Page 1 IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA 1 2 IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA 3 THE HONORABLE RONNI MacLAREN, JUDGE --000--4 5 STEIN, ANTOINETTE W., et al.,) 6) Petitioner,) 7) No. RG17858423 vs. 8) ALAMEDA COUNTY WASTE MGMT AUTHORITY,) 9) Respondent.) 10) 11 12 REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF TESTIMONY AND PROCEEDINGS 13 AT TIME OF PETITION FOR WRIT OF MANDATE 14 15 Oakland, California 16 Friday, March 9, 2018 9:52 a.m. 17 18 19 Reported by: 20 21 LINDA SHRYACK 22 CSR NO. 12104 23 JOB NO. 2814568 24 25 PAGES 1 - 71

Page 2 1 APPEARANCES 2 3 For Dr. Antoinette M. HANSON BRIDGETT, LLP 4 Stein: 425 Market Street, 26th Floor San Francisco, California 5 94105 6 By: SAMIR ABDELNOUR 7 By: SEAN G. HERMAN 8 Attorneys at Law 9 10 For Arthur R. Boone, III: Appeared In Propria Persona 11 12 For the Waste Management REMY MOOSE MANLEY, LLP 13 of Alameda County: 555 Capitol Mall, Suite 800 14 Sacramento, California 15 95814 16 By: ANDREA K. LEISY 17 Attorney at Law 18 19 For the Alameda Waste SHUTE, MIHALY & WEINBERGER, Management: T.T.P 20 396 Hayes Street 21 San Francisco, California 22 94102 23 By: EDWARD T. SCHEXNAYDER 24 By: TAMARA S. GALANTER 25 Attorneys at Law

Page 4 MARCH 9, 2018 9:52 a.m. 1 2 --000--3 The above-entitled matter came on regularly this day for hearing before the Honorable RONNI MacLAREN, 4 5 Judge. HANSON BRIDGETT, LLP, 425 Market Street, 6 7 26th Floor, San Francisco, California 94105, represented by SAMIR ABDELNOUR and SEAN G. HERMAN, Attorneys at Law, 8 9 appeared as counsel on behalf of Dr. Antoinette W. Stein. 10 ARTHUR R. BOONE, III, appeared In Propria 11 Persona. 12 REMY MOOSE MANLEY, LLP, 555 Capitol Mall, 13 Suite 800, Sacramento, California 95814, represented by ANDREA K. LEISY, Attorney at Law, appeared as counsel for 14 15 Waste Management of Alameda County. 16 SHUTE, MIHALY & WEINBERGER, LLP, 396 Hayes 17 Street, San Francisco, California 94102, represented by 18 EDWARD T. SCHEXNAYDER and TAMARA S. GALANTER, Attorneys 19 at Law, appeared as counsel for Alameda Waste Management. 20 The Honorable RONNI MacLAREN, Judge 21 presiding. 22 LINDA SHRYACK, CSR NO. 12104 Official Pro 23 Tem Shorthand Reporter for the County of Alameda, was 24 duly present and acting. 25 The following proceedings were then and

Page 5 there taken, to wit: 1 2 PROCEEDINGS 3 THE COURT: Would you please call the case. THE JUDICIAL ASSISTANT: Calling the matter of 4 5 Stein versus Waste Management of Alameda County on 6 calendar for Case Management Conference and Petition for 7 Writ of Mandate. Counsel and parties, may we have your 8 9 appearances, please. 10 MR. ABDELNOUR: Good morning, your Honor. 11 Samir Abdelnour, representing Petitioner Dr. Antoinette, 12 Toni Stein. MR. HERMAN: And Shawn Herman on behalf of 13 Petitioner. 14 15 MR. BOONE: Arthur Boone, in pro per. THE COURT: Thank you. Good morning. 16 17 MS. GALANTER: Good morning, your Honor. Tamera Galanter on behalf of the Alameda Waste Management 18 19 Authority. MR. SCHEXNAYDER: Good morning, your Honor. 20 21 Edward Schexnayder, also on behalf of the Waste 22 Management Authority. 23 MS. LEISY: Good morning, your Honor. 24 Andrea Leisy on behalf of Waste Management of Alameda 25 County.

1 THE COURT: All right. Good morning, everyone. 2 All right. Let me just start out by saying, in looking over my tentative order again last night, I saw 3 not only a number of typos but a inconsistency of -- a 4 5 rather big inconsistency in what the total, what the final -- no, what the tentative order concludes in terms 6 7 of whether the petition should be granted or not. And a sentence that appears on page 10 is inconsistent, so the 8 9 Court is going to fix any inconsistencies and 10 typographical errors when I issue my final order. 11 All right. But in terms of whether the 12 tentative order was to grant or deny, to clear up any confusion, the tentative is to grant. Okay. 13 14 So, and let me also say as a preliminary remark 15 that I thought the briefing was outstanding. This is a 16 very interesting case. It's also my first CEQA case 17 because the judges on our court who normally handle these cases were challenged, and I was the lucky winner. 18 19 And, so in your argument, don't make assumptions about my background, because it's minimal, and, okay. 20 21 But I have spent a lot of time on this case, and so, all 22 I will then hear, first, from the Respondents. right. 23 MS. LEISY: Your Honor, Andrea Leisy, again, for 24 Waste Management. I'm here, primarily, I guess, to 25 elaborate on why there's been no substantial change to

1 the project as approved by the Alameda County Waste Management Authority as part of its CIWMP, or the 2 Integrated Waste Management Plan amendment process. 3 So you'll hear us referring to CIWMP and the Waste 4 5 Management plan, and specifically, to including the 6 amounts of material able to be processed and composted 7 through the OMCF, the Organic Material Composting Facility. 8

As a preliminary issue, I just wanted to touch 9 on the fact that the role of the Authority under the 10 11 California Waste Control Law and under CEQA was really 12 limited to being a responsible agency. There's no 13 substantial evidence requiring the Authority to step into 14 the shoes of the lead agency and assume that there was 15 substantial changes to the project. So even if Waste 16 Management had proposed this thousand tons of composting 17 that petitioner's claim, the Authority would have been under no jurisdiction to be able to approve that because 18 19 that was within the purview of the City of San Leandro as the lead agency issuing the CUP, the Conditional Use 20 21 Permit, and the LEA, which is the Department of 22 Environmental Health for the County, in issuing the revised Solid Waste Facility Permit of which we sought 23 24 judicial notice, as Exhibit B.

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So I don't want to steal my co counsel's

1	thunder. I know he represents the Authority. He will be
2	speaking after me, but I think that your tentative is
3	correct. Could this have been explained more clearly,
4	certainly, it could have. That's absolutely right.
5	Unfortunately, I think it's a by-product of California
6	and the multilayer of agency approval and processes that
7	clients, such as mine, need to go through to permit a
8	facility such as this.

9 So unfortunately, it's not uncommon for agencies
10 to describe things a little differently, or not describe
11 things at all, like the Authority not specifically
12 calling out the 250 to 350 tons per day of composting.

But that omission in the Authority's approval does not necessarily equate to substantial evidence which is defined as facts, reasonable assumptions predicated on facts under CEQA that there will be a new significant impact under CEQA Guidelines 15162 requiring the Authority to do additional environmental review.

19 So I think it's important to understand that the 20 OMCF will not compost up to 1000 tons per day. We took 21 the liberty of blowing up this exhibit. It's from 22 AR0372, so it's already in the record, just to try and 23 better explain the process so the Court can understand 24 better, the amount of tons per day of material that goes 25 into these processes, and then what ultimately can come

1	out at the end. It's not the most up-to-date, current.
2	This was, you know, in the power-point presentation that
3	our client gave, but nevertheless, it's the best site
4	plan we have on record, so we decided to use it here.
5	So the 1000 tons per day is the total combined
6	process tonnage for the OMCF, and that's at AR9, which
7	the Authority, you know, stated in its amendment, and
8	AR21 in the Neg. Dec. 250 to 350 tons per day of compost
9	is the ultimate product of multiple different processes
10	that can occur within the OMCF building. So I think it's

11 important to step back just a little bit, if you'll 12 indulge me in explaining that.

First, the waste comes in off of Davis Street, 13 goes to the transfer station, a lot of mixed solid waste, 14 15 different variety of materials, and it's then going to 16 take approximately 1000 to 1,300 tons per day. And this 17 is in the initial study, Neg. Dec. at AR2021 of municipal solid waste to be processed. It will be extracted 18 19 like -- recyclables will be extracted from the OMRF, or 20 the recycling facility is this building here, which is 21 almost built out. 22 THE COURT: Which is what? 23 MS. LEISY: Which is almost completely built out.

24

25 THE COURT: Okay.

1 MS. LEISY: So extracting recyclables and other 2 materials for diversion, like CMD construction and debris, it will also pull out organic and food waste from 3 the municipal solid waste stream, which is estimated to 4 5 be about 600 tons per day to be recovered for composting. 6 That's AR20. Then there will be a mixture of, with green 7 waste, which comes into this area, and wood waste. Depending on the material that's received, it's this 8 9 recipe. It really depends on, you know, who the 10 customers are, how well their source separating organics, 11 what another materials are mixed in, but this is 12 generally what's happening at the OMRF. 13 And then there's an estimate of 400 tons per day 14 of green waste, which will be mixed in, which is what is 15 derived of the 1000 tons per day. If there's material in

16 excess of that amount, then it can be literally trucked 17 offsite for further processing or disposal, you know, or 18 recycling. But approximately 1000 tons per day will then be generated in these facilities and then transferred 19 over, once the OMCF is constructed. It has not yet been 20 21 constructed. Our clients are in the building permit, or 22 almost building permit stage, but the intent is that it be transferred over to the green waste compost facility. 23 24 THE COURT: And how much?

