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8 Attorneys for The Thacher School; Friend's Ranches, Inc.; Topa Topa Ranch & Nursery, LLC;
9 Finch Farms, LLC; Red Mountain Land & Farming, LLC; Thacher Creek Citrus, LLC; The Finch
10 Family Trust; James P. Finch; Robert Calder Davis, Jr.; Robert Calder Davis, Jr., TTEE of Trust
11 Owned Properties; Sharon H. Booth, Trustee of The Survivor's Trust Created Under Declaration
12 of Trust of Richard G. Booth and Sharon H. Booth Dated July 10, 1980; David Robert Hamm;
13 Ojai Oil Company; Ojai Valley School; Reeves Orchard, LLC and Ojai Valley Inn

14 **SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**
15 **COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

16 SANTA BARBARA CHANNELKEEPER, a
17 California non-profit organization

18 Petitioner,

19 vs.

20 STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL
21 BOARD, a California State Agency; CITY OF
22 SAN BUENAVENTURA, a California
23 municipal corporation, incorrectly named as
24 CITY OF BUENAVENTURA

25 Respondents.

26 CITY OF SAN BUENAVENTURA, a
27 California municipal corporation

28 Cross-Complainant

vs.

DUNCAN ABBOTT, an individual, et al.

Cross-Defendants.

CASE No. 19STCP01176

[Assigned to Hon. William F Highberger]

**FRIEND'S RANCHES, INC.'S INITIAL
DISCLOSURE PURSUANT TO
CALIFORNIA CODE OF CIVIL
PROCEDURE SECTION 842**

Action Filed: September 19, 2014
Trial Date: None Set

1 Cross-Defendant Friend's Ranches, Inc. ("Friend's") provides its Initial Disclosure
2 pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure section 842 as follows:

3 **DISCLOSURE NO. 1:**

4 The name, address, telephone number, and email address of the party and, if applicable, the
5 party's attorney.

6 **RESPONSE TO DISCLOSURE NO. 1:**

7 Friend's Ranches Inc.
8 15150 Maricopa Highway
9 Ojai, CA 93023
10 Tel: (805) 646-2871
11 Email: friends@friendsranches.com

12 Gregory J. Patterson, Esq.
13 Musick, Peeler & Garrett LLP
14 2801 Townsgate Road, Suite 200
15 Westlake Village, CA 91361
16 Tel: (805) 418-3103
17 Email: g.patterson@musickpeeler.com

18 **DISCLOSURE NO. 2:**

19 The quantity of any groundwater extracted from the basin by the party and the method of
20 measurement used by the party's predecessor in interest for each of the previous 10 years
21 preceding the filing of the Complaint.

22 **RESPONSE TO DISCLOSURE NO. 2:**

23 **Newsome Property:**

24 2631 Fordyce Road
25 Ojai, CA 93023
26 APN: 028-0-040-020
27 19.69 acres

28 **Newsome well**
drilled ~ 1960
SWRCB# 04N22W05D03S
VC ID# 6896
Recordation # G560514
~ 300feet
20 hp submersible pump
3" line, metered

1 180 gpm @45psi (2020)
2 20 acres, 15 planted (3 acres removed since
3 2015)
4 one home, 2400sqft, shed
5 has 2 inch CMWD meter
6 well is often dry in droughts

Year	Usage
2006	52.55 af
2007	62.90 af
2008	62.90 af
2009	62.90 af
2010	62.90 af
2011	58.86 af
2012	36.40 af
2013	16.94 af
2014	.5 af
2015	.5 af
2016	.5 af
2017	10.67 af
2018	1.1 af
2019	41.34 af
2020	40.21 af
3/31/2021	5.98 af

16 **Reeves Property:**

17
18 4245 Reeves Road
19 Ojai, CA 93023
20 APN: 029-0-100-520 (GE--9.88
21 ac.)
22 APN: 029-0-100-020 (Trailer--
23 1.99 ac.)
24 APN: 029-0-100-010 (Henry--
25 9.84 ac.)
26 APN: 029-0-100-510 (10 Rows--
27 3.77 ac.)
28 25.48 acres
~24 acres planted
citrus, avocados
mobile home
trailer home
shed

1 **Henry well**
2 drilled 6/5/2000
3 SWRCB# 04N22W04P05S
4 VC ID# 8373
5 Recordation # G561825
6 510 feet
7 30 hp submersible pump
8 6" line, metered
9 238 gpm @55psi (2008)
10 no municipal water source
11 25 acres, 23 acres planted, 2 mobile
12 homes.

