1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	VARCO & ROSENBAUM ENVIRONMENTAL LAW GROUP LLP SUZANNE R. VARCO (Bar No. 163304) svarco@envirolawyer.com GRANT R. OLSSON (Bar No. 317583) golsson@envirolawyer.com 225 BROADWAY, SUITE 1900 SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101 TELEPHONE: 619-231-5858 FACSIMILE: 619-231-5853 ATTORNEYS FOR PETITIONERS DAVISSON ENTERPRISES, INC.	ELECTRONICALLY FILED Superior Court of California, County of San Diego  08/30/2019 at 12:30:59 PM Clerk of the Superior Court By Regina Chanez, Deputy Clerk  37-2019-00046002-CU-TT-CTL
9 10 11 12		E STATE OF CALIFORNIA ENTRAL COUNTY DIVISION
13 14 15 16 17 18 19	DAVISSON ENTERPRISES, INC.  PETITIONER,  v.  CITY OF SAN DIEGO; CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO; AND DOES 1-10,  RESPONDENTS.	CASE NO:  VERIFIED PETITION FOR WRIT OF  MANDATE AND COMPLAINT FOR  DECLARATORY AND INJUNCTIVE  RELIEF  CCP §§ 1085, 1094.5; PRC § 21000 et seq.;  Gov. Code § 65460 et seq.
<ul> <li>20</li> <li>21</li> <li>22</li> <li>23</li> <li>24</li> <li>25</li> <li>26</li> </ul>	CR OTAY CANYON RANCH ASSOCIATES, LLC; AND DOES 11-20, REAL PARTIES IN INTEREST.	
27 28	VERIFIED PETITION FOR WRIT OF MANDAT	l E AND COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY AND

INJUNCTIVE RELIEF

## INTRODUCTION

- 1. This action challenges the July 29, 2019 decision of the City of San Diego and its City Council (collectively, "City" or "Respondents") to approve the Otay Mesa Central Village Lumina Project No. 555609 ("Project") proposed by Real Party in Interest CR Otay Canyon Ranch Associates, LLC ("CR Associates" or "Real Party").
- 2. In approving the Project, the City violated several state and local laws, including the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"), Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq., the CEQA Guidelines, title 14 California Code of Regulations, section 15000 et seq., the California Planning and Zoning Law, Government Code section 65450 et seq, and the Central Village Specific Plan within the Otay Mesa Community Plan.
- 3. For these reasons, the City's approval of the Project and its reliance on an insufficient CEQA document constitutes an abuse of discretion and must be overturned.

## **PARTIES**

- 4. Petitioner Davisson Enterprises, Inc. ("Petitioner" or "Davisson") is a California corporation incorporated under the laws of the State of California, having its principal place of business in La Mesa, California.
- 5. Petitioner is the general partner of both the Clara Davisson Properties, L.P., and Hattie Davisson Properties, L.P. (collectively referred to herein as the "Davisson Limited Partnerships").
- 6. Petitioner participated extensively in the administrative process leading up to the City's approval of the Project. Petitioner and the Davisson Limited Partnerships are owners of real property within the Central Village Specific Plan area and have a significant stake in ensuring that the City enforces the requirements of CEQA and the Central Village Specific Plan.
- 7. Petitioner and other property owners and developers within the Central Village Specific Plan area have a direct and beneficial interest in the City's compliance with laws bearing upon the approval of the Project. These interests will be directly and adversely affected by the Project, which violates provisions of law as set forth in this Petitioner, and which would cause substantial harm to the natural environment and the quality of life in the surrounding

community. The maintenance and prosecution of this action will confer a substantial benefit on the public by protecting the public from environmental and other harms alleged herein.