MS. LEISY: Approximately, 1000 tons per day.

That's what is referenced to in the initial study
 Negative Declaration and in the Authority amendment. So
 that's a AR2021, mainly in the Neg. Dec. discussion, and
 AR9.

5 So once it gets to this composting facility, and 6 this will eventually be one big building.

7 THE COURT: I'm sorry. But explain one thing to 8 me. So you're moving your hand up and down, and I'm not 9 sure what you're referring. So that you've separated 10 them by food waste, organic, recycling facility, and the 11 green waste, right? You've separated them there, yes? 12 MS. LEISY: Right. The green waste will come

13 into the green waste enclosure.

14THE COURT: You're saying that's a maximum of15400?

MS. LEISY: Approximate amount of 400 tons per day of green waste.

THE COURT: Okay.

MS. LEISY: Could be mixed with the 600 tons per day from the extraction process that comes from the transfer station, the material from the transfer station to the recycling facility, the 1000 to 1300 total tons per day.

24THE COURT: Yeah.25MS. LEISY: Once that is processed, and the

Page 12 organics are separated out, any recyclables are separated 1 2 out, metals are separated out. 3 THE COURT: Okay. MS. LEISY: So the estimate is it will be about 4 600 tons per day. 5 6 THE COURT: Now you're pointing where? 7 To the recycling facility. MS. LEISY: THE COURT: 600. So you separated 600 8 Okay. 9 and 400 approximately. 10 MS. LEISY: Right. 11 THE COURT: Okay. Okay. 12 MS. LEISY: So that's important because it's 13 roughly 600 of food waste, you know, other organics that 14 will then be transferred over into the compost facility. 15 So that's --16 THE COURT: Just the 600. 17 MS. LEISY: Well, it could be mixed with up to 18 400 of green waste. 19 Could be mixed. THE COURT: 20 MS. LEISY: Yes. 21 THE COURT: Okay. 22 Depending on the material that's, MS. LEISY: you know, provided by the client base, because there's no 23 24 quarantee what, you know, the source always is. 25 But this is what was analyzed in the Neg. Dec.,

1 the premise in the project, and, you know, explaining how 2 the 1000 tons per day for processing gets to this compost 3 facility, its derivatives of the processes that already 4 happened in the recycling facility. Does that make 5 sense?

6 THE COURT: Kind of. So you've done this 7 separation between the food waste and the green waste, 8 but what happens to that separation when it then goes 9 into the --

10 MS. LEISY: Compost facility. 11 THE COURT: -- compost facility? 12 MS. LEISY: Yes, so I was gonna get to that. Ι 13 was trying to build a foundation. 14 THE COURT: But it stays separated. 15 MS. LEISY: Well, it can be co-mingled and 16 combined, the 1000 tons to the compost facility. 17 THE COURT: Okay.

MS. LEISY: So this is what the initial study, Neg. Dec., although not necessarily artfully, was explaining when it says 1000 tons per day can be processed by the compost facility.

So once it gets to the compost facility, there's multiple different processes that can happen in here as well. So the compost is roughly 135,000 square feet, and this is all intended to be under one building, fully

Page 13

enclosed, bio filters, as opposed to most green waste composting facilities which tend to be outdoors, very large, odors, whatnot. So our client, in proposing these improvements, was really trying to improve the site and the facility and is unique in that process.

6 So once the 1000 tons per day come over to the 7 composting facility, there's a pre-processing process 8 that starts which is like sorting, mixing. It can then 9 go into the anaerobic process which is also described as 10 Stage One in the Neg. Dec., which is the additional 11 40,000 tons per year into the anaerobic digestion 12 process. It can also go into composting lanes.

13 So the composting lanes are where there's a 14 churning with oxygen mixed into the materials, and 15 composting occurs in a different fashion, and that's 16 where the Authority talks about the annual average 17 capacity being 165 tons per year. And then there's 18 another Stage Three process. It's like a post processing, the screening of the waste. Solid and 19 recycling waste can be transferred or recycled further, 20 and some solid waste can be on site. 21

22 So there's a combined peak daily capacity, which 23 is the main point. The combined peak daily capacity is 24 1000 tons per day for this facility. The maximum, and I 25 understand there's confusion, you know, in the record

that the Authority also references in it's amendment, is 205 tons per year, which, if we do the math -- and no one seems to dispute the 205,000 tons per year number. If you do the math, based on the operating days, that comes out to less than 1000 tons per day. The Authority just explained things differently than what the City had approved.

8 So there's three primary processes, and just to 9 break it down a little more simply, we have anaerobic 10 composting, aerobic composting, this post-processing 11 screening, and the CIWMP amendment. It's the Countywide 12 Integrated Waste Management Plan. I also tend to refer 13 to it as the Waste Management Plan, but I know the 14 Authority says CIWMP.

MS. GALANTER: Referred to as a Countywide Plan.

MS. LEISY: Right. Right. So, essentially, if petitioners were correct that the OMCF could compost up to 1000 tons per day, this facility would need to be like roughly three times bigger than it actually is. And there's no dispute that the actual total square foot of this building, the 262,000 square feet, has not changed. The Court even found that in its tentative.

23 So if you follow petitioner's logic, you know, 24 the design capacity of the site would need to be expanded 25 as well. That has not happened. The design capacity is

Page 16 1 limited just by nature of the size of the building, how 2 many vessels are proposed. 3 MS. STEIN: I'm sorry. Are you okay? Do you need water? 4 MS. LEISY: 5 So the footprint would really have to be like 600,000 or 700,000 square feet, which there is no 6 7 evidence of that occurring. THE COURT: So you're saying that it, it was 8 9 built to only accommodate a certain amount. 10 MS. LEISY: Correct. And this is also described in --11 12 THE COURT: And where is that stated, that it 13 was at full capacity? 14 MS. LEISY: So the CIWMP amendment talks about 15 the total processing -- whoops, let me get my AR excerpts 16 and not our briefs -- of 205,000 tons per year, and that's at AR9. And it also talks about the square 17 18 footage of the composting facility --19 THE COURT: M-hm. MS. LEISY: -- being 135,000 square feet, and 20 21 that that will also be combined one day with the digester 22 facility building, which is 65,000 square feet. So the 23 total --24 THE COURT: But where is it that says, as built, 25 that it could not handle a capacity greater than 1000?

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1	MS. LEISY: Well, so the total CIWMP amendment
2	talks about on AR9 that the combined daily peak capacity
3	will be 1000 tons per day, and an estimated maximum
4	annual of 205,000 tons per year. The initial study, Neg.
5	Dec., which is a condition of approval of the Authority,
6	also states that it will be 1000 tons for processing.
7	THE COURT: No. No, maybe my question is just
8	unartful. But I understand that that's what they're
9	saying is, is what is the volume, but where is it that it
10	states that, because you're relying on this square
11	footage, that it says that at that square footage it
12	couldn't handle anymore than that?
13	MS. LEISY: I think the best place that that's
14	also described is in the Solid Waste Facility Permit, the
15	LEA, and Cal recycle discussion.
16	THE COURT: Okay.
17	MS. LEISY: Which we requested judicial notice
18	of.
19	THE COURT: M-hm.
20	MS. LEISY: Which is at page 20, I think, up
21	there.
22	MR. SCHEXNAYDER: And, your Honor, if I may, on
23	pages, roughly 140 through 143 of the record, there's a
24	diagram that shows all of the composting facilities that
25	are within the building, and you can see that the

building dimensions haven't changed at all. And you can
 see within that diagram that there's, there's no extra
 space in the building to add more composting lanes in the
 building.

THE COURT: Okay.

6 MR. SCHEXNAYDER: So if the square footage of 7 the building hasn't changed, you'd have to put new 8 composting lanes somewhere else in order to accommodate 9 the increased capacity.

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THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.

MS. LEISY: And then what I was referring to is at page 20 of the Request for Judicial Notice where there's a discussion of the OMCF by the LEA, and where they were approving the revised Solid Waste Facility Permit. And this talks about the annual maximum design for the in-vessel composting being approximately 215 tons per day of material.

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THE COURT: M-hm.

MS. LEISY: On average, and that for the compost refining process, there's a design capacity maximum of 21 250 tons per day.

THE COURT: Okay.

23 MS. LEISY: So essentially, there's no 24 substantial evidence supporting this new significant 25 impact argument that the petitioners are alleging. And 1 the Authority reasonably concludes that it was still a 2 responsible agency, but there wasn't this unidentified 3 change or request to change the project with respect to 4 this issue.

5 With respect to percolate, which I understand 6 your Honor's tentative found a potentially significant 7 impact, assuming that there would be this additional tonnage, that that's really coming from the anaerobic 8 9 digestion or the -- digestion process, and this is 10 recycled or reused. The percolate is reused, stored in 11 tanks, reused again as part of the processes. So it's a 12 mostly a closed-loop system, and it's not necessarily a 13 significant impact on the environment because it gets 14 Anything that is discharged to the sewer -reused.

(Interruption by the court reporter.)

