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COUNTY OF INYO WATER DEPARTMENT

July 15, 2024

Mr. Chris Ellis,
Vice President and General Manager
Coso Operating Company, LLC
P.O. Box 1690
Inyokern, California 93527

Subject: Conditional Use Permit #2007-03/Coso – Pumping Term Extension Request

Dear Mr. Ellis,

This letter is in reply to your request during the July 8, 2024, meeting with Inyo County Water Department staff that Coso Operating Company's groundwater pumping be extended for an additional four years after May 31, 2025. Pursuant to Conditional Use Permit #2007-03/Coso and the associated Hydrologic Monitoring and Mitigation Plan (HMMP), the groundwater pumping rate and duration are subject to restrictions based on ongoing analysis of monitoring data. In 2018, pumping for the project was continued through May 31, 2021, and again in 2021, through May 31, 2025.

The state of the Rose Valley groundwater system is regularly monitored by Team Engineering which has reported that over the life of the project, no Maximum Allowable Drawdown threshold in monitoring wells has been reached. In the three-year period beginning June 1, 2021, Coso Operating Company pumped approximately 271 acre-feet and indicates that an estimated 100 to 150 AF of additional pumping from the Hay Ranch wells will occur through May 31, 2025, leaving approximately 2,780 AF unpumped (assuming 150 AF is pumped in the remaining year) of the 3,200 AF previously permitted amount in a letter dated May 28, 2021.

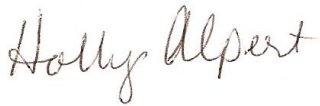
The Water Department concludes that the remainder of the 3,200 AF of permitted pumping that has not been extracted can be safely pumped at some time later than May 31, 2025. This determination is based on the prior modeling evaluations by Daniel B. Stephens & Associates summarized in a letter dated May 28, 2021, artificial and natural groundwater recharge to Rose Valley Basin following the historic wet winter of 2023, and the increases of groundwater elevations observed in monitoring well data collected pursuant to the HMMP. Pumping may continue through May 31, 2029, on the conditions that no Maximum Allowable Drawdown threshold in monitoring wells is reached, and that pumping not exceed 650 AF during any twelve-month period. If Coso Operating Company does pump more than 150 AF between June 1, 2024, and May 31, 2025, the amount pumped shall be deducted from the amount allowable during the

period June 1, 2025, to May 31, 2029.

In summary, the Water Department approves the continuation of pumping to May 31, 2029, provided that maximum pumping is less than 650 acre-feet in any 12-month period between June 1 and the following May 31. This approval does not diminish the discretion afforded to the Water Department under Conditional Use Permit #2007-03 to further enforce or modify mitigation measures to protect the citizens, economy, and environment of the County.

Please feel free to contact me at 760-878-8796 or halpert@inyocounty.us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Holly Alpert".

Holly Alpert, Ph.D.
Water Director
Inyo County

cc: Inyo County Board of Supervisors
Inyo County Water Commission
Nate Greenberg, County CAO
John Vallejo, County Counsel
Cathreen Richards, Planning Director
Gary Arnold, Little Lake Ranch
Neil Blandford, Daniel B. Stephens & Assoc.
Greg Foote, Team Engineering