and correct copy is  
17 attached hereto and incorporated herein as Exhibit "A."

18 DATED: August 17, 2026

ZIMMER & MELTON, LLP



19 By:

20 RICHARD G. ZIMMER

21 WILLIAM T. ZIMMER

22 Attorneys for Plaintiffs, Bolthouse Land Company, LLC  
23 and Wm. Bolthouse Farms, Inc.

# **EXHIBIT “A”**

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 And Ruby Land Company, LLC*

**FILED**  
 Superior Court of California  
 County of Los Angeles

08/12/2026

David W. Slayton, Executive Officer / Clerk of Court

By: R. Lindsey Deputy

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

**[Sitting As Superior Court of California, County of Kern]**

BOLTHOUSE LAND COMPANY, LLC, a  
 California limited liability company; WM.  
 BOLTHOUSE FARMS, INC., a Michigan  
 corporation;

and

GRIMMWAY ENTERPRISES, INC., a Delaware  
 corporation, DIAMOND FARMING COMPANY,  
 a California corporation; LAPIS LAND  
 COMPANY, LLC, a California limited liability  
 company; RUBY LAND COMPANY, LLC, a  
 Delaware limited liability company;

Plaintiffs,

vs.

ALL PERSONS CLAIMING A RIGHT TO  
 EXTRACT OR STORE GROUNDWATER IN  
 THE CUYAMA VALLEY GROUNDWATER  
 BASIN (NO. 3-013); ALL PERSONS  
 UNKNOWN, CLAIMING ANY LEGAL OR  
 EQUITABLE RIGHT, TITLE, ESTATE, LIEN,  
 OR INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY

Case No.: BCV-21-101927  
 Complex Action

**[PROPOSED] ORDER REGARDING  
 FICTITIOUS ENTITIES' APPEARING  
 WITHOUT A LICENSED CALIFORNIA  
 ATTORNEY**

Assigned for All Purposes to:  
 The Honorable William F. Highberger  
 Spring Street Courthouse – Department 10

Action Filed: August 17, 2021  
 Phase 3 Trial None Set

**Date: August 12, 2026  
 Time: 1:30 p.m.  
 Dept.: 10**

1 DESCRIBED IN THE COMPLAINT ADVERSE  
2 TO PLAINTIFF'S TITLE, OR ANY CLOUD  
3 UPON PLAINTIFF'S TITLE THERETO; DOES  
4 THROUGH 5000 and THE PERSONS NAMED  
5 AS DEFENDANTS IDENTIFIED ON EXHIBIT  
6 D TO THIS COMPLAINT as may be amended  
7 from time to time,

8 Defendants.

9 The Streamlined Adjudication Statutes, commencing with Code of Civil Procedure section 830  
10 et. seq, require that all landowners in the Basin be given notice of this action. For a variety of reasons,  
11 and as readily apparent from the Court's docket in this action, landowners commonly hold title to land  
12 in fictitious names of varying structures, including corporations, limited liability companies, limited  
13 partnerships, and in trusts. Presently, many of these fictitious parties are not represented by counsel.

14 California courts have long held that artificial entities created by law, can neither practice law  
15 nor appear or act in person in court. (See e.g., *Merco Constr. Engineers, Inc. v. Municipal Court*  
16 (1978) 21 Cal.3d 724; *CLD Construction, Inc. v. City of San Ramon* (2004) 120 Cal.App.4th 1141.)  
17 There is one well-established statutory exception to the attorney-representation requirement in small  
18 claims court. (Code Civ., Proc., § 116.540(b).) This statutory exception, however, has been approved  
19 by the California Supreme Court as consistent with the purpose of providing quick, impartial, and  
20 inexpensive adjudication of disputes in small claims courts, under rules of procedure and evidence that  
21 are less stringent and complicated than those that apply in more formal courts of record (*Caressa*  
22 *Camille, Inc. v. Alcoholic Beverage Control Appeals Bd.* (2002) 99 Cal.App.4th 1094.)

23 The Court here is confronted with balancing the requirements of joining hundreds of  
24 landowners within the Basin, of varying financial means and interest in this action, against strict  
25 adherence to the general rule which might require striking an answer and depriving a landowner of a  
26 water right.

27 On July 28, 2026, this Court set an Order to Show Cause Regarding Why the Court Should Not  
28 Allow Certain Fictitious Entities to Continue to Appear Without a California-Licensed Attorney,  
returnable on August 12, 2026, at 1:30 PM in Department 10 of the above-entitled Court located at 312  
N. Spring Street, Los Angeles, California 90012.

1 After considering the pleadings on file and comments of parties and counsel, the Court finds  
2 that continued participation of fictitious entities that have registered and created a Case Anywhere  
3 account, filed answers, and responded to Court-ordered discovery, helps to achieve a comprehensive  
4 adjudication of the Basin. Those parties should be allowed to maintain an answer and participate in the  
5 Minor Extractor allocation process without legal representation, subject to several important  
6 safeguards necessary to protect to legitimacy of the process for all parties. Therefore, until further  
7 order of the Court, fictitious entities owning land in the Basin may do the following without legal  
8 representation:

- 9 1. Register with Case Anywhere.
- 10 2. File and serve an Answer.
- 11 3. Respond to Court-ordered discovery.
- 12 4. Apply for an allocation under the Minor Extractor Order.

