

**1** GORDON H. DePAOLI  
**2** Nevada State Bar No. 00195  
**3** DALE E. FERGUSON  
**4** Nevada State Bar No.4986  
**5** WOODBURN AND WEDGE  
**6** One East First Street, Suite 1600  
Post Office Box 2311  
Reno, Nevada 89505  
Telephone: (702)688-3000

Attorneys for WALKER RIVER IRRIGATION  
DISTRICT

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

11           UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, )       IN EQUITY NO. C-125  
12           Plaintiff, )       SUBFILE NO. C-125-B  
13           WALKER RIVER PAIUTE TRIBE, )  
14           Plaintiff-Intervenor, )  
15           v. )  
16           )  
17           WALKER RIVER IRRIGATION DISTRICT, )  
18           a corporation, et al., )  
19           Defendants. )  
20           )  
21           UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, )  
22           WALKER RIVER PAIUTE TRIBE, )  
23           Counterclaimants, )  
24           v. )  
25           )  
26           WALKER RIVER IRRIGATION DISTRICT, )  
et al., )  
Counterdefendants. )

**MOTION FOR SCHEDULING  
AND PLANNING CONFERENCE**

**WOODBURN AND  
WEDGE  
ATTORNEYS  
ONE EAST FIRST STREET  
RENO, NEVADA 89501  
(702) 688-3000**

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1 Pursuant to Rule 16(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and Rules 16-1 and 16-2 of  
2 the Rules of Practice for the United States District Court for the District of Nevada, the Walker River  
3 Irrigation District moves the Court for an order for a scheduling and planning conference in this  
4 matter to discuss and consider the issues raised by the United States and Walker River Paiute Tribe  
5 in their *Joint Motion for Leave to Serve First Amended Counterclaims, to Join Groundwater Users,*  
6 *to Approve Forms for Notice and Waiver and to Approve Procedure for Service of Pleadings Once*  
7 *Parties are Joined.*

8 This motion is made to expedite the disposition of this matter by bringing the Court and the  
9 parties together to discuss and consider the complicated issues related to joining as counter-  
10 defendants all claimants to groundwater within the Walker River Basin and to proceeding with a  
11 comprehensive adjudication of groundwater rights within the Walker River Basin. It is extremely  
12 important that the Court and the parties carefully consider and resolve the issues of who should be  
13 served and which claims should be included in order to promote judicial economy and avoid  
14 unnecessary expenses.

15 This motion is supported by all of the pleadings and papers on file in this matter and the  
16 accompanying *Points and Authorities in Support of Motion for Scheduling and Planning Conference*  
17 *and in Response to United States' and Walker River Paiute Tribe's Joint Motion for Leave to Serve*  
18 *First Amended Counterclaims, to Join Groundwater Users, to Approve Forms for Notice and Waiver*  
19 *and to Approve Procedure for Service of Pleadings Once Parties are Joined.*

20 DATED this 9<sup>th</sup> day of November, 1998.

21 WOODBURN AND WEDGE  
22 One East First Street, Suite 1600  
23 Post Office Box 2311  
24 Reno, Nevada 89505

25 By: Gordon H. DePaoli  
26 GORDON H. DEPAOLI  
27 DALE E. FERGUSON  
28 Attorneys for WALKER RIVER IRRIGATION  
DISTRICT

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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

2

Pursuant to FRCP 5(b), I hereby certify that I am an employee of the law firm of Woodburn  
3 and Wedge and that on this 9<sup>th</sup> day of November, 1998, I deposited in the United States Mail,  
4 postage prepaid, a true and correct copy of the foregoing ***Motion for Scheduling and Planning***  
5 ***Conference*** in a sealed envelope addressed to the following:

6

Shirley A. Smith  
Assistant U.S. Attorney  
100 West Liberty Street  
Suite 600  
Reno, NV 89501-1930

7

Larry C. Reynolds  
Deputy Attorney General  
Nevada State Engineer's Office  
123 West Nye Lane  
Carson City, NV 89710

8

Leo Havener  
Walker River Irrigation District  
P.O. Box 820  
Yerington, NV 89447

9

James T. Markle  
State Water Resources Control Board  
P.O. Box 100  
Sacramento, CA 94814

10

John Kramer  
Department of Water Resources  
1416 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, CA 94814

11

Kelly R. Chase  
P.O. Box 2800  
Reno, NV 89423

12

Ross E. de Lipkau  
Marshall, Hill, Cassas & de Lipkau  
P.O. Box 2790  
Reno, NV 89505

13

Garry Stone  
United States District Court Water  
Master  
290 South Arlington Avenue  
Third Floor  
Reno, NV 89501

14

Kathryn E. Landreth  
United States Attorney  
100 West Liberty Street  
Suite 600  
Reno, NV 89501

15

John P. Lange  
United States Department of Justice  
Environment/Natural Resources Div.  
Indian Resources Section  
999 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 945  
Denver, CO 80202

16

Richard R. Greenfield  
Field Solicitor's Office  
Department of the Interior  
Two North Central Avenue  
Suite 1130  
Phoenix, AZ 85004-2383

17

Western Nevada Agency  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
1677 Hot Springs Road  
Carson City, NV 89706

18

R. Michael Turnipseed, P.E.  
Division of Water Resources  
State of Nevada  
123 West Nye Lane  
Carson City, NV 89710

19

20

1 Alice Walker  
2 Scott McElroy  
Greene, Meyer & McElroy  
3 1007 Pearl Street, Suite 220  
Boulder, CO 80302

4 John Davis  
5 P.O. Box 1646  
Tonopah, NV 89049

7 Roger Johnson  
Water Resources Control Board  
8 State of California  
P.O. Box 2000  
9 Sacramento, CA 95810

10 Roger Bezayiff  
11 Chief Deputy Water Commissioner  
U.S. Board of Water Commissioners  
12 P.O. Box 853  
Yerington, NV 89447

14 Linda A. Bowman  
Bowman & Robinson  
15 499 West Plumb Lane  
Suite 4  
16 Reno, NV 89509

17 Mary Hackenbracht  
18 Department of Justice  
State of California  
19 2101 Webster Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612-3049

21 Marta Adams  
22 Deputy Attorney General  
State of Nevada  
23 Division of Water Resources  
100 North Carson Street  
24 Carson City, NV 89701-4717

25 George N. Benesch  
26 P.O. Box 3498  
Reno, NV 89509

Matthew R. Campbell  
David E. Moser  
McCutchen, Doyle, Brown &  
Enerson  
Three Embarcadero Center  
San Francisco, CA 94111

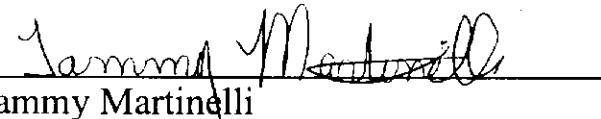
William Hvidsten  
DeCuir & Somach, P.C.  
400 Capitol Mall  
Suite 1900  
Sacramento, CA 95814-4407

Treva J. Hearne  
Zeh, Polaha, Spoo, Hearne &  
Picker  
575 Forest Street  
Suite 200  
Reno, NV 89509

