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FER/acr 9/14/2011

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of James L. and Marianne S. Orvis to sell, and Aspen Forest Investment Co., LLC, to buy, Five Thousand (5,000) Shares of the Common Stock of the water system known as Lake Alpine Water Company, Inc. (U148WTD) Located in Alpine County, California.

Application 11-04-013
(Filed April 15, 2011)

**ASSIGNED COMMISSIONER'S RULING
GRANTING SEPTEMBER 9, 2011 MOTION AND
REQUIRING PARTIES TO MEET TO DISCUSS
FEASIBILITY OF ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION,
OR IN THE ALTERNATIVE, TO COMMENCE MEDIATION**

Summary

The motion filed September 9, 2011, is granted and the parties are directed to meet with a neutral from the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) Division to explore whether the Commission's Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Program can assist them in resolving some or all of their differences, or in the alternative, to commence mediation.

Discussion

Rule 11.1(g) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (Rules) permits the Commission to rule on a motion before the time for filing responses or replies. Rule 11.1(e) requires responses to be filed within 15 days of the date that a motion was served and to date, no responses have been filed. Resolution

ALJ-185 authorizes the Assigned Commissioner to require parties to participate in ADR processes “to discuss the desirability and feasibility” of using some form of ADR, such as facilitation or mediation, to narrow or resolve their differences.

The parties’ escalating number of disputes, the associated expenditure of time and money by all of them, and the concomitant demand upon the Commission’s resources, suggest the use of ADR here. ADR may be able to provide a more timely and cost-effective resolution of some or all of their differences. Accordingly, I direct the parties to meet with an ALJ neutral for a minimum of three hours, to discuss whether some form of ADR may be useful to them. In the alternative, the parties may mutually agree to commence mediation, with the neutral serving as the mediator.

I ask the Chief ALJ to assign a neutral as quickly as practicable. The neutral will contact the parties to schedule an initial meeting at the Commission’s offices in San Francisco or if the parties mutually agree, at some other location that they make available. The meeting should occur as soon as can be conveniently arranged. In the interim, the schedule for this proceeding is suspended.

IT IS RULED that:

1. Parties shall meet with an Administrative Law Judge neutral, who will be assigned by the Chief Administrative Law Judge, to explore whether the Commission's Alternative Dispute Resolution Program can assist them in resolving some or all of their differences, or in the alternative, to commence mediation.

2. The initial meeting shall occur as soon as practicable in San Francisco or at another location provided by the parties, as mutually agreed.

3. The schedule for this proceeding is suspended.

A.11-04-013 FER/acr

Dated September 14, 2011, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ MARK J. FERRON

Mark J. Ferron
Assigned Commissioner