- 8. Respondent City of San Diego is, and at all times herein mentioned was, a political subdivision of the State of California responsible for regulating and controlling land use within the City, including but not limited to implementing and complying with the provisions of the California Planning and Zoning Law, the City's General and Specific Plans, and CEQA. The City is the "lead agency" for purposes of Public Resources Code section 21067, with principal responsibility for conducting environmental review of proposed actions. The City has a duty to comply with CEQA and state law.
- 9. Petitioner is unaware of the true names and capacities of Respondents fictitiously named DOES 1 through 10 and sue such respondents by fictitious names. Petitioner is informed and believes, and on the basis of such information and belief, alleges the fictitiously named respondents are also responsible for the actions described in this Petition. When the true identities and capacities of these respondents have been determined, Petitioner will amend this Petition, with leave of the court if necessary, to insert such identities and capacities.
- 10. Petitioner is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Real Party in Interest CR Otay Canyon Ranch Associates, LLC is, and at all times herein mentioned was, the applicant for approval of the Project. CR Otay Canyon Ranch Associates, LLC is listed on the Notice of Determination for the Project as "Project Applicant" and is thus a real party in interest within the meaning of Public Resources Code section 21167.6.5. Petitioner is informed and believes, and thereon alleges that CR Otay Canyon Ranch Associates, LLC is a Delaware Limited Liability Company registered to do business in California with the California Secretary of State.
- through 20 and sues such real parties in interest by fictitious names. Petitioner is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that the fictitiously named real parties in interest are directly and materially affected by the actions described in this Petition. When the true identities and capacities of these real parties in interest have been determined, Petitioner will amend this Petition, with leave of the court if necessary, to insert such identities and capacities.

### JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 12. Petitioner realleges and incorporates by reference the preceding paragraphs in their entirety.
- 13. Pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure sections 526, 527, 1085, 1087, and 1094.5, and Public Resources Code sections 21168 and 21168.5, the San Diego County Superior Court has jurisdiction to issue and writ of mandate to set aside Respondents' decision to approve the Project.
- 14. Venue for this action properly lies in the Superior Court for the State of California in and for the County of San Diego because Respondents' main offices are located in and the actions complained of have occurred and will occur in the City and County of San Diego.
- 15. Petitioner has performed any and all conditions precedent to filing the instant action and has exhausted any and all available administrative remedies to the extent possible and required by law. Petitioner, on its own behalf, and as the general partner on behalf of the Davisson Limited Partnerships, submitted numerous objections to the City's approval of the Project and the City's inadequate analysis of the Project.
- Project. Respondents have a duty to comply with applicable state laws, including but not limited to CEQA, prior to undertaking the discretionary approvals at issue in this lawsuit. Petitioner possesses no effective remedy to challenge the approvals at issue in this action other than by means of this lawsuit.
- 17. On August 28, 2019, Petitioner complied with Public Resources Code section 21167.5 by emailing and mailing to Respondents a letter stating that Petitioner planned to file a Petition for Writ of Mandate seeking to invalidate Respondents' approval of the Project.

  Attached hereto as Exhibit A is a true and correct copy of this letter.
- 18. On August 30, 2019, Petitioner will comply with Public Resources Code section 21167.7 and Code of Civil Procedure section 388 by furnishing a copy of the Petition to the Attorney General of the State of California. Attached hereto as Exhibit B is a true and correct copy of the letter transmitting the Petition to the Attorney General.

- 19. Pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21167.6(b)(2), Petitioner elects to prepare the record of proceedings in this action. Concurrently with this Petition, Petitioner will file a notice of election to prepare the administrative record.
- 20. Petitioner has no plain, speedy, or adequate remedy in the course of ordinary law unless this Court grants the requested writ of mandate to require Respondents to set aside their approval of the Project. In the absence of such remedies, Respondents' approval will remain in effect in violation of State law, and Petitioner will be irreparably harmed. No money damages or legal remedy could adequately compensate Petitioner for that harm.

## STATEMENT OF FACTS

21. Petitioner realleges and incorporates by reference the preceding paragraphs in their entirety.

## The Environmental Impact Report for the Otay Mesa Community Plan Update

- 22. On March 11, 2014, the City Council adopted the Otay Mesa Community Plan Update, Resolution No. 308810 ("CPU"), to provide sustainable and equitable development opportunities for all properties within the 9,300-acre planning area.
- 23. On March 25, 2014, the City Council approved the Final Environmental Impact Report ("2014 FEIR") for the City of San Diego General Plan Amendment adopting the CPU and the Otay Mesa Public Facilities Financing Plan.
- 24. The 2014 FEIR is a Program Environmental Impact Report pursuant to Code of Regulations title 14 section 15168 which, by encompassing a series of actions that can be characterized as one large project, is meant to provide a more exhaustive consideration of effects and alternatives than a typical Environmental Impact Report for an individual action.
- 25. Under Code of Regulations title 14 section 15168, if a later activity would have effects that were not examined in the previously prepared program EIR, further environmental review is required.
- 26. The 2014 FEIR describes the expansion of the Otay Mesa Trunk Sewer ("OMTS") system, which provides wastewater service to the CPU area, to accommodate growth in the CPU area. (2014 FEIR § 5.14.1.2.)