Robert C. Anderson  
Timothy Lukas  
Hale, Lane, Peek, Dennison, Howard,  
Anderson & Pearl  
P.O. Box 3237  
Reno, NV 89505

Michael W. Neville  
California Attorney General's Office  
50 Fremont Street  
Suite 300  
San Francisco, CA 94105-2239

Hank Meshorer  
Special Litigation Counsel  
United States Department of Justice  
Environment/Natural Resources Div.  
Ben Franklin Station  
P.O. Box 7397  
Washington, DC 20044-7397

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tammy Martinelli

**1** GORDON H. DePAOLI  
**2** Nevada State Bar No. 00195  
**3** DALE E. FERGUSON  
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33           et al., )  
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36           )  
37  
**WALKER RIVER IRRIGATION  
DISTRICT'S POINTS AND  
AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT OF  
MOTION FOR SCHEDULING AND  
PLANNING CONFERENCE AND IN  
RESPONSE TO UNITED STATES'  
AND WALKER RIVER PAIUTE  
TRIBE'S JOINT MOTION FOR  
LEAVE TO SERVE FIRST AMENDED  
COUNTERCLAIMS, TO JOIN  
GROUNDWATER USERS, TO  
APPROVE FORMS FOR NOTICE  
AND WAIVER AND TO APPROVE  
PROCEDURE FOR SERVICE FOR  
PLEADINGS ONCE PARTIES  
ARE JOINED**

1       **I. INTRODUCTION.**

2           The United States and Walker River Paiute Tribe (the “Tribe”) have filed a Joint Motion for  
3 an Order: (1) for leave to serve their First Amended Counterclaims upon surface water and  
4 groundwater claimants in the Walker River Basin; (2) to eliminate the requirement for personal  
5 service upon those surface water claimants Mineral County has served successfully; (3) to establish  
6 a procedure for service of pleadings on joined parties; and (4) to approve forms for purposes of  
7 notice and waiver. Simultaneous with filing its response to the Joint Motion, the Walker River  
8 Irrigation District (the “District”) has moved the Court for a scheduling and planning conference so  
9 that the Court and parties can discuss these important and complex issues. As succinctly stated by  
10 the Tribe and the United States in their Joint Motion, the “resolution of the question of who should  
11 be served, and which claims shall be included, before proceeding further in this matter will promote  
12 judicial economy and avoid unnecessary expenses in this case.” Joint Motion at 5. Until the  
13 questions of who should be served and which claims should be included are resolved, it is premature  
14 to establish a procedure for service of pleadings on joined parties and to consider and approve forms  
15 for notice and waiver.

16           The issues of whether groundwater claimants should be joined and whether claims to  
17 groundwater should even proceed at this time are complex. In order to consider these important  
18 issues, it is helpful to briefly recite the history of this litigation.

19       **II. STATEMENT OF FACTS.**

20       **A. Background.**

21           **1. Early Attempts to Determine Claims to the Waters of the Walker River –**  
22           *Miller & Lux v. Rickey; Pacific Livestock v. Rickey.*

23           The history of litigation involving claims to the waters of the Walker River  
24 and its tributaries illustrates the need for careful consideration of the issues presented by the Joint  
25 Motion. On June 10, 1902, Miller & Lux brought an action in the United States District Court for  
26 the District of Nevada against Rickey and others to enjoin interference with its use of water of the  
27 Walker River in Nevada. On October 15, 1904, Rickey Land & Cattle Co. began two actions in a  
28 California state court against Miller & Lux to quiet its title and to establish its prior right to waters

1 on the East and West Forks of the Walker River. *See, Rickey Land & Cattle Company v. Miller &*  
2 *Lux*, 218 U.S. 258 (1910); *see also, Miller & Lux v. Rickey*, 127 F. 573 (D. Nev. 1904); *Miller & Lux*  
3 *v. Rickey*, 146 F. 574 (D. Nev. 1906); *Rickey Land & Cattle Co. v. Miller & Lux*, 152 F. 11 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir.  
4 1907).

5 In 1906, Miller & Lux and other defendants sought to enjoin the proceedings  
6 in the California actions on the grounds that the United States District Court for the District of  
7 Nevada had acquired prior jurisdiction. The Supreme Court of the United States agreed and  
8 prosecution of the California actions was enjoined. *Rickey*, 218 U.S. 258. Ultimately, a final decree  
9 (the “Rickey Decree”) was entered by the United States District Court for the District of Nevada in  
10 1919. *See, Pacific Livestock Company v. Thomas Rickey, et al.*, No. 731, Final Decree (D. Nev.  
11 1919).

12 2. ***The Walker River Decree – United States of America v. Walker River***  
13 ***Irrigation District, et al.***

14 The United States, the Tribe and many other claimants to the waters of the  
15 Walker River had not been joined as parties in the *Rickey* litigation. Their rights were not  
16 determined by the Rickey Decree. Therefore, on July 3, 1924, the United States commenced *United*  
17 *States of America v. Walker River Irrigation District, et al.*, in the United States District Court for  
18 the District of Nevada, In Equity No. C-125. An amended complaint was filed on March 19, 1926.  
19 Some 253 defendants, all appropriators and users of waters of the Walker River, East Walker River,  
20 West Walker River and the tributaries thereof, were named as defendants. *See, United States v.*  
21 *Walker River Irrigation District, et al.*, 11 F. Supp. 158, 159 (D. Nev. 1935).

22 The action included persons and entities who had been parties to or were  
23 successors to parties to the *Rickey* litigation. It also included persons who had not been parties to  
24 the *Rickey* litigation, although they clearly had established rights to waters of the Walker River prior  
25 to the commencement of the *Rickey* litigation. Finally, it included persons who had acquired rights  
26 to the waters of the Walker River after commencement of the *Rickey* litigation. *See, Walker River*  
27 *Decree at 10-50, 50-63A and 63A-70.*

28 ///

1                   The United States alleged that because of its ownership of the Walker River  
2 Indian Reservation, which had been reserved and set aside for the Tribe, it was the owner of 150  
3 cubic feet per second of waters of the Walker River and its tributaries. It sought to quiet title thereto  
4 and to restrain defendants from interfering with the alleged right. 11 F. Supp. at 159. Issues raised  
5 by the pleadings were referred to a special master who took testimony intermittently from March 22,  
6 1928 through December 30, 1932. Commencing May 22, 1933, hearings were held before the court  
7 on exceptions to the report and findings of the special master. 11 F. Supp. at 162.

8                   The United States relied upon the ruling of the Supreme Court in *Winters v.*  
9 *the United States*, 207 U.S. 564 (1908). The trial court ruled that the United States' claim to water  
10 for the Walker River Indian Reservation had to be adjudged, measured and administered in  
11 accordance with the laws of appropriation as established by the State of Nevada. 11 F. Supp. at 167;  
12 *see also, United States v. Walker River Irrigation District*, 14 F. Supp. 11 (D. Nev. 1936).

