

# Del Norte Water Company

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July 12, 2024

## Via E-Mail Transmission

Las Posas Valley Watermaster  
[LPV.Watermaster@ventura.org](mailto:LPV.Watermaster@ventura.org)

Re: Protest of Basin Assessment-Release Date 03/05/2024

Dear Sir or Madam:

By letter dated April 18, 2024, Del Norte Water Company (“DNWC”) sent a letter to the Watermaster protesting the payment of the Basin Assessment based on Section 7.9 of the Final Judgment (the “April 18 Protest”). [A copy of the April 18 Protest is attached hereto as Exhibit “1”.] No response has been received from the Watermaster. Please be advised that DNWC intends to seek relief pursuant to the provisions of Section 9.2 of the Final Judgment:

Section 9.2.1.1 of the Final Judgment provides: “Any Party seeking judicial review of a Basin Management Action must have timely exhausted opportunities for relief through the submission of written comment(s) to Watermaster, either individually or through a written report submitted by PAC or TAC, concerning the Basin Management Action.”

Section 9.2.1.2 of the Final Judgment provides: “Prior to seeking judicial review of a Basin Management Action, Watermaster and the disputing Party(ies) shall first engage in mediation unless both Watermaster and the disputing Party(ies) agree in writing to forego mediation. Watermaster may waive the requirement to engage in mediation in which case a Party that has exhausted its administrative remedies with Watermaster may seek judicial review without having engaged in mediation.”

The April 18 Protest was DNWC’s good faith attempt to initiate a dialogue with Watermaster regarding Section 7.9 assessment reductions. Having received no response from Watermaster on the protested matter, DNWC has exhausted administrative remedies and will continue to pursue its sought-after remedies through the above-referenced channels. The Watermaster assessment is for activities and administration that either duplicate the activities of

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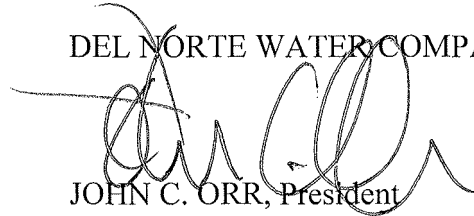
the UWCD or has no benefit to DNWC and its Shareholders. Notwithstanding the protest, DNWC complied with the Notice of Assessment and paid the \$187,832.00 basin assessment in full. DNWC seeks the following remedies:

- 1) An Amended Notice of Assessment reflecting a reduction that is proportionate to the duplicative or non-beneficial activities and administration referenced above; and
- 2) Reimbursement that is proportionate to the reduction in the Amended Notice of Assessment.

DNWC remains hopeful that an agreement can be reached without resorting to mediation or judicial review. Please advise whether mediation or review by the Santa Barbara Superior Court will be necessary to enforce Section 7.9 of the Final Judgment.

Very truly yours,

DEL NORTE WATER COMPANY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John C. Orr', is written over the printed name and title.

JOHN C. ORR, President

JCO:nsh  
Attachment

cc: DNWC Board of Directors – *Via E-Mail Transmission*  
Barbara Brenner, Esq. – *Via E-Mail Transmission*