16 MS. LEISY: Anything that would be discharged to 17 the sewer has to meet the Title 23 of the Regs., which 18 protects water quality. It has to meet the Wastewater 19 Plant Treatment Standard, WDRs, Waste Discharge Requirements. So there's no evidence of potentially 20 21 significant impact. There's no expert comments that 22 prove that there would be a significant impact, so, but 23 you even have to get past the 1000 tons per day 24 assumption to even get to that point. So with that, I'll 25 turn it over to my co-counsel.

1 MR. SCHEXNAYDER: Thank you, your Honor. 2 Edward Schexnayder for the Waste Management Authority. And I think I'd like to start by just coming back to the 3 legal standards a little bit and explaining how there is 4 5 essentially two different elements that petitioners have to prevail on in order to have a writ issued here. 6 7 And we've taken the liberty of blowing up a section of the CEQA back lines, which are the layout of 8 the legal standard. And the Court's tentative includes 9 10 this as well. But the most relevant portion is this very 11 first one, which is that after a lead agency prepares and 12 adopts an initial study, that two things have to occur, 13 first, a substantial change to the project that was 14 analyzed by the lead agency. And in addition to that, 15 there has to be evidence of a fair argument and that that 16 substantial change will cause a significant environmental 17 impact. 18 And Ms. Leisy was describing primarily that the first piece of that, which is that there is not 19 substantial evidence of a substantial change to the 20 21 project for all the reasons she mentioned. And so I want 22 to briefly touch on, elaborate on one additional point

24 discuss further why there's also a lack of substantial

and the way that we know that, and then move on to

25 evidence of a fair argument of a new impact.

1 And turning first to -- back to the substantial 2 change issue, I think it's important for the Court to understand the planning process the Authority is going 3 through here when it issued an amended countywide plan to 4 5 include this facility. The, the Authority acts in a very different way than all of the other permitting agencies 6 7 that look at this project because it's a countywide planning agency. What it's doing is it's basically 8 9 looking at how waste moves throughout Alameda County, and 10 adopting goals to reduce the disposal of waste in 11 landfill, through either more composting like we see at 12 this facility, or reducing waste at the source. That's 13 the fundamental purpose of the Authority, and that's what 14 the plan exists to do.

15 And so when the Authority looks at facilities 16 like Davis Street and determines whether they can conform 17 with the plan. It's looking at those facilities in a 18 much broader perspective than, say, the lead agency like 19 San Leandro would, or the air district would, when it's issuing an air quality permit, or the Cal Recycle, and 20 21 the local enforcement agency would when they're issuing a Solid Waste Facility Permit. Those agencies look at 22 those projects with a much finer tooth comb than the 23 Authority does. 24

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And you see that in the countywide plan itself,

not just with the description of the Davis Street project, but also the description of all of the other transfer stations and facilities in Alameda County are described in much broader terms. Not every single detail of those projects is in the plan because it's a planned document.

7 And that's important here because as Ms. Leisy was saying, the Authority didn't describe in its, in its 8 approval, every detail of this project. It didn't 9 10 describe the composting output. But what it did describe 11 was the maximum capacity of the facility, the general 12 components of the facility, being the sorting process, the anaerobic digestion process, and the composting 13 14 process.

15 It described those components and the square 16 footage of the building, so it's described it in a 17 general way. And because the Authority looks at these projects in a different, through a different lens than 18 19 the other agencies, it has two very important conditions of approval that are standard on every single time it 20 21 makes a conformance finding, like it did here for a new 22 facility. And those conditions are Conditions Five and 23 Eight on the record. They're on pages 13 and 14. And 24 Condition Five, which the Court discusses somewhat in its 25 tentative, basically says that the project before us

1 cannot differ from the project that was analyzed in the 2 initial study. And Condition Eight goes on to say, not 3 only that, but to the extent that permitting agencies 4 have adopted conditions of approval that apply to this 5 project, you must comply with those.

So it's relevant here because, as we know, the 6 7 local enforcement agency adopted a condition of approval limiting the composting output to 350 tons per day. And 8 9 so that's what gives the Authority assurance that the project it's reviewing is not substantially different 10 11 from the project that other agencies have looked at. And 12 I understand that the tentative ruling, there's some 13 concern expressed that these conditions maybe weren't 14 discussed during the public process or weren't 15 considered. And actually, if you look at the record 16 that's not the case. These conditions were attached to, 17 to the draft ordinance amending countywide plan and that ordinance was presented at three different public 18 19 meetings in front of the local, the recycling board, in front of the Authority board twice. Those materials not 20 21 only are available to decision makers, they're available 22 to the public on the Brown Act.

23THE COURT: Do you have citations to the records24to support the attachment?

MR. SCHEXNAYDER: Yes, your Honor. So for

redundancy purposes, we didn't reproduce it every single time. But if you look at our record site, page 84, and then also 112, you'll see references to the draft ordinance, and one of those drafts includes the conditions of the approval in it.

In addition to that, on page six the Authority 6 7 made express findings that it had reviewed all of the materials presented and prepared by staff. The decision 8 makers had looked at it, in addition to the fact that 9 they made on record, page five, there's an express 10 11 finding authority, actually considered San Leandro's 12 Negative Declaration. And so I understand that there's 13 concern that maybe there wasn't robust discussion of 14 these, but that's very typical in approval processes 15 where you have a lot of information. Not everybody is focused on every single detail, and not everything was 16 voiced in a hearing, but that doesn't mean it wasn't 17 there, and it wasn't considered. 18

Just to reiterate one more time, this is a really critical -- especially Condition Five, it's a critical condition for the Authority's process. So that condition, we, we would argue, and we believe provides us the substantial evidence that we need, if there isn't a change to this project, in addition to all of the points that Ms. Leisy was stating before.

And if I could move on from there, I would like to discuss now how there's also a lack of substantial evidence of fair argument for new impact.

THE COURT: Okay.

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5 MR. SCHEXNAYDER: So we think -- and looking at the tentative ruling, it's right on 90 percent of these 6 7 issues, because they're -- it's important to realize that speculation and unsupported opinion is not substantial 8 evidence. And that's, you know, in our, in our view what 9 all the petitioners have offered. And the Court agrees 10 11 with that point on most of the alleged impact. And the 12 only one we're in disagreement is on this issue of --

(Interruption by the court reporter.)

MR. SCHEXNAYDER: Excess percolate and whether that enters the sanitary sewer system. And that's -- so there are a couple points I want to make about that. First, this argument was never raised until the supplemental brief, and so we haven't had a chance to respond to it, but petitioners actually never exhausted on this issue --

THE COURT: I'm sorry?

22 MR. SCHEXNAYDER: They never exhausted. CEQA 23 requires that before you can pursue an issue in court, 24 you have to exhaust that issue before --

(Interruption by the court reporter.)

MR. SCHEXNAYDER: -- the administrative agency. And Public Resources Code section 21177(a) specifically says that the legal issue or the legal defect that you're going to pursue, you need to flag that for the agency, and that never happened here. And I can't cite to an omission. It's just not in the record. For that reason alone, they should fail on this argument.

8 In addition to that, when you look at the 9 record, you see that the assertion that an increase in 10 percolate can cause some water quality impact is purely 11 speculative. And I want to, I want to walk through this 12 because I haven't had a chance to respond to this issue.

13 You know, first, you -- there are multiple, 14 well, I quess multiple logical leaps you have to take to 15 assume that an increase in percolate is going to somehow 16 get into the water and cause a significant impact. The 17 first leap you have to make is you have to assume that increasing the capacity of the facility is going to 18 19 correspondingly increase the amount of percolate. And as Ms. Leisy stated, percolate actually isn't a product of 20 21 the composting process. It's a product of the digesting 22 In the, the Negative Declaration and initial process. study describes how it's used and says that the percolate 23 24 is actually used in composting in a closed-loop system to 25 feed the composting because it's basically liquid that

1 has organic material that jump starts or aids composting.

2 So if you are, logically, if you accept petitioner's assertion that there is a massive increase 3 in composting, then that's going to require -- to the 4 5 extent there is more percolate, it's going to use more 6 percolate in that process. So that's the first 7 assumption you need to make, is that somehow there's going to be an increase in the percolate, and it's going 8 9 to be more than the closed-loop system could actually 10 use.

In addition to that, you have to assume that if 11 12 there is an excess, that that excess is going to be 13 discharged into the sewer system, and there's no evidence 14 that that's the case. The Court notes that the Negative 15 Declaration says, excess water will be discharged into 16 the sanitary sewer system, but water and percolate are 17 not the same thing, and there's no evidence in the record 18 that they are.

And even going from there, you have to assume that once it's in the sewer system that it's going to somehow impact water quality. And what we know is that the wastewater treatment facility that accepts sewer water is right next door. It's literally directly to the north of the project. That's in the record. I can provide the cites if you would like, your Honor.

Page 27

1 And the entire purpose of having a wastewater 2 treatment facility is to treat affluent to ensure that there's no water quality impact. So even if somehow this 3 excess made it there, we don't know what the volume of 4 5 that excess is. We then have to assume that the excess 6 percolate is so great, that it is going to overwhelm the 7 capacity of the wastewater treatment facility, and in a way that would secrete some unknown water impact. 8

9 We don't even know what that impact is because 10 there's no exhaustion on this issue. There's no evidence 11 in the record on this issue. These are -- at each stage 12 where we have a lack of evidence, this is speculation, 13 and this is exactly what CEQA says you cannot have for a 14 fair argument.