13                  On June 6, 1935, the Walker River Decree was entered in this action and an  
14 appeal followed to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. That court held that the rule of law  
15 established in *Winters v. United States* applied and that there had been an implied reservation of  
16 water at the time the Reservation was set aside. The Court of Appeals accepted the original report  
17 of the special master with respect to the quantity of water reserved. *See, United States v. Walker*  
18 *River Irrigation District*, 104 F.2d 334, 339-40 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1939). The Walker River Decree was  
19 amended to conform to be mandate of the Court of Appeals on April 24, 1940.

20                  **B. Intervention by the Tribe.**

21                  On or about September 30, 1987, the Tribe sought permission to intervene in this  
22 action in connection with the then pending Petition to Establish Rules and Regulations Concerning  
23 Change Applications under the Walker River Decree. By Order entered March 2, 1988, the Tribe  
24 was granted permission to intervene as a matter of right. Because its intervention was based upon  
25 the water right which the United States had established for the benefit of its Reservation under the  
26 Walker River Decree, the Tribe has been recognized as a "plaintiff-intervenor."

27                  ///

28                  ///

1           **C. The Petition of the Walker River Irrigation District.**

2           On January 9, 1991, the District filed its Petition for Declaratory and Injunctive  
3 Relief; Request for Order to Show Cause; or in the Alternative to Change the Point of Diversion  
4 against the California State Water Resources Control Board and its members. That Petition was  
5 Subfile No. C-125-A.

6           The only named respondents to the First Amended Petition were the California State  
7 Water Resources Control Board and its individual members. The District's first claim for relief  
8 involved three orders issued by the California State Water Resources Control Board with respect to  
9 water rights licenses for Bridgeport and Topaz Reservoirs. The District contended that those orders  
10 were contrary to and inconsistent with the Walker River Decree and sought a declaration from the  
11 Court to that effect. It also sought a declaration that the respondents lacked the power to enter and  
12 enforce orders which are contrary to and inconsistent with the Walker River Decree and which  
13 interfere with the jurisdiction of this Court. The District sought an injunction permanently enjoining  
14 the Board and its members from enforcing those portions of the orders which the Court finds  
15 inconsistent with and contrary to the Walker River Decree or interfere with the jurisdiction of the  
16 Court.

17           **D. The Counterclaims.**

18           The Tribe served an answer, counterclaim and cross-claim in response to the  
19 District's First Amended Petition. The United States subsequently filed a Motion for Leave to File  
20 Counterclaim. The Counterclaims sought recognition of a right to store water in Weber Reservoir  
21 for use on lands of the Walker River Indian Reservation and of a federal reserved water right to use  
22 water on lands added to the Reservation in 1936. These claimed rights were alleged to be in addition  
23 to the right awarded to the Untied States for the benefit of the Reservation by the Walker River  
24 Decree. All water users on the Walker River and its tributaries were alleged to be counterdefendants,  
25 although at that time they were not individually named, identified or served.

26           ///

27           ///

28           ///

1                   **E. The Motions to Dismiss the Counterclaims or, in the Alternative, to Require  
2                   Joinder and/or Substitution of Claimants to the Walker River or Its  
3                   Tributaries.**

4                   On or about October 5, 1992, the District moved to dismiss the counterclaims.  
5                   (Document #5). Alternatively, the District moved to require the Tribe and the United States to join  
6                   all claimants to the water of the Walker River as defendants in the action and to serve them in  
7                   accordance with Fed. R. Civ. P. 4. (Document #5). The State of Nevada filed motions very similar  
8                   to the District's motions. (Document #16).

9                   On October 27, 1992, the Court entered an order (Document #15) denying the Motion  
10                  to Dismiss and allowing the Tribe's and United States' counterclaims to be filed as "cross-claims."  
11                  The Court granted the motions to require joinder and service of process in accordance with Rule 4  
12                  on all claimants to the waters of the Walker River and its tributaries.

13                  **F. The Motion for Instructions.**

14                  In mid-1994, the United States asked the Court whether its order of October 27, 1992  
15                  (Document #15) requiring that "all claimants to the water of Walker River and its tributaries must  
16                  be joined as parties to the [Tribe's counterclaim]" extended to groundwater claimants and users in  
17                  the Walker River Basin. (Document #23). In its Motion for Instructions (Document #23), the  
18                  United States took no position, but merely indicated its need for clarification. Subsequently, the  
19                  Tribe in its Response (Document #26) took the position that groundwater claimants must be joined  
20                  as necessary parties pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 19. Thereafter, the United States in its Reply  
21                  (Document #29) abandoned its neutral posture and also took the position that groundwater claimants  
22                  in the Walker River Basin must be joined as necessary parties.

23                  The United States and the Tribe asserted that the groundwater of the Walker River  
24                  Basin is hydrologically connected to and is part of a single unitary water supply with the surface  
25                  waters of the Walker River and its tributaries. Based on that assertion, the United States and the  
26                  Tribe speculated that increased groundwater use would eventually compete with surface water use.  
27                  On this basis, the United States and the Tribe asserted that all water in the Walker River Basin forms  
28                  a single *res*, and that, therefore, all claimants to water from that single *res*, be they ground or surface  
water claimants, must be joined.

1           By Order dated July 8, 1994 (Document #30), the Court determined that its prior  
2 order did not require joinder of groundwater claimants and affirmatively denied the request to join  
3 such claimants. The Court's rationale for that decision as set forth in the July 8, 1994 Order is  
4 directly relevant here.

5           First, the Court concluded that the Walker River Decree adjudicated only the rights  
6 of the claimants to the surface waters of the Walker River and "did not concern itself in any way  
7 with underground water rights." (Document #30 at 3). Second, the Court concluded that neither the  
8 Tribe nor the United States had up to that time asserted any claim to groundwater, and even if they  
9 had, there was "nothing to indicate that withdrawal of groundwater on the restored reservation lands  
10 will have any effect on surrounding groundwater claimants." *Id.* at 6.

11           Next the Court analyzed whether the claims for additional surface water which the  
12 Tribe and the United States were making required joinder of groundwater claimants. The Court  
13 pointed out that throughout the litigation, the Court considered groundwater separate from surface  
14 water. It noted that Nevada state law treats surface and groundwater as separate, although related,  
15 sources. (Document #30 at 7).

16           Despite those facts, however, the Court noted that joinder of groundwater claimants  
17 would be required if: (1) in their absence complete relief could not be accorded among those already  
18 parties or (2) their claims to groundwater relate to the subject of this action (the United States' and  
19 the Tribe's claims to waters from the Walker River) and proceeding without the groundwater  
20 claimants might: (i) as a practical matter impair or impede their ability to protect their interests or  
21 (ii) leave any of the current parties subject to a risk of multiple or inconsistent obligations. The  
22 Court went on to say that groundwater claimants are necessary to accord complete relief to those  
23 already parties only if their water rights somehow affect the water rights of the parties. The Court  
24 concluded that joinder of the groundwater claimants is required under Rule 19 only if groundwater  
25 claims and rights somehow affect the water rights of the parties who have or claim rights to the  
26 waters of the water of the Walker River or vise versa. (Document #30 at 9-10).

