

1 The Walker River Irrigation District (the “District”) does not oppose the Joint Motion to
2 Allow Service by Publication (Dkt. 2163). However, it is not clear that the requirements for
3 service by publication on unknown defendants are met here.

4 Fed. R. Civ. P. 4(e)(1) allows persons to be served by “following state law for serving a
5 summons in an action brought in courts of general jurisdiction in the state where the district
6 court is located or where service is made.” Under that Rule, the Court must not only consider
7 the provisions of Nevada and California law on how service by publication is to take place, but
8 also the provisions concerning when service by publication is appropriate. Service by
9 publication is allowed in Nevada and California when the subject of the action relates to
10 property in the state in which a defendant has or claims an interest, and that is subject to the
11 jurisdiction of the court, or where the relief demanded in the action consists wholly or in part of
12 excluding such person from any interest therein. See, Nev. R. Civ. P. 4(e)(1)(ii); Cal. Code
13 Div. P., Section 415.50(2). [Emphasis added].

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16 The issue of whether this Court has jurisdiction over groundwater in Nevada or
17 California has not been determined, and is being challenged. Therefore, the requirement for
18 publication under Nevada and California law that the court have jurisdiction over the property
19 may not be met as to claimants to groundwater. Because Subproceeding C-125-B does not
20 involve any determination of water rights of any of the defendants, known or unknown, or of
21 the relative relationship of their water rights to the water rights which the Tribe and the United
22 States seek to obtain in this proceeding, the relief demanded in the action will not exclude
23 defendants from the use of water.
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25 Therefore, under the provisions of Nev. R. Civ. P. 4(e)(1)(ii) and Cal. Code Civ. P.
26 Section 415.50(2), the requirements for service by publication on unknown defendants may not

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1 be satisfied. Nevertheless, because publication may inform the public about this
2 subproceeding, the District does not oppose the Motion.

3 Dated: February 25, 2015.

4 WOODBURN AND WEDGE

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7 By: / s / Gordon H. DePaoli
8 Gordon H. DePaoli,
9 Dale E. Ferguson, Domenico R. DePaoli
10 6100 Neil Road, Suite 500
11 Reno, Nevada 89511
12 Attorneys for Walker River Irrigation District
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that I am an employee of Woodburn and Wedge and that on the 25th day of February, 2015, I electronically served the foregoing with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF system, which will send notification of such filing to the following via their email addresses:

Andrew Guss Guarino	guss.guarino@usdoj.gov
Brian Chally	brian.chally@lvvwd.com
Bryan L. Stockton	bstockton@ag.nv.gov
Charles S. Zumpft	zumpft@brooke-shaw.com
Cherie K. Emm-Smith	emmsmithlaw@cccomm.net
Don Springmeyer	dspringmeyer@wrslawyers.com
Christopher Mixson	cmixson@wrslawyers.com
G. David Robertson	g david@nvlawyers.com
George Benesch	gbenesch@att.net
Greg Addington	greg.addington@usdoj.gov
Harry W. Swainston	hwsainston@earthlink.net
J.D. Sullivan	jd@mindenlaw.com
James Spoo	spootoo@aol.com
John Paul Schlegelmilch	jpslaw@netscape.com
Julian C. Smith, Jr.	joylyn@smithandharmer.com
Karen Peterson	kpeterson@allisonmackenzie.com
Kirk C. Johnson	kirk@nvlawyers.com
Laura Schroeder	counsel@water-law.com
Marta Adams	madams@ag.nv.gov
Marvin W. Murphy	marvinmurphy@sbcglobal.net
Michael D. Hoy	mhoy@nevadalaw.com
Michael F. Mackedon	faalonlaw@phonewave.net
Michael R. Montero	mrm@eloreno.com
Michael A. Pagni	mpagni@mcdonaldcarano.com
Richard W. Harris	rharris@gbis.com
Ross E. de Lipkau	ecf@parsonsbehle.com
Sylvia Harrison	sharrison@mcdonaldcarano.com
T. Scott Brooke	brooke@brooke-shaw.com
Michael W. Neville	michael.neville@doj.ca.gov
Stacey Simon	ssimon@mono.ca.gov
William E. Schaeffer	lander_lawyer@yahoo.com
Susan Schneider	susan.schneider@usdoj.gov
Paul J. Anderson	panderson@mclrenolaw.com
Debbie Leonard	dleonard@mcdonaldcarano.com
Wes Williams	wwilliams@standfordaluni.org
William J. Duffy	william.duffy@dgsllaw.com
Gene M. Kaufmann	GKaufmann@mindenlaw.com
Erin K.L. Mahaney	emahaney@waterboards.ca.gov
David L. Negri	david.negri@usdoj.gov

1 Simeon Herskovits simeon@communityandenvironment.net
2 John W. Howard johnh@jwhowardattorneys.com
3 Malissa Hathaway McKeith mckeith@lbbslaw.com
4 Andrew D. Galvin drew.galvin@americantower.com
5 Lynn L. Steyaert lls@water-law.com
6 Noelle R. Gentilli ngentill@water.ca.gov
7 Donald B. Mooney dbmooney@dcn.org
8 Stuart David Hotchkiss david.hotchkiss@ladwp.com

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/s/ Holly Dewar
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