15 And I'd like to finally just focus briefly on 16 the section of the Negative Declaration that's talking 17 about the percolate because I think it really describes what's going on here. And this is on pages 44 and 45 of 18 19 the record. And if you look on 44, it's talking about This section of the Negative Declaration is 20 Issue B. 21 talking about potential groundwater impact. So that's different from -- you know, groundwater is what's going 22 into the ground, not what's going into the sewer. 23 And 24 then if you look at the analysis, it's basically saying 25 that the design of the facility is meant to reduce

1 runoff. That's the purpose.

2	Additionally, restoring percolate it takes to a
3	closed-looped system, but that percolate is not going to
4	go into the ground. And then it says, additionally,
5	excess water will be conveyed into
6	(Interruption by the court reporter.)
7	MR. SCHEXNAYDER: the sanitary sewer system.
8	And we read that, and the only way to, I think you can
9	read that, because this paragraph is talking about the
10	project, is thinking about all of the water that's excess
11	water from the entire project. And we know that the
12	project has an option for, for misters to control odors
13	and dust. It also, there are substantial wastewater
14	changes, control changes at the project site. It was
15	part of the change in the initial setting here. So
16	they're basically moving changing how they move
17	wastewater and storm water not wastewater, storm
18	water, at the site. So we think it's excess water to
19	that capacity that would be conveyed to the sanitary
20	sewer system.
0.1	

Also, it's really important to note that on page 44, the initial study says there is no impact, not even that there's a potential for an impact. There's just no impact, is the analysis there. And if you look at the initial study, there are different levels of potential

1 impact, and no impact is the lowest.

2 And with respect to water quality on pages 44 and 45, and also 54 and 55 of the record, the initial 3 study notes that this project has -- there's no impact to 4 5 water quality or the sanitary sewer system or any of 6 these things. So what the record is telling us is 7 there's no impact. What speculation is telling us is there is, there's some sort of impact. We don't know 8 9 what that impact could be, because there's no evidence of 10 it in the record. 11 And that's, as the Court notes in many other 12 places in its tentative, that's exactly the type of 13 speculation that cannot support a fair argument of a 14 substantial impact and leads to the issuance of a writ. 15 And for those reasons, we request that the Court reverse 16 its tentative on this issue and uphold it in other 17 respects. And we'd also like to reserve any type of 18 rebuttal the Court may offer in response to petitioner's 19 remarks. 20 THE COURT: All right. Thank you. Who would

20 THE COORT: All Fight. Thank you. Who would 21 like to speak first on behalf of the petitioners? 22 MR. ABDELNOUR: Thank you, your Honor, 23 Samir Abdelnour on behalf of Dr. Stein. Before I respond 24 to comments of Mr. Leisy and Mr. Schexnayder, I would 25 like to clarify, at the top of the hearing, your Honor

1 noted or cited to page 10 of the tentative ruling in a 2 typographical error of some significance. Am I correct 3 that that was the sentence that begins on line 19, page 4 10?

THE COURT: You are correct.

6 MR. ABDELNOUR: All right. Thank you, your 7 Honor.

So I'll keep my comments brief, your Honor. 8 But what I've heard for the last 45 minutes from Ms. Leisy 9 10 and Mr. Schexnayder, while maybe adding to their mind 11 some clarity about some of the processes that go on, or 12 that are contemplated to occur at the transfer station, 13 they're counsel by argument -- I'm sorry, they're argument by counsel, and they are not a part of the 14 15 administrative record.

16 As the Court's tentative ruling clearly lays 17 out, the Court spent a substantial amount of time going 18 through the administrative record understanding the 19 facts. The record, I think, does speak for itself, also applying those facts to the CEQA standards, and, and I 20 21 think even more striking is that counsel's argument 22 really cuts to the heart of the issue here, which is that 23 there is significant confusion.

24 Ms. Leisy acknowledged that the project 25 description, the administrative record is not clear. It

1 could have been clearer. And that's exactly the point 2 that Dr. Stein was trying to get to the bottom of during the public comment process, and she asked questions 3 repeatedly, and both at oral hearing and through written 4 5 comments. As the record makes clear, those comments were largely swept under the rug, or given short shrift, 6 7 certainly not provided the level of detailed explanation that Ms. Leisy and Mr. Schexnayder just went through now. 8 And I think as your Honor observed in the tentative 9 10 ruling and got to the point, got to the heart of the 11 issue to which Ms. Leisy, nor Mr. Schexnayder responded, 12 there is, there is a difference that, that respondents 13 here are just failing to acknowledge between the input 14 and the output of the compost facility. And as you noted 15 in the tentative ruling, the 2010, 2011 review strongly 16 suggests that of the 1000 tons per day that gets 17 processed on the facility, 250 to 350 tons per day will 18 be kept on site for the composting process, and the 19 remainder goes off-site. That's not what Ms. Leisy explained in her presentation. 20

Another thing that, that struck me from Ms. Leisy's presentation was she noted that there's, there's a recipe question. There's a potential mixture of 400 tons and 600 tons, and depending on the recipe and how well the customers separate, that, leading to the recipe, that is nowhere in the record. The discussion of that is nowhere in the record. The public has no way of knowing how that determination will be made, what potential impacts may arise from that determination or from that recipe mixture. And again, it just, it underscores the inadequacy of the record and the review process.

8 Another point that I think underscores that, 9 your Honor asked the question about the, the capacity of 10 the facility. On the one hand, the record states that 11 the facility has the capacity for 1000 tons per day. On 12 the other hand, counsel has represented that in order to 13 take 1000 tons per day, the building footprint would need 14 to be tripled -- no discussion of that on the record.

15 On the question of the percolate, it's not true 16 that Petitioner Stein failed to exhaust administrative remedies on that point. Dr. Stein's letter through her 17 18 then-attorney Rachael Doughty, and this is on page --19 well, it begins on page 439 of the record, and continues through 446, raises concerns regarding the digestate, and 20 21 as Mr. Schexnayder explained, while Dr. Stein may not 22 have used the word "percolate," in distinguishing percolate from water, she referred to it as the product 23 24 that comes out of the digestion process. So she did 25 raise that issue. She may not have used the word

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1 "percolate" in that letter, but we're talking about the 2 same material.

And another point on that, that kind of goes 3 back to what I was saying before, Mr. Schexnayder, in 4 5 trying to distinguish between what's percolate and what's 6 water, says, well, we think what's excess is water. 7 Well, that's great if that's what he thinks, but that's not in the records, and that's not what the public knows. 8 And that's what CEOA is intended to do, is intended to 9 10 inform the public and be transparent about the process.

11 And as I think, you know, your Honor identified 12 in the tentative ruling, and, and, you know, certainly we 13 don't agree with all of the analysis in the tentative 14 ruling about the changes, but your Honor did the 15 analysis. And that's the analysis that all along 16 Dr. Stein had been requesting respondent and real party 17 to do, which really respondent is the agency, and that 18 they failed to do.

19And so with that, your Honor, I'll close my20comments, and I will submit on the tentative ruling.21Thank you.

22THE COURT: Does Mr. Boone want to be heard?23MR. BOONE: Yes, thank you. I'd like to use the24drawing again.

My name is Arthur Boone, and I worked in the

1 recycling business for 35 years, and I used to be a 2 member of the recycling board, part of the A --(Interruption by the court reporter.) 3 THE COURT: A-C-W-M-A. 4 5 MR. BOONE: ACWMA, the subordinate of that is 6 the Alameda County Recycling Board, which is a separate 7 organization within the larger organization. I was a member of that for two years, and so I knew something 8 9 about the agency, how it worked and all that kind of I've been working in and around garbage for 30 10 stuff. 11 I spent two months in the transfer station in vears. 12 1989, looking at loads coming in from commercial sorts. 13 We had a guy who had another plant somewhere else, hired me to -- pick out which of the 900 boxes would be useful. 14 15 For a number of years now I've been picking up compost 16 over here at this site, so I kind of know the property 17 pretty well, and some parts better than others. I'm definitely committed to the idea that 18 19 composting should happen locally. The company relies on the fact that it takes two loads of uncooked materials to 20 21 make one load of compost, and so if you can compost it 22 here where it comes in from the public, you save yourself all those outbound trips. It's a good idea. 23 Plus, 24 there's no reason they shouldn't make more money here. 25 They lose about \$80 a ton from this facility and 1 its income, because once the stuff comes in, they have to 2 take it to somebody else who will then turn it into 3 compost and who's going to make the money selling the 4 materials. So it's very much to the company's advantage 5 to have this kind of a process. And they have the space, 6 so why not do it. I've never had any problem with the 7 facility.

The original 2011 plan, which was somewhat 8 different, more from the inside than from what they're 9 10 doing, rather than from the design of this. This is 11 actually the 2011 plan. This is not the current plan. 12 The current plan is slightly different, but this 13 basically gives you the idea. Green waste comes in here. 14 They sort it over here. They mix it with the food 15 materials over here, and they compost it here. Thev 16 clean it up over here, and they take it out. It goes out 17 through this root -- very simple process, and not a bad 18 one.

19 The problem is that this is a relatively new 20 technology of separating wastes, of separating organics 21 from wastes is a relatively new technology. 22 Historically, the way you get these to market, we all, we 23 all get rid of stuff, right, cans, bottles, newspapers, 24 all that kind of stuff. But the way the people who are 25 buying that stuff or who want that, they don't want all

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these things mixed together. They want them separately.
 The question is who's going to do that, and how is that
 going to happen.