9	Year	Usage
10	2006	57.10 af
11	2007	66.16 af
12	2008	68.27 af
13	2009	54.92 af
14	2010	54.19 af
15	2011	55.33 af
16	2012	64.64 af
17	2013	87.47 af
18	2014	63.89 af
19	2015	50.95 af
20	2016	50.92 af
21	2017	59.66 af
22	2018	58.23 af
23	2019	45.12 af
24	2020	54.79 af
25	3/31/2021	5.98 af

20 **GE well**
21 drilled 1950?
22 SWRCB# 04N22W04P01S
23 VC ID# 6885
24 ~250 feet?
25 10 hp? submersible pump
26 not in use

25 **Sheldon Property:**

26
27 15150 Maricopa Highway
28 Ojai, CA 93023
APN: 010-0-180-080

1 74.86 acres
 2 ~17 acres planted
 3 citrus & avocados
 4 house (2100 sf)
 5 packing house (4000 sf)
 6 Shed(1200sf)
 7 no municipal water source

Appropriative water right

North Fork Matilija
 Creek

30(?) miner's inches
 C.H. Sheldon
 Book 413, page 40
 03/27/1884
 Recordation # G561314

Well

drilled 7/1991
 SWRCB# 03N/23W-
 06B01 S
 VC ID#
 Recordation # G561741
 ~80 feet
 5 hp submersible pump
 3" line, no meter
 80 gpm @55psi (2021)
 meter installed 8/15/19

Year	Usage	Year	Usage
2006	76 af (est.)	2006	38.1 af (est.)
2007	85 af (est.)	2007	41 .0 af (est.)
2008	68 af (est.)	2008	44 af (est.)
2009	52 af (est.)	2009	41.0 af (est.)
2010	42 af (est.)	2010	41.0 af (est.)
2011	43 af (est.)	2011	41 af (est.)
2012	20 af (est.)	2012	49 af (est.)
2013	22.0 af (est.)	2013	52.0 af (est.)
2014	24 af (e st.)	2014	50 af (est.)
2015	10.0 af (est.)	2015	58 af (est.)
2016	10 af (est.)	2016	58 af (est.)
2017	18.5 af (est.)	2017	53.5 af (est.)
2018	none	2018	57.5 af (est.)
2019	none	2019	49 af (est.)
2020	none	2020	29.3 af
3/31/2021	none	3/31/2021	8.46 af

1 **Fraser Property:**

2 2030 Grand Avenue
3 Ojai, CA 93023
4 APN: 028-0-111-030

5 **NOTE: This**
6 **property was sold**
7 **7/10/2020. New**
8 **owners.**

9 **Fraser well**
10 drilled ~7/1951
11 SWRCB# 04N22W06K06S
12 VC ID# 8373
13 Recordation # G560517
14 ~370 feet
15 6 acres, 6 acres planted. No
16 structures
17 15 hp submersible pump
18 3" line, metered
19 156 gpm @55psi (2017)
20 no municipal water source

Year	Usage
2006	12.22 af
2007	20.40 af
2008	20.40 af
2009	20.40 af
2010	20.40 af
2011	20.89 af
2012	17.49 af
2013	29.51 af
2014	20.46 af
2015	17.67 af
2016	13.22 af
2017	17.71 af
2018	11.62 af
2019	12.35 af
2020	6.55 af

25 ranch sold 7/10/2020

26
27 **DISCLOSURE NO. 3:**

28 The type of water right or rights claimed by the party for the extraction of groundwater.

1 **RESPONSE TO DISCLOSURE NO. 3:**

2 Historic recordation of extraction of ground water and surface water diversion as outlined
3 in Disclosure 2.

4 **DISCLOSURE NO. 4:**

5 A general description of the purpose to which the groundwater has been put.

6 **RESPONSE TO DISCLOSURE NO. 4:**

7 Consumptive use of water for domestic and agricultural purposes as outlined in Disclosure
8 2.

9 **DISCLOSURE NO. 5:**

10 The location of each well or other source through which the groundwater has been
11 extracted.

12 **RESPONSE TO DISCLOSURE NO. 5:**

13 Addresses and APN numbers listed for each property in Disclosure 2, except properties not
14 using ground water or surface water.

15 **DISCLOSURE NO. 6:**

16 The area in which the groundwater has been used.

17 **RESPONSE TO DISCLOSURE NO. 6:**

18 All ground water extracted was used only on the property where the respective wells are
19 located as outlined in Disclosure 2. From 1951 until 1985 water extracted on the Fraser Property
20 was piped to the Newsome and Reeves Road properties.