13 From and after the date of this Order, all allowable pleadings and applications filed and served by  
14 unrepresented fictitious entities shall adhere to the following signature requirements:

15 **A. Trusts**

16 Documents submitted by a trust shall be signed by the trustee on behalf of a trust. (Prob. Code,  
17 § 16242(b).) If there are multiple trustees, all trustees must sign on behalf of the trust. (Prob. Code, §  
18 15620.)

19 **B. Corporation**

20 Documents submitted by a corporations, including C corporations and S corporations, shall be  
21 signed by two officers, one from the “chairperson of the board, the president or any vice president[;]”  
22 and a second from “the secretary, any assistant secretary, the chief financial officer or any assistant  
23 treasurer of such corporation[.]” (Corp. Code, § 313.)

24 **C. Limited Liability Companies**

25 Documents submitted by a limited liability company shall be signed by a Member, if the LLC  
26 is member-managed; or a Manager, if the LLC is manger-managed; on behalf of the limited liability  
27 company. (Corp. Code, § 17703.01(a) and (b)(2).)

1  
2 **D. General Partnerships**

3 Documents submitted by a general partnership shall be signed by a partner on behalf of the  
4 partnership. (Corp. Code, § 16301(1).)

5 **E. Limited Partnerships**

6 Documents submitted by a limited partnership shall be signed by a general partner on behalf of  
7 the limited partnership. (Corp. Code, § 15904.02(a).)

8 Each person signing on behalf of a fictitious entity represents that (a) the entity is a duly  
9 authorized and existing entity or trust, and (b) each person signing on behalf of an entity or trust is  
10 authorized to do so.

11 Absent further order of the Court, unrepresented fictitious entities shall not be permitted to file  
12 other pleadings, examine or cross-examine witnesses, serve discovery, or otherwise act without an  
13 attorney.

14  
15 Dated: 8/12, 2026

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
HONORABLE WILLIAM F. HIGHBERGER

**PROOF OF SERVICE**

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF KERN

I, Kristen L. Moen, declare I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the county aforesaid; I am and was at the times of the service hereunder mentioned, over the age of eighteen (18) years, and not a party to the within cause. My business address is: 9801 Camino Media, Suite 103, Bakersfield, CA 93311.

On July 31, 2026, I caused to be served the below listed document(s) titled as **[PROPOSED] ORDER REGARDING FICTITIOUS ENTITIES' APPEARING WITHOUT A LICENSED CALIFORNIA ATTORNEY** on the interested parties in this action as listed below or on the attached mailing list.

**SEE ATTACHED ELECTRONIC SERVICE LIST**

**XX** **VIA CASE ANYWHERE:** Based on the March 22, 2022 Court Order Authorizing Electronic Filing and Service through Case Anywhere, LLC, I caused said document(s) to be transmitted to the email addresses shown on attached Case Anywhere Electronic Service List.

**XX** **(STATE)** I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the above is true and correct, and that the foregoing was executed on **July 31, 2026**, in Bakersfield, California.

/s/ Kristen L. Moen  
KRISTEN L. MOEN

**PROOF OF SERVICE (C.C.P. §1013a, 2015.5)**

*Los Angeles County Superior Court Complex Action Case No. BCV-21-101927*

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF KERN

I am employed in the County of Kern, State of California. I am over the age of 18 and not a party to the within action; my business address is 11601 Bolthouse Drive, Suite 100, Bakersfield, CA 93311-8714. On August 17, 2026, I served the Foregoing document(s) entitled:

**NOTICE OF ENTRY OF AUGUST 12, 2026 ORDER REGARDING FICTITIOUS ENTITIES' APPEARING WITHOUT A LICENSED CALIFORNIA ATTORNEY**

(X) by electronic service (XX) a true copy thereof addressed as follows:

\*\*\*\*\* SEE ATTACHED SERVICE LIST

X **VIA CASE ANYWHERE:** Based on the March 22, 2022 Court Order Authorizing Electronic Filing and Service through Case Anywhere, LLC, I caused said document(s) to be transmitted to the email addresses shown on the attached Case Anywhere Electronic Service List.

\_\_\_ **BY MAIL:** I am "readily familiar" with the firm's practice of collection and processing correspondence for mailing. Under that practice it would be deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on that same day with postage thereon fully prepaid at Bakersfield, California, in the ordinary course of business.

\_\_\_ **BY ELECTRONIC SERVICE:** By electronically serving the document(s) to the electronic mail address set forth above on this date by or before 11:59 p.m., pursuant to California Rules of Court, Rule 2.251, and consistent with Code of Civil Procedure § 1010.6(a)(2), (4) and (5).

X (State) I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the above is true and correct.

Executed on August 17, 2026 at Arroyo Grande, California.

/s/ Diana Seibert

DIANA SEIBERT

[31-00015]