Our group, which is the old-fashioned recyclers 4 5 from the '70s and '80s, we want people to do that. 6 Garbage company in Oakland and Alameda County, we have 7 half as much garbage as we had 20 years ago, okay. So the garbage company is looking for work. And what they 8 want to do is they want to build factories like this one. 9 This is the new plan, the 2017 plan. They want the 10 11 factories to take anything that people throw away and 12 separate out the organics to make composting, and get the cans and bottles. We don't know whether that's going to 13 14 We have not been convinced by anything they've work. said in detail yet, that this is going to work. 15 This is 16 a picture of what it looked like in 2010, which is 17 essentially is a pretty simple -- this is a northeast 18 part of the building. They changed the name a bunch of 19 times.

But basically, the old idea was this is green stuff, clean green, what you put in your compost bin. You have a green cart at home, this is what you put in your green cart. Not the can and bottles, you put in yard waste, food waste, soiled paper, that kind of stuff. That goes through here. They have hand sorters who are

1 looking through things. People are always putting dumb 2 stuff in the thing. You have to pick that out, maybe one or two percent. But this stuff is all gonna get ground 3 up eventually, and if you put an alternator or something 4 5 that doesn't -- a wheel, or something like that, it's 6 going to make a problem for the machine. 7 The first thing you do is you look and pull out the bad stuff, then it goes to the screen. This is a 8 9 2011 plan. Then it goes to the screen to basically take 10 out the grass. When you try to chop stuff up, grass --11 (Interruption by the court reporter.) 12 MR. BOONE: Grass is already chopped up into 13 smaller pieces, but if you try to put it through, you put 14 it through the grinder, you're going to wear the grinder 15 Then you have to resurface the cutting blades. out. 16 That's time and money. So you have a screen here, and 17 the grass comes out. That gets rejoined to this other 18 material when you make the compost. 19 In the 2011 plan, the idea is sort, separating the clean organics. We have simple hand-picking screen, 20 21 and we make a high-grade compost for any use, 22 agricultural and all that stuff. 23 The current plan which relies on this kind of 24 machinery to separate organics, usable organics from

25 garbage, is a much more complicated thing. The input is

1	garbage, including organics and recyclables. This is not			
2	done by hand. This is done by complex machines, and you			
3	end up with a low-grade compost which has no agricultural			
4	use. There's too much crap in our garbage that gets			
5	mixed with the organics. When you come out of that,			
6	what the end stuff that's going to be compost is going			
7	to have all kinds of contaminants in it. We are more and			
8	more recognizing that. I've learned a lot from a guy in			
9	Italy who's been working on this for years. It's all			
10	fairly recent stuff. We're just getting started on this			
11	in this Country, so it's kind of new.			
12	THE COURT: So your argument is that the			
13	machines can't do what the humans can do when sorting.			
14	Is that what you're			
15	MR. BOONE: Well, all the humans are doing here			
16	is sort of picking, like people if you've ever worked			
17	at a fruit packing shed where people pull out the fruits.			
18	THE COURT: So why is it a lower grade?			
19	MR. BOONE: Why is this a lower grade, because			
20	it's too much heavy metals, various chemicals. Actually,			
21	Enzo is gonna be in San Diego next week. I'm going down			
22	to talk to him. He has a report he came out with			
23	shows all the things they've learned in Europe about this			
24	mixed-waste processing. I won't say it's dangerous, but			
25	it's just an unnecessary complication.			

1 The real question is can we get the public to do 2 the right thing, to use the green cart the way you and I In Palo Alto they did a study, single-family homes 3 do. in Palo Alto. 95 percent of the households are compliant 4 5 with these three-cart rules, but when you come to the 6 multi units, when it comes to rentals --7 (Interruption by the court reporter.) MR. BOONE: 25 percent of the County population, 8 9 that's 60 percent are poor people, they move around. 10 They don't have a lot of stake in the neighborhood, in 11 the community, so they tend to be slow to get on board. 12 There's a lot of language problems. I used to go through 13 the trash a lot. I found trash looks like what I used to 14 see in Hong Kong. People come from Hong Kong here, they 15 deal with the trash the same way they used to. You have 16 to get to those people. Okay. I think I've said enough 17 on that. Okay. I've said enough. 18 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you. 19 MR. BOONE: But I think this project -- I don't think this project is a bad project. I think the part 20 21 that I liked was -- I like the 2011 project a lot. I did 22 not like the 2017 project. Then I had to find a hook to hang it on in the CEQA, because what I think is not what 23 CEOA worries about. What I look at was two things: One 24 25 was project alternative, neither the Authority nor the

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City of San Leandro ever said if we ever build this
 what's going to happen. All this stuff is currently
 being turned into compost, not the stuff in the garbage.
 That's the stuff that's loose out there.

And the second question is: Is this project the same as that project. What CEQA says, or the sheet says is a significant difference. Everybody, for some reason -- I don't understand how you can look at this and this and say they're the same.

And I have an expert here in the room who could talk about this if you want to listen to him a few minutes. But basically, these are -- this is a significant change. In my opinion, this should have gone back to the City of San_Leandro when they got this far, and said, hey, we don't want to do this. We want to do this. Is that okay with you.

17 If you read the 2011 stuff, they never discussed anything about the methane, how much methane it would be. 18 19 Methane is what caused the pipelines to blow up in San Bruno. Methane is what poisoned all those people in 20 21 Aliso Canyon. This is the largest single driver -- the 22 largest single driver in the Country, in the State, and it has to be watched. That's all. We have to make sure 23 24 that all the proper controls are in there to make sure 25 that nobody is going to get hurt. And I don't want an

1 explosion on Davis Street. Thank you.

2

THE COURT: Thank you.

MR. SCHEXNAYDER: Edward Schexnayder for the 3 Management Authority. Your Honor, first I'd like to 4 5 briefly reply to some of the points that Mr. Boone just 6 made. First, this diagram and the discussion -- between 7 2010 and 2017, and the discussion about how waste disposal occurs in the City of Oakland, and etcetera, 8 none of this is in the record anywhere. None of that was 9 10 before the Authority. All of his arguments are basically 11 policy arguments that don't go to the CEQA cause of 12 action here. So we'd ask the Court to disregard that.

13 Additionally, there were a couple of CEQA points 14 that Mr. Boone raised briefly. He raised the concept of 15 product alternative. I would encourage the Court to look 16 back at our opposition brief where we point out the 17 question of whether there is an alternative to the 18 project, only comes up when an agency is preparing an 19 environmental impact report, which is a fundamentally different process than what was going on for this 20 21 approval. So it's a separate question for a separate 22 part of CEQA.

Additionally, he's asserted that the 2011 process didn't talk about methane or consider its potential impact. That's actually not true. Throughout

1 the Negative Declaration, the City of San Leandro 2 discussed the methane byproduct from composting, and how 3 that was when we captured and reused in renewable energy 4 waste. So it was fully considered then, as it is now.

5 And I'd also like to briefly turn to a couple of the points that Petitioner Stein's counsel made. 6 First 7 on the exhaustion issue, Petitioner Stein had mentioned the word "digestate" and said that she has raised 8 9 concerns about digestate. Two points there, percolate 10 and digestate actually are different. Percolate is a 11 liquid product in the composting and digestion process. 12 Digestive is the solid product that comes out of that, so 13 our reference to digestate does not equate to a reference 14 to percolate.

Second, just saying the words digestate or percolate, or nasty stuff, or whatever you want to call it, is not enough to --

(Interruption by the court reporter.)

MR. SCHEXNAYDER: -- exhaust your administrative remedy. What you need to do is say that we have a concern that there is excess percolate that will somehow enter ground water, and in a way that will contaminate water quality in this way, in a specific way, not just generally. And that is nowhere in the administrative record, and that is why --

18

1THE COURT: Well, I mean, he cited to a specific2page.

(Interruption by the court reporter.)

MR. SCHEXNAYDER: I apologize.

5 THE COURT: He cited to a specific page in the 6 record, 439.

MR. SCHEXNAYDER: Yes, your Honor. And if you
will look at Petitioner Stein's counsel's letter on, I
believe it starts on 439, and it's a seven-page letter,
and if you like, we can read through it all right now.
But if you'd look through it, there is no mention of
cites of percolate impacting water quality.

13THE COURT: Then let me ask petitioner's counsel14to be more specific when you mentioned that as the cite.15MR. ABDELNOUR: Yes, your Honor. I was16referring to 444. And I, you know, as, as not an expert

17 on the technicals, I may have, I may have

18 mischaracterized the equivalence of digestate and 19 percolate. But, but if those are different materials, 20 then I understand Mr. Schexnayder's point. There is a 21 discussion at the top of 444 --

(Interruption by the court reporter.)
MR. ABDELNOUR: There's a table on that page,
and in the right-hand column, it states, "The slurry will
be dewatered to create a solid feedstock for digesters

3

4

and a liquid feedstock for high rate up-flow digestion.
Digestate produced from digesters will be dewatered to
generate approximately 25 percent solid material," and it
goes on. And that's from the 2017, that's from the 2017
project.

6 The 2011 Negative Declaration doesn't mention 7 the word "digestate." So to the extent that counsel is 8 arguing, as he did earlier, that that was previously 9 analyzed, it wasn't. And, you know, again, this is --10 and I don't want to get too far afield from your Honor's 11 question, but what we're talking about here is post hoc 12 explanations of what the record says, your Honor.