21 **DISCLOSURE NO. 7:**

22 Any claims for increased or future use of groundwater.

23 **RESPONSE TO DISCLOSURE NO. 7:**

24 None is contemplated, but market forces on agriculture have historically pushed for more
25 water intensive crops and planting patterns.

26 **DISCLOSURE NO. 8:**

27 The quantity of any beneficial use of any alternative water use that the party claims as its
28 use of groundwater under any applicable law, including, but not limited to, Section 1005.1,

1 1005.2, or 1005.4 of the Water Code.

2 **RESPONSE TO DISCLOSURE NO. 8:**

3 We concur that the use of other water sources such as those provided by Casitas Municipal
4 Water District since the late 1950's should not limit our rights to extract water from our wells as
5 we have done historically.

6 **DISCLOSURE NO. 9:**

7 Identification of all surface water rights and contracts the party claims provides the basis
8 for its water right claims in the comprehensive adjudication.

9 **RESPONSE TO DISCLOSURE NO. 9:**

10 Right to divert surface water on the North Fork of Matilija Creek, recorded in 1874.

11 **DISCLOSURE NO. 10:**

12 The quantity of any replenishment of water to the basin that augmented the basin's native
13 water supply, resulting from the intentional storage of imported or non-native water in the basin,
14 managed recharge of surface water, or return flows resulting from the use of imported water or
15 non-native water on lands overlying the basin by the party, or the party's representative or agent,
16 during each of the 10 calendar years immediately preceding the filing of the Complaint.

17 **RESPONSE TO DISCLOSURE NO. 10:**

18 We are aware that since the formation of Casitas Municipal Water District some recharge
19 of the Ojai groundwater basin has resulted from irrigation. However, as we and other farmers
20 have switched to more efficient irrigation methods those effects have become more muted. We, as
21 farmers, are not in a position to quantify this, and we would respectfully refer you to the Ojai
22 Basin Groundwater Management Agency for any available data.

23 **DISCLOSURE NO. 11:**

24 The names, addresses, telephone numbers, and email addresses of all persons possessing
25 information that supports the party's disclosures.

26 ///

27 ///

28 ///

1 **RESPONSE TO DISCLOSURE NO. 11:**

2 Anson B. Thacher
3 Friend's Ranches, Inc.
4 15150 Maricopa Highway
5 Ojai, CA 93023
6 Tel: (805) 646-2871
7 Email: tony@friendsranchers.com

8 Emily T. Ayala
9 Friend's Ranches, Inc.
10 15150 Maricopa Highway
11 Ojai, CA 93023
12 Tel: (805) 646-2871
13 Email: emily@friendsranches.com

14 **DISCLOSURE NO. 12:**

15 Any other facts that tend to prove the party's claimed water right.

16 **RESPONSE TO DISCLOSURE NO. 12:**

17 Since the Friend, Beers, Thacher and Sheldon families initially homesteaded and farmed in
18 the Ojai Valley starting in the 1870's significant progress has been made in reducing the
19 application of per acre irrigation rates and thus the use of ground water—from flood to furrow to
20 dragline sprinklers to solid-set microsprinklers and drip lines. There is no question that the Ojai
21 groundwater basin is in better shape now than it was in 1950, thanks in no small part to farmers
22 conserving this precious resource.

23 Friend's makes this Initial Disclosure based on the information currently available to it.
24 Friend's will amend this disclosure, if necessary, consistent with California Code of Civil
25 Procedure section 842(d) (1-3).

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1 Friend's is serving this Initial Disclosure electronically to all parties to the extent possible
2 pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure section 842(e).

3
4 DATED: June 14, 2021

MUSICK, PEELER & GARRETT LLP

5
6 By: 
7 Gregory J. Patterson

8 Attorneys for The Thacher School; Friend's
9 Ranches, Inc.; Topa Topa Ranch & Nursery, LLC;
10 Finch Farms, LLC; Red Mountain Land &
11 Farming, LLC; Thacher Creek Citrus, LLC; The
12 Finch Family Trust; James P. Finch; Robert Calder
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15 The Survivor's Trust Created Under Declaration
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17 Dated July 10, 1980; David Robert Hamm; Ojai
18 Oil Company; Ojai Valley School; Reeves
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VERIFICATION

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF VENTURA

I have read the foregoing **FRIEND'S RANCHES, INC.'S INITIAL DISCLOSURE** and know its contents.

I, Emily T. Ayala, as VP of FRIEND'S RANCHES, INC., am authorized to make this verification on behalf of all FRIEND'S RANCHES, INC. I am informed and believe, and on that ground allege, that the matters stated in the foregoing document are true.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on June 11, 2021 at Ojai, California.

Emily T. Ayala
Print Name of Signatory


Signature