- 27. The 2004 OMTS Master Plan and the 2009 Refinement and Phasing Report concluded that installation of several gravity mains would be required due to projected increased growth and increased wastewater flows associated with buildout of the CPU. (2014 FEIR § 5.14.4-1(b).)
- 28. The 2014 FEIR concluded that the improvements associated with the installation of the gravity mains, required in future phases to accommodate wastewater generation resulting from the buildout of the CPU area, would not result in significant new impacts to the environment. (2014 FEIR § 5.14.4.1(b).)
- 29. The Multi-Habitat Planning Area (MHPA) is the geographical area of the CPU within which the permanent Multiple Species Conservation Program ("MSCP") preserve will be assembled and managed for its biological resources. (2014 FEIR § 5.4.2.1(b).) Any encroachment in the MHPA is considered a significant impact to the preservation goals of the MSCP. (2014 FEIR § 5.4.3.2(a).)
- 30. The 2014 FEIR states that, because implementation of the CPU has the potential to result in impacts to energy supply due to the development that is anticipated to occur, impacts may need to be addressed in detail at the time specific projects are proposed. (2014 FEIR § 5.9.3.1.) Future projects would also be subject to review for measures that would further reduce energy consumption in conformance with existing regulations. (2014 FEIR § 5.9.3.1(b).)
- 31. The 2014 FIER finds that "[t]he combination of planned sustainable building techniques and energy efficiency practices would result in a decrease in energy requirements relative to the current energy code." (2014 FEIR § 5.9.3.1(b).) Based on this premise, the 2014 FEIR concluded that "impacts associated with energy use would be less than significant." (2014 FEIR § 5.9.3.2.)
- 32. The 2014 FEIR measures greenhouse gas ("GHG") emissions from four sources: vehicular traffic, energy use, water use, and solid waste disposal practices. (2014 FEIR § 5.18.1 1(b).) Specifically, the 2014 FEIR notes that GHG emissions would result from the energy used to supply, distribute, and treat water and wastewater as designed in the CPU. (2014 FEIR § 5.18.4 1(d).)

33. The 2014 FEIR explains that "[f]uture projects implemented in accordance with the CPU would be required as a condition of project approval to include GHG-reducing features identified in a project-specific analysis as well as demonstrating consistency with applicable GHG plans, policies, and regulations." (2014 FEIR § 5.18.3.4.) It explains further: "Because the CPU GHG emissions would fall short of the 28.3 percent reduction goal relative to BAU [(Business as Usual)], the cumulative GHG emissions generated from CPU buildout would be considered significant. Therefore, subsequent projects implemented in accordance with the CPU would be required to implement GHG-reducing features beyond those mandated under existing codes and regulations." (2014 FEIR 5.18.4.1(g).).

#### **Climate Action Plan**

- 34. On December 15, 2015, the City of San Diego adopted its Climate Action Plan ("CAP"), which calls for a 15 percent reduction in energy consumption from municipal facilities by 2020, and a 25 percent reduction by 2035.
- 35. The CAP is intended to serve as a plan for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions pursuant to Code of Regulations title 14 section 15183.5(b).
- 36. The CAP implementation is dependent on the future adoption of consistent ordinances, policies and programs, and attainment of reduction targets requires significant City and regional actions.

## The Central Village Specific Plan

- 37. On July 16, 2015, the City Council approved the most recent amendment (Resolution No. 309815) to the Otay Mesa Public Facilities Financing Plan ("PFFP"), which implements the General Plan and the Otay Mesa Community Plan by identifying the public facilities needed to serve the Otay Mesa community.
- 38. On April 4, 2017, the City Council adopted, pursuant to City of San Diego Land Development Code § 122.0107, the Central Village Specific Plan, Resolution No. 311019, Ordinance No. 20812 ("Specific Plan"), which designates a 229.2 acre site as a mixed use village located in the central portion of the City of San Diego's Otay Mesa Community. The Project is located within the site designated by the Specific Plan.