27           The Court then considered the relationship that had been alleged by the United States  
28 and the Tribe between surface water and groundwater. It noted that establishing the existence of

1 hydrologic connection between surface water and groundwater merely establishes the possibility that  
2 surface water rights may come into conflict in competition with groundwater rights.<sup>1</sup> It stated that  
3 numerous other factors must also be considered in determining if there is any likelihood of conflict  
4 between the surface water and groundwater claimants. It stated that if there were currently any  
5 ascertainable conflict, such might be the basis for new litigation. *Id.* at 10-11.

6 The Court pointed out that the additional water rights claimed by the United States  
7 and the Tribe would “in all likelihood, be small in relation to the total amount of water appropriated  
8 from the Walker River” and it was, therefore, “unreasonable to assume that the additional water  
9 rights would be the figurative straw that breaks the camel’s back.” (Document #30 at11). The Court  
10 refused to speculate that the claimed right to additional surface water from the Walker River would  
11 “tip the scales and result in competition between the surface and groundwater claimants.” The  
12 Court, therefore, denied the request to join groundwater claimants. *Id.* at 11-12.

13 **G. The Amended Counterclaims and the Pyle Affidavit.**

14 Part of the foundation for the Joint Motion is the Amended Counterclaims filed by  
15 the Tribe and United States on or about July 30, 1997. The caption to both Amended Counterclaims  
16 lists several hundred individuals and entities who are alleged to be “claimants to the waters of the  
17 Walker River and its tributaries, including groundwater.” *See*, Tribe’s Amended Counterclaim at  
18 1-15; United States’ Amended Counterclaim at 1-11. It is not clear whether “groundwater  
19 claimants” is intended to include persons or entities holding water rights permitted by the Nevada  
20 State Engineer, holding vested groundwater rights and holding domestic well rights. *See*, N.R.S §  
21 534.080; N.R.S § 534.100; N.R.S. § 534.185. It is also not clear who is a “groundwater claimant”  
22 in California in light of the fact that California does not regulate groundwater pumping.

23 In addition to seeking “a right to store water in Weber Reservoir and a reserved right under  
24 federal law to use surface water from the Walker River on land added to the Reservation in 1936,”  
25 both Amended Counterclaims seek a right reserved under federal law to use groundwater underlying

26 \_\_\_\_\_  
27 <sup>1</sup>It is important to note that since entry of the Decree, even in consecutive drought years, no  
28 party has ever brought a proceeding before this Court alleging that groundwater pumping was  
depleting surface water rights recognized by the Decree.

1 and adjacent to the lands of the Reservation.” Tribe’s Amended Counterclaim at 17; United States’  
 2 Amended Counterclaim at 13.

3 Neither Amended Counterclaim alleges that withdrawal of groundwater on the  
 4 Reservation will have any effect on surrounding groundwater claimants. There are no allegations  
 5 that the additional groundwater and surface water claims for the Reservation will be the “figurative  
 6 straw that breaks the camel’s back, resulting in competition between surface and groundwater  
 7 claimants.”

8 Although both the United States and the Tribe allege that numerous persons and other  
 9 entities have appropriated additional water from the Walker River Basin and its tributaries since  
 10 April, 1936, and that such claims to the use of water have not been subject to any “adjudicative”  
 11 process, there are no direct allegations seeking such an adjudication. Tribe’s Amended Counterclaim  
 12 at 15; United States’ Amended Counterclaim at 11. The prayers for relief, however, ask for a  
 13 declaration that defendants and counterdefendants have no right to title or other interest in or to the  
 14 use of the waters claimed by the Tribe and the United States and request that the Court preliminarily  
 15 and permanently enjoin defendants and counterdefendants from asserting any adverse rights, title,  
 16 or other interest in or to such water rights. Tribe’s Amended Counterclaim at 17-18; United States’  
 17 Amended Counterclaim at 31.

18 The United States includes claims for surface water and groundwater rights for the  
 19 Yerington Paiute Tribe located in Mason Valley, Nevada; for the Bridgeport Indian Colony located  
 20 in Bridgeport, California; for the Garrison and Cluette allotments located in California; for individual  
 21 allotments, which may be in California and Nevada; for the Hawthorne Army Ammunition Plant in  
 22 Hawthorne, Nevada; for the Toiyabe National Forest in California and Nevada; for the United States  
 23 Marine Corp. Mountain Warfare Training Center in California, including family housing in  
 24 Coleville, California; and for the Bureau of Land Management.<sup>2</sup> The Amended Counterclaim of the

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25                   <sup>2</sup>The claims of the United States for the Hawthorne Army Ammunition Plant include claims  
 26 to water from sources which are not tributary to the Walker River, although they may be sources of  
 27 supply for Walker Lake. See, United States’ Amended Counterclaim at 21-22. It is not clear  
 28 whether such claims should be included here. It is also not clear that the United States has attempted  
 to identify persons or entities who may be claimants to those sources of water.

**1** United States is similarly lacking in allegations concerning conflicts between the rights which it  
**2** seeks and surface and groundwater rights of others. *See*, United States' Amended Counterclaim at  
**3** 13-31.

The other part of the foundation for the Joint Motion is Attachment No. 1 to the  
United States' and Tribe's Joint Motion, the Affidavit of Peter M. Pyle, a hydrologist with Stetson  
Engineers.<sup>3</sup> That affidavit is primarily focused on an alleged hydrologic connection between ground  
and surface water. It does not provide any indication that withdrawal of groundwater on the  
Reservation will have any effect on groundwater claimants in Bridgeport Valley, Antelope Valley,  
Smith Valley and Mason Valley, the East Walker area or even the Walker Lake area.

With respect to the relationship between river flows and groundwater pumping, Pyle states that wells in Smith and Mason Valleys within two miles of the River derive most of their flow from the River. Pyle Affidavit at 5. He states that wells located distances from three to six miles from the River derive up to 30% of their water from the River. *Id.* Pyle does not differentiate between wells taking water directly from the River and wells that are recharged from canal losses and deep percolation caused by irrigation. The table on page 5 of the Pyle Affidavit is said to show that groundwater pumping has affected surface flows of the Walker River because the difference of surface inflow and outflow cannot be accounted for by surface diversions alone. *Id.* The table, however, makes no effort to quantify plant consumption, which undoubtedly accounts for a substantial part of the difference between surface inflow and outflow. The affidavit provides no information on when and to what extent pumping groundwater will actually affect stream flow. See, *Kupier v. Lundvall*, 529 P.2d 1328 (Colo. 1974) (groundwater which takes over a century to reach a stream not considered part of surface stream under Colorado law integrating administration of surface water and groundwater).

24 | // /

<sup>25</sup> The District does not agree with many of the conclusions in the Pyle Affidavit. However,  
<sup>26</sup> for purposes of the Joint Motion, the District considers the Affidavit in the light most favorable to  
<sup>27</sup> the position of the United States and Tribe. In addition, the District finds it unusual that the United  
States and Tribe have not included allegations in their Amended Counterclaims based upon the  
conclusions which they have drawn from the Pyle Affidavit.