13 MR. SCHEXNAYDER: And to respond, your Honor, 14 what we're talking about specifically here is an 15 exhaustion issue, and whether this has raised -- when you look at this column, you don't see water quality impact 16 17 anywhere. You don't see any type of water quality impact. You don't see percolate. And that's the issue 18 19 that is in the tentative ruling. That's the issue that petitioners raised for the first time in their 20 21 supplemental brief, and we just truly encourage the Court 22 to look closely at that.

Additionally, just to petitioner counsel's assertion about post hoc explanations, when I spoke before about the difference between, there being a

difference between percolate and water, that difference is seen in the Negative Declaration on page 45. The tentative ruling says, "Assuming percolate is water, there could be an impact." There is no basis in the record to make that assumption. And on page 45, there's no description that those two things are the same.

And I just wanted to read briefly what the, the initial study says about percolate. On 45, it says that "It's handled in a closed-loop system," suggesting that it doesn't go anywhere else. It doesn't go into wastewater.

On, on page 22, it says, "Percolate is collected and stored in tanks. The percolate is then recycled as part of the compost process." So if it's being used and recycled in the compost process, and petitioners are alleging that the compost process is increasing, then necessarily that is going to consume more percolate.

So there's, again, nowhere in here is there evidence that there's going to be some sort of discharge into the wastewater system that will cause a significant environmental impact. Thank you.

22	THE COURT:	Is there anything else?
23	MS. LEISY:	Your Honor, just briefly.
24	THE COURT:	Yeah.
25	MS. LEISY:	I appreciate Mr. Boone's comment

that this is not a bad project. And just wanted to 1 2 direct the Court to the opposition brief where we cited the California Code of Regulations, Title 14, which 3 includes very detailed requirements for compost quality, 4 5 that's both for composting operations and handling, and 6 also, for in-vessel digestion operations. And those 7 regulations were recently updated to be much more stringent than they were in the past. They have metal 8 limits, they have pathogen limits. So the claim that 9 10 this material, because it involves municipal solid waste, 11 and extracting organics out of that process will result 12 in dangerous or health and safety concerns, compost at 13 the output is regulated already by State law. And there is also requirements for sampling, and before that 14 compost is sold, for use like in people's gardens and 15 16 things like that. So there's already a very elaborate 17 regulatory scheme that the Authority reasonably did not venture into to ensure health and safety. 18

And again, just recounting on Mr. Abdelnour's comments -- and Mr. Schexnayder is correct that the Authority do not need to include a very, as detailed, you know, description of the project as the City lead agency did in terms of, you know, quantifying input and output. The recipe, maybe I didn't explain, you know, clearly enough, because I'm a horrible cook. But what I meant by

1 that was the amount of each material as it goes into the 2 process can't always be known, because it depends on the amount of material received at the site. So it's not 3 that, you know, the project description was ambiguous or 4 5 wishy-washy. There were certain assumptions made, based on what's known in the existing waste stream, but not 6 7 necessarily to the degree where you can say, well, we're going to need, you know, X amount of green waste all the 8 9 time, to go into the mixed materials and organics into 10 the composting facility. So that's what I meant, you 11 know, by "The recipe."

12 With respect to the argument that the Authority 13 and Waste Management did not explain that there would 14 need to be a nearly three-fold increase in the square 15 footage size of the building, there's no duty to exhaust, 16 you know, arguments or logic at the administrative level 17 for an administrative agency as there is the duty to exhaust at the administrative level by an opponent of a 18 19 project, so there's no authority for that.

And I just want to also direct the Court to the Abatti versus Imperial Irrigation District. This was cited in our opposition brief. The facts are distinguishable, but I think it's worthy of review because it involved an agency that found an approval of a resolution a couple years after the fact for water to be

distributed during times of drought, to be within the
 scope of a previously adopted initial study, Neg. Dec.
 And that's what the Authority did here.

It's very different from the Sundstrom versus 4 5 County of Mendocino case that petitioner's rely heavily on, which involved an agency in the initial instance, you 6 know, approving a private sewer system plant on a 7 barebones Neg. Dec., and deferring the mitigation and 8 9 analysis to a future study that had not yet been 10 prepared. So there's, you know, a vast difference in the 11 authorities.

12 Then, just lastly, if we haven't been, you know, 13 persuasive enough for the Court to reverse its tentative on this one issue, I wanted to direct the Court's 14 15 attention to Public Resource Code section 21168.9. And 16 while we urge the Court to consider and reverse its 17 tentative, there is this ability of a Court, if you find as a result of a trial, hearing, or remand, any 18 19 determination or finding of a public agency has been made without compliance with CEQA, that you can issue a 20 21 mandate for that agency to take a specific action as may 22 be necessary to bring the determination, and finding, or decision, into compliance. 23

24 So the Court has discretion to require the 25 Authority, maybe to include a condition as part of its amendment to the CIWMP, similar to what the LEA required in the Solid Waste Facility Permit, which the Court recognizes in its tentative is more explicit, limiting the onsite composting to 350 tons per day. We don't urge the Court to do that, but if you should so desire, that is within the discretion. Thank you. THE COURT: That was 21168.9?

MS. LEISY: Correct. And it's subdivision -- I
just had it, subdivision (a)(3). Thank you, your Honor.
THE COURT: Okay. Did you have anything else?
MR. ABDELNOUR: Yes, your Honor. I'd just like
to very quickly and briefly respond to the latest point
by Ms. Leisy regarding that section 21168.9.

THE COURT: Yeah.

MR. ABDELNOUR: If the Court is inclined to, to follow that route and send it back to the agency for a specific task --

18

14

THE COURT: M-hm.

MR. ABDELNOUR: -- that the Court allow petitioners to be heard on that as well, whether it's through additional briefing or some other manner with respect to what would satisfy that requirement.

23THE COURT: Okay. I'm -- yes, Mr. Boone.24MR. BOONE: During the first hearing, I did, I25did object to the fact that there was no third-party

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1 alternative consideration of the project, which is 2 similar to the no-project alternative. It wasn't expressed in exactly the CEQA language, but I think in 3 terms of, if you go back and look at the transcript of 4 5 the first hearing, I can get you the AR number if you'd 6 like, but I did object to that at that time. 7 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you. I'm going to propose we take five, ten minutes. 8 I want to review my notes and see if I have any questions 9 10 before we conclude the hearing. Okay. Thank you. 11 (Recess taken.) 12 THE COURT: All right. I will go back on the 13 record. A few final questions from the Court. I'm going 14 to begin with Ms. Leisy. I'd like you to repeat for me 15 something that you said with regard to, this has to do 16 with the excess water and being put into the sewer 17 system, and you said that it had to comply -- I think you 18 said there were three requirements. Could you repeat what you said there. You mentioned Title 23. 19 20 MS. LEISY: Okay. Yes, Title 23 of the 21 California Code of Regulations is what typically 22 regulates water quality. 23 THE COURT: What in particular would be required 24 here? 25 MS. LEISY: Discharge requirements to the sewer

Page 52 1 system. Unfortunately, we don't have any of that in the 2 record because it wasn't --3 THE COURT: Okay. MS. LEISY: -- raised. 4 THE COURT: Okay. 5 6 MS. LEISY: But generally speaking, it is Title 7 23 of the Regs that apply, and then I don't recall saying any other point. 8 All right. And then if you'd also 9 THE COURT: 10 clarify, I'm still having trouble understanding the 11 argument that if you're increasing the -- assume you're 12 increasing the volume, which would -- why wouldn't it 13 generate more excess water? You seem to just say that 14 that was an illogical conclusion, that the difference in 15 amount of material being composted would not necessarily 16 have any effect on the amount of excess water. Why 17 wouldn't there be a correlation? 18 MS. LEISY: Well, because most of the water that 19 is generated, or the percolate that's generated is 20 reused. 21 THE COURT: Yes, but a certain amount of it 22 you're conceding is not, which is why it's going into the 23 sewer.

24 MS. LEISY: So if you have water, other water 25 from the site washing down pads, like concrete pads --

1 THE COURT: Okay. 2 MS. LEISY: -- flushing that water into the 3 drainage system, there's other sources of water on the site rather than just the 8D process or the composting 4 5 processes. 6 THE COURT: So are you telling the Court that 7 all of the water through the composting process is in this closed-loop system, and none of the excess water is 8 9 coming from that? 10 MR. SCHEXNAYDER: Your Honor, if I may. 11 THE COURT: Yeah. 12 MR. SCHEXNAYDER: So there are two different 13 pieces of the process. So there's the anaerobic 14 digestion process, and that's where the percolate is in 15 the closed-loop systems. 16 THE COURT: Okay. And none of that leaves. 17 MR. SCHEXNAYDER: Right. And the closed loop, 18 but there's also the composting process. And percolate 19 can be used. In the initial study that describes, it can be used to feed the composting. So composting, actually, 20 21 because of the breakdown, organic breakdown of material, 22 it takes in water. It's not really a water producer. Ιt 23 needs water, so it's fed into that process. 24 THE COURT: Okay. 25 MR. SCHEXNAYDER: But as Ms. Leisy was saying,

1	there's, there's other sources of water, and storm water,		
2	you know, from rainfall on the site that occurs, and so		
3	there's a storm water management plan, and then excess		
4	water goes into the sanitary sewer system. But		
5	there's the only description of a percolate in the		
6	record is a which is on pages 22 and 45 of the record,		
7	talks about recycling it for the composting process. It		
8	talks about it being in a closed-loop system. There's no		
9	statement that there's an excess that is being		
10	discharged.		
11	THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.		
12	And I want both sides to respond to this next		
13	question. If the Court were to find that there was no		
14	significant environmental impact, regardless of whether		
15	there was a substantial change, the substantial change		
16	argument is no longer critical, right?		
17	MS. LEISY: Right.		
18	THE COURT: Agreed?		
19	MR. ABDELNOUR: Agreed, your Honor, to the		
20	extent that there is that the potential for		
21	environmental impact has been analyzed and that		
22	determination has been made.		
23	THE COURT: But you only have to do that if		
24	there's a substantial change.		
25	MR. ABDELNOUR: Correct.		