- 39. By its own language, "[t]he Central Village Specific Plan is a regulatory document that sets forth physical design standards and policies relative to land use designations; building intensity; landscaping; architectural character; vehicular and pedestrian circulation; and other infrastructure improvements such as water, wastewater, and drainage systems." (Specific Plan § 1.8.)
- 40. The Specific Plan also specifies that "[t]he Specific Plan provisions shall take precedence over the Land Development Code," but "[w]here the Specific Plan is silent on a topic, the Land Development Code requirements shall remain in force." (Specific Plan § 1.8.)
- 41. The Specific Plan states, broadly, that it "provides the essential link between the policies of the City of San Diego General Plan, Otay Mesa Community Plan, and the development expected in the Specific Plan area. By functioning as a regulatory document, the Central Village Specific Plan provides a means of implementing and detailing the City's General Plan and Otay Mesa Community Plan. In this regard, all future development plans and entitlement permits for development in the Central Village are required to be consistent with policies and design standards set forth in this document and with all applicable City regulations." (Specific Plan § 1.8.1.) Additionally, the Specific Plan is implemented by the PFFP "as it identifies the public facilities needed to comply with General Plan standards and the Otay Mesa Community Plan." (Specific Plan § 1.8.1.)
- 42. The Specific Plan's Infrastructure Element requires that "[s]ewer flows generated in the portions of the site located west of Cactus Road, as well as portions of Planning Areas 10 and 13, would be conveyed to a gravity main located underneath Cactus Road extending from Siempre Viva Road to just north of Street C." (Specific Plan § 2.6.1.2.) The area described encompasses the Project.
- 43. Gravity sewers, by relying solely on gravity to generate flow, require no energy and therefore do not emit greenhouse gases through their operation.
- 44. The Specific Plan's Infrastructure Element also notes that "sewer mains shall be installed at adequate depths to serve all planning areas within the Central Village." (Specific Plan § 2.6.1.2.)

- 45. The Specific Plan further states that, "[p]rior to approval of a Tentative Map or any other discretionary entitlement approval, a sewer study will be required to analyze its sewer basin and the contribution of others in the basin," and that "[t]he sewer study shall comply with the Public Utilities Department's Sewer Design Guide, latest edition." (Specific Plan § 2.6.1.2.)
- 46. The City of San Diego Public Utilities Department Sewer Design Guide, revised May 2015, allows for sewer mains to exceed 20 feet in depth "when adequate justification is provided" and upon "approval of the Wastewater Collection Division Senior Civil Engineer." (Sewer Design Guide § 1.3.1.3.)
- 47. The Specific Plan requires that "[a]ll water and sewer improvements needed to serve each development phase within the Central Village shall be in place and fully operational prior to the issuance of occupancy permits." (Specific Plan § 2.6.1.3.)
- 48. "Substantive Specific Plan modifications" modifications which do not meet the criteria of a "Minor Modification" require a "Formal Specific Plan Amendment" processed pursuant to Process 5, as established in San Diego Municipal Code Division 5, Article 2, Chapter 11, and requiring the review and approval of the City Council. (Specific Plan § 3,9.) The only "Minor Modifications" relating to sewer systems in the Specific Plan are the "[f]inal sizing and precise location of water, sewer, storm drainage, and other like infrastructure improvements." (Specific Plan § 3.8.)

#### The Project and Addendum

- 49. The Project proposes the development of a 93.4-acre site located in Otay Mesa, west of Cactus Road and north of Siempre Viva Road, to create up to 1,868 residential dwelling units, 62,525 square feet of commercial use, 6.3 acres of school or recreation use, 6.6 acres of parks, and 16.2 acres of public streets.
- 50. The Project includes an Addendum to the Otay Mesa Community Plan Update Program Environmental Impact Report No. 30330/304032 ("Addendum"), Tentative Map No. 1972222, Neighborhood Development Permit No. 2106744, Site Development Permit No. 2287794, Public Right-of-Way Vacation No. 2103455, and a Multi-Habitat Planning Area Boundary Line Adjustment (collectively the "Project Approvals").