1 Pursuant to his regulatory authority under N.R.S. § 534.110 within the Walker River  
2 Basin, the Nevada State Engineer has recognized the Antelope Valley (No. 106), Smith Valley  
3 Artesian (No. 107), Mason Valley (No. 108), East Walker Area (No. 109) and Walker Lake (No.  
4 110) hydrographic basins. *See*, Exhibit "A" attached hereto. The California and Nevada portions  
5 of Antelope Valley undoubtedly form a single hydrographic basin. Bridgeport Valley in California  
6 is also a separate hydrographic basin. The Pyle Affidavit contains no information concerning the  
7 nature and extent of the groundwater claims of the United States and competition between those  
8 claims and other groundwater claimants within each of those groundwater hydrographic basins.

9 **H. The Jurisdictional Bases for the Amended Counterclaims.**

10 In connection with the issues of joinder, it is important to examine the jurisdictional  
11 bases alleged by the United States and the Tribe for assertion of the Amended Counterclaims in this  
12 action. Three of the jurisdictional bases afford grounds for jurisdiction over new actions. Those  
13 bases are 28 U.S.C. § 1331, arising under the Constitution, laws or treaties of the United States; 28  
14 U.S.C. § 1362, brought by an Indian tribe arising under the Constitution, laws or treaties of the  
15 United States; and 28 U.S.C. § 1345, proceedings brought by the United States. The remaining  
16 allegations concerning jurisdiction are based upon the jurisdiction which results from the existence  
17 of the Decree. Those bases are the continuing jurisdiction of the court over the Walker River and  
18 its tributaries, 28 U.S.C. § 1367 (supplemental jurisdiction) and 28 U.S.C. § 1651, authorizing the  
19 court to issue all writs necessary or appropriate in aid of its jurisdiction. *See*, Tribe's Amended  
20 Counterclaim at 14; United States' Amended Counterclaim at 10-11.

21 **III. THE AMENDED COUNTERCLAIMS AND THE PYLE AFFIDAVIT DO NOT  
22 INCLUDE SUFFICIENT ALLEGATIONS OF CONFLICT BETWEEN GROUND-  
23 WATER CLAIMS AND THE ADDITIONAL SURFACE WATER CLAIMS OF THE  
24 UNITED STATES AND THE TRIBE TO REQUIRE JOINDER OF  
25 GROUNDWATER USERS.**

26 In its July 8, 1994 Order, the Court concluded that the additional surface water rights claimed  
27 by the United States and the Tribe would, in all likelihood, be small in relation to total amount of  
28 water appropriated from the Walker River and that it was unreasonable to assume that these additional  
water rights would be "the figurative straw that breaks the camel's back." The Court stated, without  
more specific allegations, it would not assume that the claimed right to additional surface water from

1 the Walker River would “tip the scales and result in competition between surface and groundwater  
2 claimants.” (Document #30 at 10-11).

3       Although the Pyle Affidavit includes information concerning the alleged hydrologic  
4 connection between surface water and groundwater, neither it nor the Amended Counterclaims  
5 provide information which satisfies the Court’s requirement of specific allegations that the claimed  
6 right to additional surface water from the Walker River will result in competition between surface  
7 water and groundwater claimants. Without such specific allegations, the assertion that surface water  
8 and groundwater users are or will be in competition for waters comprising a single *res* is speculative  
9 and insufficient to require joinder under Rule 19 of groundwater claimants located in the Walker  
10 River Basin. At the requested scheduling and planning conference, the Court and the parties can  
11 explore whether the Tribe and United States intend to allege such a conflict, and if necessary, their  
12 pleadings can be further amended.

13 **IV. THE CLAIMS OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE TRIBE TO ADDITIONAL  
14 SURFACE WATER DO NOT REQUIRE JOINDER OF GROUNDWATER  
15 CLAIMANTS BECAUSE, IN NEVADA AND CALIFORNIA, SURFACE AND  
16 GROUNDWATER WITHIN THE WALKER RIVER BASIN DO NOT FORM A  
17 SINGLE *RES*.**

18       Assuming for the sake of argument that the Amended Counterclaims and Pyle Affidavit do  
19 contain allegations that there will be competition between the additional surface water claims of the  
20 Tribe and the United States and existing groundwater claimants, that does not mean that groundwater  
21 claimants should be joined. As the Court has already correctly stated in its July 8, 1994 Order,  
22 Nevada law treats surface and groundwater as separate resources. (Document #30 at 7). The  
23 decision to treat surface water and groundwater as a single resource for purposes of regulation and  
24 administration is for the Nevada legislature, not the courts.<sup>4</sup> Similarly, under California law,  
25 percolating water; i.e., water that does not form a part of the body or flow, surface or subterranean  
26 of any stream, is regarded as a separate water source and the owners of the land overlying a single

27       <sup>4</sup>Colorado, through a complex statutory procedure adopted in 1969, integrated the  
28 appropriation, use and administration of underground water tributary to a stream with the use of  
surface water in such a way as to maximize the beneficial use of all of the waters in the state. *See*,  
Colo. Rev. Stat. §§ 37-92-101, *et seq.*

1 body of percolating water have correlative rights to the common supply. *See, Los Osos Valley*  
 2 *Assoc. v. City of San Luis Obispo*, 36 Cal. Rptr. 2d. 758, 762 (Cal. App. 1994). The courts do not  
 3 have the power to require surface water and groundwater to be regulated as a single resource in  
 4 California.

5 That is not to say, however, that this Court is without authority to protect surface or  
 6 groundwater rights established under federal law.<sup>5</sup> In *Cappaert v. United States*, 426 U.S. 128  
 7 (1976), the Supreme Court of the United States, dodging Nevada's argument that the implied  
 8 reservation doctrine did not apply to groundwater, said:

9 No cases of this Court have applied the doctrine of implied  
 10 reservation of water rights to groundwater...here however, the water  
 11 in the pool is surface water. Federal water rights were being depleted  
 12 because, as the evidence showed, the groundwater and surface water  
 13 are physically interrelated as integral parts of the hydrologic cycle.  
 14 [Citation]. Thus, since the implied reservation of water doctrine is  
 15 based on the necessity of water for the purpose of the federal  
 16 reservation, we hold that the United States can protect its water from  
 17 subsequent diversion, whether the diversion is of surface or  
 18 groundwater.

19 426 U.S. at 142-143. If in the future it is alleged that diversion of groundwater in California or in  
 20 Nevada is actually depleting a prior water right established under federal law, an appropriate action  
 21 can be brought joining all necessary parties and the Court can fashion appropriate relief to protect  
 22 the prior federal surface right.

23 However, in the context of Nevada and California law, groundwater claimants need not be  
 24 joined in an action involving surface water. Complete relief can be accorded among all surface  
 25 water claimants. Because, as a matter of law, surface and groundwater are not a single *res*, the  
 26 claims to groundwater do not relate to the subject of this action. For the same reason, proceeding  
 27 without the groundwater claimants will not impair or impede the ability of groundwater claimants  
 28 to protect their interests and will not leave current parties subject to a risk of multiple or inconsistent  
 obligations.

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29 <sup>5</sup>No case has held that the implied reserved rights doctrine applies to groundwater. *See, In*  
 30 *Re Rights to Use of Water in Bighorn River*, 753 P.2d 76, 99-100 (Wyo. 1988), *aff'd* by an equally  
 31 divided court, *sub. nom.*, *Wyoming v. United States*, 492 U.S. 406 (1989).