1 THE COURT: Okay. So, but if the Court were to 2 find there was a substantial change, but there was no significant environmental impact, then, I mean, the whole 3 finding on the substantial change is almost irrelevant, 4 right? I mean, that's -- it's just the, it's just the 5 first step of the --6 7 Right. And the second step, the MR. ABDELNOUR: finding no environmental impact, based on the evidence in 8 the record, correct. 9 THE COURT: And if the Court were to find that 10 11 it's unclear whether there was a substantial change, if I 12 end up, that being my finding, that it is unclear, 13 however, there's no significant environmental impact, 14 same result? 15 MR. ABDELNOUR: Think of how that squares with 16 the fair argument standard that the Court analyzed in the 17 ruling. You know, we're talking about a Negative Declaration as the initial review document, as opposed to 18 19 an EIR, so the standard is whether the evidence supports a fair argument, and that's what's before the Court. 20 And 21 if the Court doesn't think there's a fair argument, then 22 certainly, you know, that would, that would be one path. And if the Court, you know, has not changed its mind on 23 24 that point from the tentative, then it takes you down 25 another path.

1THE COURT: Changes its minds on what point?2MR. ABDELNOUR: On the fair argument point from3the tentative.

4

THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Boone.

5 MR. BOONE: There's two ways organics gets to Davis Street. One is by -- well, three ways. One is by 6 7 company trucks. That's all green waste from people's houses and businesses. The second way is people, people 8 9 who work in maintenance and landscaping and stuff, bring stuff in their own trucks, and dump it out there, and 10 11 that's -- the third way is stuff mixed in with garbage. 12 What nobody knows is how effective these machines are at 13 separating the organics materials from the garbage 14 materials.

15

THE COURT: Okay.

16 MR. BOONE: What they don't know is when you put 17 that stuff in the tank, and you leave it there for three weeks, there's all kinds of microbes crawling, turning 18 19 the organic materials into compost. What happens to the plastic materials that are in there? And what Toni 20 21 worries about a lot is the fact that these plastics have 22 all kinds of additives in themselves and stuff like that 23 and will migrate out of the plastics into the compost, 24 and that's what we hear is happening in Europe. People 25 don't want to deal with the stuff. Farmers don't want

1 it. If you want to put it on the roadside, that's okay. 2 If you want to put it in a sanitary landfill that's covered for that, that's okay. But you don't want to put 3 it in food crops soil. There's more and more consensus. 4 5 I wouldn't want you to be embarrassed five years from 6 now, you say it's okay, when we all recognize it's not 7 okay. But I can tell you that the scientists so far in this Country, that everybody in the scientific community 8 9 would say, who is this lady, what is she doing. That's 10 all. Sorry.

THE COURT: Thank you.

MR. SCHEXNAYDER: Your Honor, may I respondbriefly on the fair argument issue?

14

11

THE COURT: Yes.

15 MR. SCHEXNAYDER: And I wanted to clarify this 16 because this has actually been an evolving area of the 17 law very recently. The standard isn't unfortunately super clear in the caselaw, but we actually differ from 18 19 the petitioner's assertion of how the argument standard plays into this question. And I want to use this to 20 21 illustrate, as the Court notes, it's a two-step question. 22 Is there a substantial change, and the second point, a new significant environmental effect. 23

And we agree with the petitioners on the second question, which is the fair argument standard, and argue that there's no substantial evidence to support a fair
 argument of that impact.

But on this first question, we disagree with 3 petitioners if that's the fair argument standard. 4 We 5 believe that if you look closely at the supreme court San Mateo Gardens case, and the Abatti decision that 6 7 Ms. Leisy referenced earlier today, both of those cases say the question of whether there is a change to the 8 9 project is still subject to the agencies reviewing the first instance, and the Court reviews the agency's 10 determination for substantial evidence. So even if 11 12 petitioners have their own contradicting evidence of a 13 change, that's not enough. All there has to be is 14 substantial evidence to support the agency's 15 determination on that first step.

And we understand that the law is not clear 16 17 there because the recent caselaw somewhat blurs the standards of review, but the Abatti decision was not 18 19 overturned by the supreme court in the San Mateo Gardens 20 decision, and remains good law, and is very clear on that 21 issue, with that first step is a different standard of 22 review than the fair argument standard. 23 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.

24 MR. BOONE: Rebuttal, please.25 THE COURT: Yes.

1	MR. BOONE: 30 seconds. If you look at the			
2	administrative record, you will see a series of questions			
3	from Teresa Eade, E-A-D-E, who is an employee of the			
4	Authority. She is their composting expert, and she asked			
5	Mr. Tacket (phonetic) a bunch of questions about what,			
6	what do we know technically about this compost that's			
7	gonna come out of this mixed waste processing. There is,			
8	to my knowledge, there is no expansive or clarifying or			
9	technical answer from him in the administrative record.			
10	Follow that?			
11	THE COURT: M-hm.			
12	MR. BOONE: So if there's somebody who really			
13	understands a little bit about that stuff, was to ask			
14	that question, they would say that Mr. Tacket's response			
15	was nonresponsive. That's what I would characterize it,			
16	but you can read it yourself. And I can get you the page			
17	number if you need it. But I have it. She's in the AR.			
18	Her questions were in the AR. There are no answers in			
19	the AR, except in very broad and general statements.			
20	THE COURT: Okay.			
21	MR. ABDELNOUR: Your Honor, can I very briefly			
22	respond on the import, the case cited by Mr. Schexnayder,			
23	the Friends of the College of San Mateo.			
24	THE COURT: Yes.			
25	MR. ABDELNOUR: So what that case says, and it's			

1 cited in both parties' briefs.

2 Talking about one or two? THE COURT: That's two, 2017 I believe. 3 MR. ABDELNOUR: That the, the substantial evidence standard she's 4 5 referring to in reviewing the question about substantial 6 changes, the judicial review of that question must 7 reflect the exacting standards that an agency must apply when changes are made to a project that has been approved 8 9 via a Negative Declaration, which is what we have here, 10 as opposed to through an EIR. In the Sundstrom case, which has also been cited, and which is cited in the 11 12 tentative ruling, states that deficiencies in the record 13 can enlarge the scope. And the second question, which is 14 the fair argument question that we previously talked 15 about. 16 THE COURT: Right. 17 MR. ABDELNOUR: So if the Court doesn't find 18 that the agency applied an exacting review, then that, 19 that decreases the judicial deference given to the agency's finding on that first question. 20 21 THE COURT: I see. Okay. 22 MS. LEISY: Your Honor, just briefly. I think just to close the loop on that, I'd like to read a 23 24 passage from the Friends of College of San Mateo Gardens. 25 This is at 11 Cal.App.5th 596, page 607, and it says, and

1 it's going through the two-prong test, "When we apply the 2 first standard, we ask whether substantial evidence 3 supports an agency's decision to proceed under CEQA's subsequent review provisions. The standard requires us 4 5 to approve the agency's determination when it is supported by substantial evidence, even if other evidence 6 7 undermines the determination. Similarly, if a project was originally approved by EIR, we affirm the agency's 8 9 determination whether subsequent or supplemental EIR is required, when the determination is supported by 10 11 substantial evidence, even if there's -- " you know, 12 "evidence to the contrary."

So in the beginning it's talking about there's a two-prong test that's still there is deference as to whether or not there's a substantial change. And then you apply the fair argument, you know, if you think there has been. So I think that's what Mr. Schexnayder was referring to.

19 Right. And it's important to MR. SCHEXNAYDER: understand that in San Mateo Gardens, it was essentially 20 21 conceded by all the parties that there had been a 22 substantial change. The question in this case is whether there was a fair argument of a significant impact. 23 So 24 that's why I think the Abatti decision which predates 25 that case was not overturned. And I think the supreme

1 court case, the decision, or the court of appeal is --2 remand. But I think the supreme court case is more important because it's doesn't overrule Abatti. 3 Ιt actually cites Abatti in a footnote. And Abatti is very 4 5 clear that the question of whether there's a substantial 6 change is the standard substantial evidence supporting 7 the agency's determination. It's not the fair argument standard. 8

THE COURT: 9 Okay. All right. Then somewhat 10 related to that question by the Court, I wanted to talk 11 about this Public Resources Code section 21168.9(a)(3). 12 And so if the Court were to find that it's, that it's unclear whether there is a substantial change, but if 13 14 the -- could the Court then order the Authority to bring 15 it's, to bring its finding into compliance by 16 identifying, as did the LEA permit, including a condition 17 that the OMCF is limited to producing 350 tons of compost per day, but making explicit, what you're saying is 18 19 implicit, why shouldn't the Court do that if it, if there 20 is this confusion? 21 MS. LEISY: Well, I think the Court would first

21 MS. LEISY: Well, I think the Court would Hirst 22 have to find substantial evidence of a new significant 23 impact, which if the Court is uncertain --

24THE COURT: I would? Why would I have to find25that? Where does the section require that?