1       **V. THE CLAIMS OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE TRIBE TO GROUNDWATER  
2       SHOULD NOT PROCEED AS A POST-JUDGMENT PROCEEDING IN THIS  
3       ACTION AND, IN ANY EVENT, DO NOT REQUIRE JOINDER IN A SINGLE  
4       PROCEEDING OF CLAIMANTS TO GROUNDWATER IN ONE HYDROGRAPHIC  
5       BASIN WITHIN CLAIMANTS TO GROUNDWATER IN SEVERAL OTHER  
6       SEPARATE HYDROGRAPHIC BASINS.**

7              Rather than requiring joinder of all groundwater claimants and embarking upon a court  
8       adjudication of all claims to groundwater in the Walker River Basin, the Court and the parties should  
9       consider separating such claims from the additional surface water claims being asserted. Should  
10      problems arise among groundwater claimants in Nevada, the Nevada State Engineer has adequate  
11      authority to proceed with one or more groundwater adjudications and, if necessary, to join the Tribe  
12      and the United States. *See*, N.R.S. § 534.100 and N.R.S. §§ 533.090-533.320, *et seq.* The District  
13      does not dispute that the claims that the United States and the Tribe assert to groundwater, at least  
14      within a hydrographic groundwater basin, involve claims to a single *res*, and if they are to proceed  
15      in this forum, joinder of certain groundwater claimants will be required. However, before the Court  
16      requires such joinder, and embarks upon several years of proof and adjudication, consideration  
17      should be given to separating such claims from the surface water claims and separating such claims  
18      by hydrographic basin.

19              First, by separating those allegations which support subject matter jurisdiction for a new  
20      action and from those which support subject matter jurisdiction for a post-judgment proceeding in  
21      this action, it is apparent that the jurisdictional allegations for subject matter jurisdiction for a post-  
22      judgment proceeding in this case do not apply to the claims of the United States and the Tribe with  
23      respect to groundwater. As this Court correctly stated in its July, 1994 Order, the Decree in this case  
24      adjudicates only the rights of the claimants to the surface waters of the Walker River and does not  
25      concern itself in any way with underground water rights. Therefore, the Court's continuing  
26      jurisdiction does not apply to groundwater. Similarly, if it applies at all in an action which has  
27      proceeded to final judgment, supplemental jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1367 does not apply here  
28      because this is not a post-judgment enforcement proceeding. *See*, 16 Moore's Federal Practice at  
§ 106.05[9] (3d Ed. 1997). It is essentially a new action involving new claims. Finally, jurisdiction  
to adjudicate groundwater claims is not supported by the All-Writs Act, 28 U.S.C. § 1651. It is not

1 necessary for the Court to adjudicate groundwater claims in order to enforce the Decree and there  
2 is no clear allegation that groundwater pumping presently or in the future will adversely affect  
3 surface water rights adjudicated by the Decree.

4 Second, consideration must be given to the impact on the resources of the Court of  
5 undertaking a comprehensive adjudication of groundwater rights within every hydrographic basin  
6 on the Walker River system. In the Order entered May 17, 1989, in C-125-ECR (Document #109),  
7 this Court addressed objections of the United States and the Tribe to appointment of the California  
8 State Water Resources Control Board as a special master with respect to change applications in  
9 California. In that Order, the Court observed the following:

10 In addition, the special master is warranted by the fact that the Court  
11 does not have the resources to conduct the investigation needed to  
12 determine the merits of a particular application. Water law is  
13 intrinsically bound together with engineering, and the Court has no  
14 facility to conduct the surveys and tests which must accompany every  
15 change application. The California Board and the Nevada State  
16 Engineer have special expertise in the field, and will be able to handle  
17 these feats of engineering much more easily than the Court. It  
18 therefore appears that there are exceptional conditions which justify  
19 the appointment of a special master.

20 (Document #109 at 12).

21 Without question, if a comprehensive groundwater adjudication proceeding is to take place  
22 before this Court, a special master will be required to bring it to a conclusion. Therefore, careful  
23 consideration should be given to whether the Court should proceed with such an adjudication,  
24 particularly as a post-judgment proceeding in connection with an action involving only surface water  
25 which proceeded to final judgment over 60 years ago and where there has been no showing of such  
26 an adjudication is needed.

27 Finally, even if the decision is to proceed, recognition should be given to the fact that, at least  
28 with respect to groundwater, there are several separate and distinct groundwater basins involved.  
In Nevada, the Nevada State Engineer recognizes and separately regulates the Antelope Valley  
hydrographic basin, the Smith Valley hydrographic basin, the East Walker hydrographic basin, the  
Mason Valley hydrographic basin and the Walker Lake hydrographic basin. It is also likely that  
there is, in California, an Antelope hydrographic basin and a Bridgeport Valley hydrographic basin.

1      Indeed, the Pyle Affidavit suggests that these groundwater basins are limited by impermeable  
2      bedrock. *See*, Pyle Affidavit at 4.

3           Therefore, groundwater claimants in each of those hydrographic basins should not be joined  
4      in a massive groundwater adjudication with groundwater claimants in each of the other hydrographic  
5      basins. For example, claimants in the Mason Valley hydrographic basin should not be joined in  
6      adjudication with groundwater claimants in the California and Nevada portions of Antelope Valley,  
7      or, for example, with California claimants in Bridgeport Valley.

8      **VI. THERE IS NO BASIS FOR ELIMINATING AND IT WOULD BE IMPRUDENT TO  
9      ELIMINATE THE REQUIREMENT FOR PERSONAL SERVICE OF THE  
10     AMENDED COUNTERCLAIMS OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE TRIBE  
11     UPON THOSE SURFACE WATER CLAIMANTS WHO HAVE BEEN  
12     SUCCESSFULLY SERVED BY MINERAL COUNTY.**

13        The Joint Motion requests that the Court eliminate the requirement for personal service upon  
14      those surface water claimants Mineral County successfully served. However, the supporting points  
15      and authorities do not explain the basis for that request. In September, 1998, when the parties  
16      stipulated to an extension of time to file responses to the Joint Motion, counsel for the District was  
17      advised that that request was intended to be eliminated. The District assumed that a pleading would  
18      be served and filed making that absolutely clear. It was for that reason that the stipulation  
19      (Document #63) at page 3, paragraph 7, did not include such a request in the description of the Joint  
Motion. However, to date, such official clarification has not been provided. Therefore, the District  
responds to that request.

20        There is no basis and no authority for the proposition that service of Mineral County's  
21      Intervention Documents on surface water claimants will in any way provide them with adequate  
22      notice of the very different claims being made here by the Tribe and the United States. Moreover,  
23      even if there was such a basis, it would be imprudent to adopt such a procedure here. The Court and  
24      the parties are well aware of the issues which have permeated Mineral County's attempt at service.  
25      At this point, it is difficult to determine precisely who Mineral County has, in fact, personally served.  
26      To adopt that service as service on all surface water claimants here would only serve to compound  
27      any errors made in Mineral County's personal service.

28      / / /

1       **VII. IT IS PREMATURE TO ESTABLISH A PROCEDURE FOR A SERVICE OF**  
2       **PLEADINGS ONCE THE PARTIES ARE JOINED.**

3           The United States and the Tribe ask the Court's guidance regarding service of pleadings on  
4           parties once they are successfully joined in these proceedings. The basis for that request is that the  
5           Tribe and the United States anticipate that many claimants will not be represented by counsel and  
6           that, therefore, service of pleadings upon all such claimants once joined would be cumbersome,  
7           costly and would likely impede judicial efficiency.

8           Depending upon the claims which proceed in this post-judgment proceeding, and upon how  
9           many claimants are not represented by counsel, it may become necessary to adopt some special  
10          procedure for service upon joined claimants. However, it is premature to assume that such a  
11          procedure will be required or to define its contours. There will be ample time to adopt such a  
12          procedure once it is determined who will be joined, the claims which are to be asserted and the  
13          number of claimants who are not represented by counsel.

14       **VIII. THE FORMS TO BE USED FOR NOTICE OF LAWSUIT AND REQUEST FOR**  
15       **WAIVER OF SERVICE OF SUMMONS AND FOR WAIVER OF SERVICE OF**  
16       **SUMMONS SHOULD NOT BE REVIEWED AND APPROVED UNTIL THE COURT**  
17       **HAS DETERMINED ISSUES RELATED TO WHO SHOULD BE SERVED AND**  
18       **WHICH CLAIMS SHOULD BE INCLUDED.**

19           Until it is determined which claims will proceed and who will be joined as parties, it is  
20          premature for the Court to review and approve the Notice of Lawsuit and Request for Waiver of  
21          Service and Summons and Waiver of Service of Summons. Once it is determined what claims will  
22          proceed in this matter, consideration should be given to a number of issues. A decision on those  
23          issues may affect the form of Notice of Lawsuit and Request for Waiver of Service and Summons  
24          and Waiver of Service of Summons.

25           For example, the Court must consider whether this proceeding will involve an adjudication  
26          of surface water of the Walker River appropriated after entry of the Decree in 1936. If groundwater  
27          claimants are to be joined and groundwater claims are to be asserted, similar determinations will  
28          have to be made by the Court. The parties need to be advised as to whether they must include  
            appropriate counterclaims and cross-claims with respect to their subsequent surface water and  
            groundwater appropriations.

1 Consideration should also be given to whether default judgments will be entered for failure  
2 to appear in a case which will certainly involve hundreds of participants. In a similar proceeding  
3 involving the Truckee River in 1973, the United States District Court for the District of Nevada  
4 entered an order providing that no default would be taken for failure to appear. Once those and  
5 perhaps other issues are addressed, the parties and the Court can work together to adopt an  
6 appropriate Notice of Lawsuit and Request for Waiver of Service of Summons and an appropriate  
7 Waiver of Service of Summons.<sup>6</sup>

8 **IX. CONCLUSION.**

9 The most important question for the Court and the parties is who should be served and which  
10 claims should be included. The Court and the parties need additional discussion and dialogue for  
11 purposes of resolving those questions. The District respectfully requests that the Court set a  
12 scheduling and planning conference at which the Court and the parties can discuss these significant  
13 and important issues.

14 DATED this 9<sup>th</sup> day of November, 1998.

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WOODBURN AND WEDGE  
One East First Street, Suite 1600  
Post Office Box 2311  
Reno, Nevada 89505

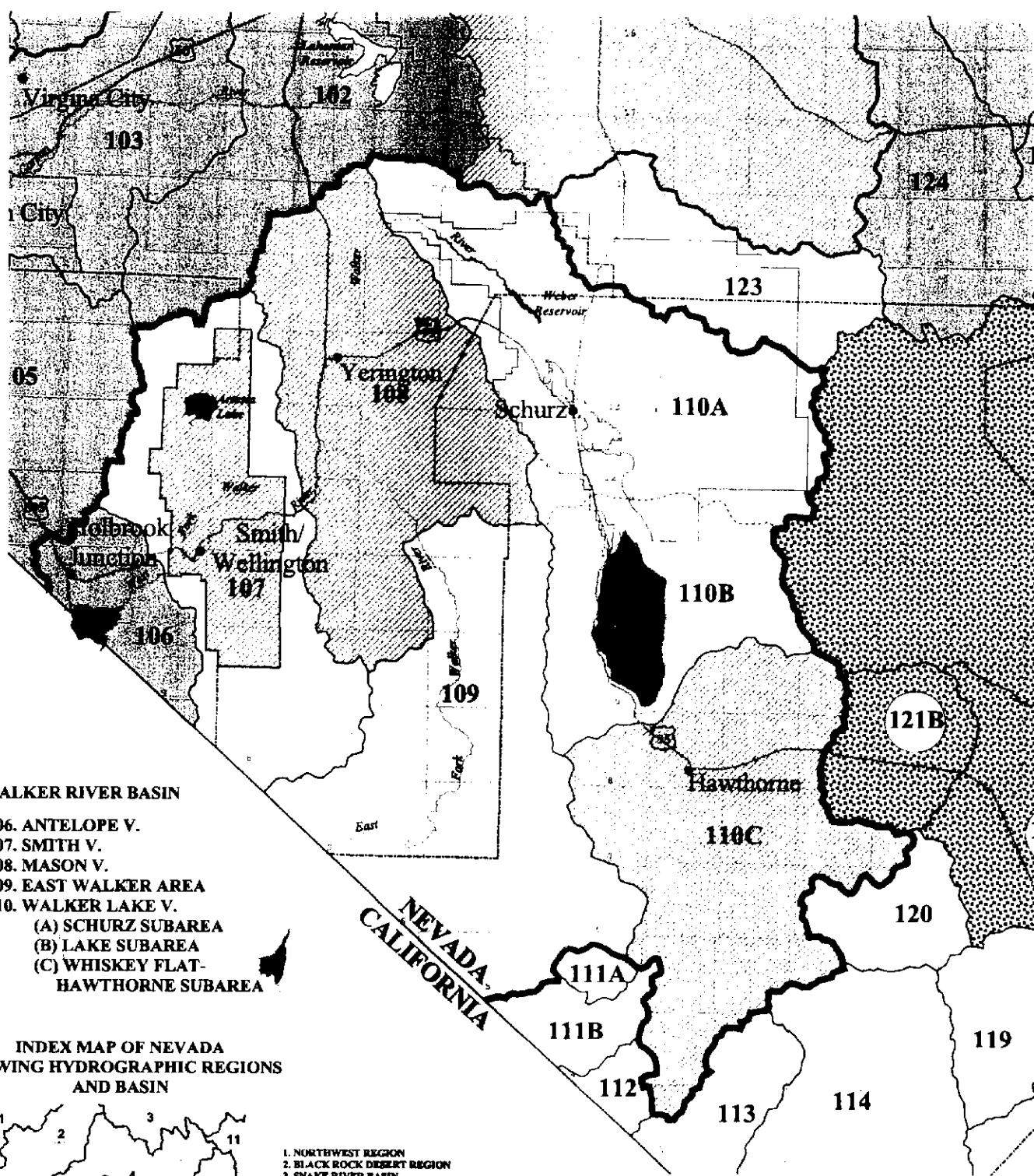
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By: Gordon H. DePaoli  
GORDON H. DEPAOLI  
DALE E. FERGUSON  
Attorneys for WALKER RIVER IRRIGATION  
DISTRICT