Page 63 1 MS. LEISY: No, this section is a remedy 2 provision under CEQA. 3 THE COURT: Okay. MS. LEISY: So if the Court finds that an agency 4 5 abused its discretion --6 THE COURT: Okay. 7 MS. LEISY: And in this instance, if the Court were to find that there is substantial evidence of a new 8 9 significant impact because of the ambiguity in the 10 project description --THE COURT: But that would be a basis to find a 11 12 significant environmental impact. 13 MS. LEISY: Right. I would assert that the 14 Court does not even get to 21168.9(a)(3) as a remedy 15 provision, because if you don't find substantial evidence 16 in support of a new significant impact, then this section 17 becomes irrelevant, and you should deny the petition. 18 MR. ABDELNOUR: And, your Honor --19 THE COURT: I know you said you wanted additional briefing on it, but what is your thought? 20 21 MR. ABDELNOUR: Well, my thought, initially, is 22 that on the environmental impact prong, the standard is a fair argument, not, not the fully deferential to EIR 23 24 substantial evidence. And as far as the interplay 25 between 21168.9(a)(3) that you cited and how that, how

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1 that impacts this analysis, I would request the opportunity to brief that. I apologize. I wasn't -- I'm 2 having trouble finding that section in front of me to 3 look at the verbiage. Thank you. 4 5 THE COURT: But wait, maybe before you go on I 6 should have Ms. Leisy expand. 7 And on what would be the point? You're saying that you don't want -- this is obviously not 8 affirmatively seeking this, but that if the Court were 9 10 inclined to grant the petition, then you'd ask for this. 11 What would you be asking the Court to do then? 12 MS. LEISY: To issue a limited writ, a very 13 surgical limited writ to the agency saying, because, you 14 know, this description is not clear, that it adopts a 15 condition similar to what the LEA adopted as part of the Solid Waste Facility Permit, that the 350 tons per day of 16 17 compost on site is the maximum. 18 THE COURT: Okay. 19 But I think, again, the Court will MS. LEISY: only get to this remedy provision if it finds that either 20 21 there was a substantial change, or --THE COURT: But how could I -- that seems 22 contradictory. If I were to find that there was a 23 24

substantial change, so you're saying I would be finding

25 it based on the records that I have, but I --

1	MS. GALANTER: Your Honor, maybe I can clarify,			
2	Tamera Galanter. So this is a remedy section. In			
3	order I think what Ms. Leisy is saying is that the			
4	Court never gets to 21168.9, unless it first finds,			
5	number one, that there isn't substantial evidence			
6	supporting the Authority's determination that the project			
7	had not significantly changed. So that's prong one.			
8	And secondly, the Court finds that as a result			
9	of that change, there's substantial evidence of a fair			
10	argument, that that change would result in significant			
11	environmental impacts.			
12	THE COURT: Okay.			
13	MS. GALANTER: So once it gets to that, then the			
14	next step and this is often done, you know, and argued			
15	over after the fact. Often the Court comes out with its			
16	judgment and its order, and then the parties are			
17	disagreeing about what the remedy should be in the event			
18	of a violation. But if it gets to that point, in a			
19	typical CEQA case, what typically happens is the Court			
20	just sets aside the approval and finds that the			
21	environmental document didn't comply with CEQA, and			
22	that's the end of it, and leaves it to the agency to			
23	determine what to do as a result of that ruling.			
24	What 61168.9 does is it provides this			
25	alternative remedy where the Court can carve out and			

provide the least amount of disruption to the agency that would allow it to fix the problem that was identified by the Court.

4 THE COURT: So you're saying, are you saying it 5 would deny the petition but require this to happen? No.

6 MS. GALANTER: No. In order to even get to 7 21168.9, the Court -- and realistically, the Court shouldn't even think about 21168.9 until it goes through 8 9 the step process and determines whether or not there was a violation of CEQA, and whether or not a new 10 11 environmental review should have been done because of a 12 substantial change in the project that resulted in new 13 substantial, significant impacts.

14

THE COURT: Okay.

MS. GALANTER: Okay. So once it gets to that point, and only when it gets to that point, if it answers, yes, to each and every one of those questions, then it is faced, the Court is faced with a question of what should I do now, what remedy should I order. And that's when we look.

THE COURT: Tell me what, if any, harm the Court would do if it still finds confusing whether there's been a change in the volume on the record?

24 MS. GALANTER: Right.

25 THE COURT: But also finds that even if there

were, there's been -- that there, there's no fair argument that there would be a significant environmental effect?

MS. GALANTER: Then, your Honor --

5 THE COURT: What harm, if any, would the Court 6 be doing to the litigants in this case if that were the 7 final outcome?

8

4

MS. GALANTER: Well --

9 THE COURT: I would be denying the petition on 10 those grounds.

MS. GALANTER: Exactly. And the Court obviously has to follow the law, and the law, you know, to the extent it made both of those findings, then the only result that would be appropriate in the circumstance by the Court is to deny the petition.

16 THE COURT: Is there anything in that order that 17 would do harm later to this project?

18 MS. LEISY: I mean, I think in reality the 19 project cannot be stopped, because the Authority's CIWMP amendment was really only necessary in order for our 20 21 client to get the Solid Waste Facility Permit, and that 22 solid waste permit has been issued. Really, if you were to issue a writ, and, you know, depending on the scope, 23 24 I'm sure petitioners will file a 1021.5 motion for 25 attorney's fees, and, you know, either if that writ gets

1	appealed or other, you know, remedies are found. But the			
2	harm to our client is really, and to the Authority, is			
3	having to go back to the Authority and in whatever			
4	fashion the Court orders, for them to revisit that			
5	decision potential for attorney's fees. But it's not			
6	going to stop the project in and of itself. Petitioners			
7	would have to get an injunction or a stay. They have not			
8	filed one of those. You would have to show a likelihood			
9	of success on the merits, and whatnot, and typically,			
10	that would have happened before this point.			
11	THE COURT: Okay.			
12	MR. SCHEXNAYDER: And from the Authority's			
13	perspective, your Honor, the two thoughts, first, the			
14	Authority can't in the writ, it can't stop the project			
15	because it's not a permit agency. It doesn't issue a			
16	permit to allow it to move forward, but also, the idea of			
17	sending it back, but I mean, that's a new public process			
18	that, that takes public resources. And it takes time for			
19	Authority's staff and the board. So I'm not saying			
20	that			
21	THE COURT: I'm not talking about the effect of			
22	granting the petition. I'm talking			
23	MR. SCHEXNAYDER: The effect of denying the			
24	petition			
25	THE COURT: denying it, but not making it a			

finding other than lack of clarity on that. It's the
 1021 issue, period.

MR. SCHEXNAYDER: That doesn't even arise if there's no, there's no basis for -- petitioners haven't prevailed if you've denied the writ.

> MR. ABDELNOUR: Your Honor, may I respond. THE COURT: Sure.

MR. ABDELNOUR: I would characterize the harm 8 very differently in that situation. I think what, the 9 10 harm that flows from that decision, such a decision, 11 would be a signal that when the record is unclear as to 12 changes in a project, an agency in coordination with the 13 proponent of the project can simply disregard that and 14 shift the burden back on the public to do the review for 15 it, that it's his burden to do. And, you know, as I 16 heard Ms. Leisy, you can't stop the project, you know, 17 trust us, we know what we're doing. And that completely 18 thwarts the purpose of CEQA.

MS. LEISY: Your Honor, I would respectively submit that had petitioners wanted to stop the project, they would have challenged the Solid Waste Facility Permit, or the CUP, which they did not do.

23THE COURT: Mr. Boone, you wanted to say24something.

MR. BOONE: One more time. Nobody in the City

25

6

7

1	of San Leandro has ever seen this plan, officially. If			
2	the City of San_Leandro saw this plan, there's no			
3	discussion in the, in that whole document that appeared			
4	before them on January 4th, 2011, that this is anything			
5	but clean material, okay. So this is a whole new plan.			
6	It's a significant, substantial change, and there is not			
7	any good evidence anywhere in this Country about what			
8	that material is like. But in Europe, people are getting			
9	away from this in a big way. That's all.			
10	THE COURT: Thank you. The Court's going to			
11	take the matter under submission. Thank you, everybody.			
12	MS. LEISY: Thank you, your Honor.			
13	MR. ABDELNOUR: Thank you, your Honor.			
14	//			
15				
16	(Whereupon the proceedings were concluded.)			
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Page 71 1 STATE OF CALIFORNIA))ss. 2 COUNTY OF ALAMEDA) 3 4 CERTIFICATE OF OFFICIAL REPORTER 5 I, LINDA SHRYACK, CSR No. 12104 a duly qualified and acting Official Pro Tem Shorthand Reporter of the 6 7 Superior Court of the State of California, in and for the County of Alameda, do hereby certify: 8 9 That I acted as the Certified Shorthand Reporter in the case of STEIN, ANTOINETTE W., et al. versus 10 ALAMEDA COUNTY WASTE MGMT AUTHORITY, No. RG17858423. 11 12 That I took down in shorthand writing the testimony and proceedings had therein. 13 That thereafter I transcribed the same into 14 15 typewriting. 16 That the foregoing pages 1 through 70, 17 inclusive, comprise a full, true and correct transcript 18 of proceedings had. 19 Dated this 22nd day of March, 2018. 20 21 22 23 LINDA E. SHRYACK, CSR No. 12104 Official Pro Tem Shorthand Reporter County of Alameda 24 25 State of California

[& - addition]

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