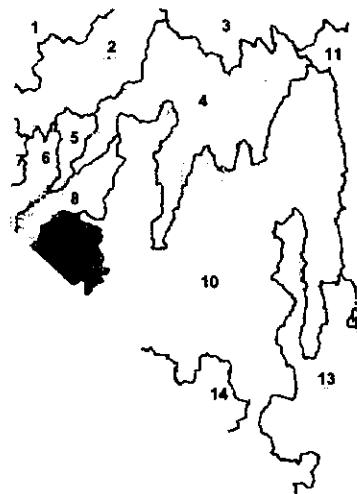
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The District objects to the statement in each of the Notices of Lawsuit to the effect that "a lawsuit concerning the rights of the Walker River and its tributaries has been ongoing for many years." That is simply not accurate. The litigation concerning the water rights of the Walker River and its tributaries for all practical purposes ended in 1936. What has been ongoing for many years is administration of the Walker River and its tributaries pursuant to the final decree entered in 1936 and amended in 1940. The United States and the Tribe seek to commence new litigation concerning additional claims. It is misleading to suggest that active litigation concerning the water rights of the Walker River and its tributaries has been ongoing for many years. There is no need for any statement whatsoever in that regard in any of the Notices.

**WALKER RIVER  
HYDROGRAPHIC REGION**



INDEX MAP OF NEVADA  
SHOWING HYDROGRAPHIC REGIONS  
AND BASIN



1. NORTHWEST REGION  
2. BLACK ROCK DESERT REGION  
3. SNAKE RIVER BASIN  
4. HUMBOLDT RIVER BASIN  
5. WEST CENTRAL REGION  
6. TRUCKEE RIVER BASIN  
7. WESTERN REGION  
8. CARSON RIVER BASIN  
9. WALKER RIVER BASIN  
10. CENTRAL REGION  
11. GREAT SALT LAKE BASIN  
12. ESCALANTE DESERT BASIN  
13. COLORADO RIVER BASIN  
14. DEATH VALLEY BASIN

BASIN DESIGNATION

- DESIGNATED
- DESIGNATED (IRRIGATION DENIED)
- DESIGNATED (PREFERRED USES)
- DESIGNATED (PREFERRED USE - IRRIGATION DENIED)

HYDROGRAPHIC BASINS

- REGIONAL BOUNDARY
- HYDROGRAPHIC BOUNDARY
- INFERRED BOUNDARY
- WALKER RIVER BASIN
- NATIVE AMERICAN LANDS

5 0 5 10 15 Miles



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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

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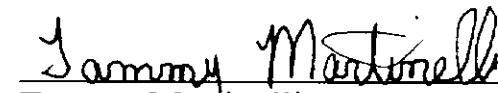
Pursuant to FRCP 5(b), I hereby certify that I am an employee of the law firm of Woodburn  
3 and Wedge and that on this 9<sup>th</sup> day of November, 1998, I deposited in the United States Mail,  
4 postage prepaid, a true and correct copy of the foregoing ***Walker River Irrigation District's Points***  
5 ***and Authorities in Support of Motion for Scheduling and Planning Conference and in Response***  
6 ***to United States' and Walker River Paiute Tribe's Joint Motion for Leave to Serve First Amended***  
7 ***Counterclaims, to Join Groundwater Users, to Approve Forms for Notice and Waiver and to***  
8 ***Approve Procedure for Service of Pleadings Once Parties are Joined*** in a sealed envelope  
9 addressed to the following:

10 Shirley A. Smith	Garry Stone
11 Assistant U.S. Attorney	United States District Court Water
12 100 West Liberty Street	Master
13 Suite 600	290 South Arlington Avenue
14 Reno, NV 89501-1930	Third Floor
15	Reno, NV 89501
16 Larry C. Reynolds	Kathryn E. Landreth
17 Deputy Attorney General	United States Attorney
18 Nevada State Engineer's Office	100 West Liberty Street
19 123 West Nye Lane	Suite 600
20 Carson City, NV 89710	Reno, NV 89501
21 Leo Havener	John P. Lange
22 Walker River Irrigation District	United States Department of Justice
23 P.O. Box 820	Environment/Natural Resources Div.
24 Yerington, NV 89447	Indian Resources Section
25 James T. Markle	999 18 <sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 945
26 State Water Resources Control Board	Denver, CO 80202
27 P.O. Box 100	Richard R. Greenfield
28 Sacramento, CA 94814	Field Solicitor's Office
29 John Kramer	Department of the Interior
30 Department of Water Resources	Two North Central Avenue
31 1416 Ninth Street	Suite 1130
32 Sacramento, CA 94814	Phoenix, AZ 85004-2383
33 Kelly R. Chase	Western Nevada Agency
34 P.O. Box 2800	Bureau of Indian Affairs
35 Reno, NV 89423	1677 Hot Springs Road
36	Carson City, NV 89706

28

1	Ross E. de Lipkau Marshall, Hill, Cassas & de Lipkau P.O. Box 2790 Reno, NV 89505	R. Michael Turnipseed, P.E. Division of Water Resources State of Nevada 123 West Nye Lane Carson City, NV 89710
4	Alice Walker Scott McElroy Greene, Meyer & McElroy 1007 Pearl Street, Suite 220 Boulder, CO 80302	Matthew R. Campbell David E. Moser McCutchen, Doyle, Brown & Enerson Three Embarcadero Center San Francisco, CA 94111
8	John Davis P.O. Box 1646 Tonopah, NV 89049	William Hvidsten DeCuir & Somach, P.C. 400 Capitol Mall Suite 1900 Sacramento, CA 95814-4407
10	Roger Johnson Water Resources Control Board State of California P.O. Box 2000 Sacramento, CA 95810	Treva J. Hearne Zeh, Polaha, Spoo, Hearne & Picker 575 Forest Street Suite 200 Reno, NV 89509
14	Roger Bezayiff Chief Deputy Water Commissioner U.S. Board of Water Commissioners P.O. Box 853 Yerington, NV 89447	Robert C. Anderson Timothy Lukas Hale, Lane, Peek, Dennison, Howard, Anderson & Pearl P.O. Box 3237 Reno, NV 89505
17	Linda A. Bowman Bowman & Robinson 499 West Plumb Lane Suite 4 Reno, NV 89509	Michael W. Neville California Attorney General's Office 50 Fremont Street Suite 300 San Francisco, CA 94105-2239
21	Mary Hackenbracht Department of Justice State of California 2101 Webster Street, 12 <sup>th</sup> Floor Oakland, CA 94612-3049	Hank Meshorer Special Litigation Counsel United States Department of Justice Environment/Natural Resources Div. Ben Franklin Station P.O. Box 7397 Washington, DC 20044-7397
25	Marta Adams Deputy Attorney General State of Nevada Division of Water Resources 100 North Carson Street Carson City, NV 89701-4717	
28		

1 George N. Benesch  
2 P.O. Box 3498  
Reno, NV 89509

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4 Tammy Martinelli

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