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- 51. The Project does not provide gravity feed sewer mains to serve all planning areas within the Central Village, as the Specific Plan requires, but instead proposes the construction of two sewer mains which each connect to existing Sewer Pump Station 23T.
- 52. The southern sewer main proposed by the Project would be located adjacent to the MSCP preserve area within a canyon made of nearly entirely steep hillside slopes protected under the City's Environmentally Sensitive Lands ordinance and at risk for impacts arising from leaks and flooding associated with pump station failures.
- 53. Without construction of a gravity-fed sewer system as part of the Project, it is reasonably foreseeable that the remaining properties in the Central Village will be required to either construct private sewer pump stations or raise the elevation of their properties to achieve the height necessary for a gravity sewer system as part of their development. Future property owners and developments in the Central Village would also be subject to increased costs which could require changes in land use patterns to offset those increased costs, as well as slowing or curtailing other developments in the Specific Plan area, worsening the existing housing shortage.
- 54. In contrast to gravity-fed sewers, pump stations result in increased GHG emissions due to their increased energy use during operation and construction.
- 55. Pump stations also create odor impacts, noise impacts, maintenance requirements, sewer spills, health and safety impacts and biological impacts arising from sewer spills, and risks of failure particularly due to power outages and, therefore, require back-up diesel generators, which in turn cause noise, air quality and GHG impacts.
- 56. The foreseeable necessity of other property owners to raise the elevation of their properties to provide for a gravity sewer system would require importation of significant amounts of soil which in turn creates construction noise, GHG emissions, drainage issues, traffic impacts, and air quality impacts. Additionally, such activity would create an inconsistency with the FEIR and the CPU plan which contemplate drainage from the currently existing topography, not the increased velocity and potential change in direction of surface flow that would arise from elevation changes.

- 57. On May 7, 2019, the City of San Diego Development Services Department submitted the Addendum, which found "no new significant impacts" for the Project and therefore determined that "[n]o new CEQA findings are required with this project." No public review or comment followed submission of the Addendum.
- 58. The Addendum fails to address the full scope of environmental impacts that will result from the City's failure to comply with the development restrictions in the Specific Plan.
- 59. The Addendum fails to address the environmental impacts associated with the Project's pump station-reliant sewer system instead of the mandated gravity flow system.
- 60. The Addendum fails to consider a gravity-fed sewer system as an alternative to the shallower pump station-reliant sewer system of the Project.
- 61. The Addendum fails to address the risks to the MSCP preserve created by the Project's pump station-reliant sewer system.
- 62. The Addendum fails to address the increased GHG emissions, air quality impacts, odor impacts, noise impacts, traffic impacts, construction impacts, drainage impacts, biological impacts, and health and safety impacts associated with the construction of the Project's pump station-reliant sewer system, the foreseeable future construction of private sewer pump stations, or raising of property elevations to incorporate the future construction of a gravity sewer main.
  - 63. On July 29, 2019, the City Council approved the Project.
- 64. A Notice of Determination for the Project approval was filed by the City on August 2, 2019.

## **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

#### **Violation of CEQA**

(Public Resources Code § 2100 et seq.; State & County CEQA Guidelines)

- 65. Petitioner realleges and incorporates by reference the preceding paragraphs in their entirety.
- 66. CEQA requires the lead agency for a project with the potential to cause significant environmental impacts to prepare an Environmental Impact Report ("EIR") that complies with the requirements of the statute, including, but not limited to, the requirement to

analyze the project's potentially significant environmental impacts. The EIR must provide sufficient environmental analysis such that the decision makers can intelligently consider environmental consequences when acting on the proposed project. Additionally, the EIR must identify feasible mitigation measures to reduce or avoid the project's significant environmental impacts, as well as analyze a reasonable range of alternatives to the project.

- 67. CEQA mandates that the lead agency must consider direct physical changes in the environment, as well as reasonably foreseeable indirect physical changes in the environment, which may be caused by the project.
- 68. An addendum to a previously certified EIR may be prepared and adopted only if minor technical changes or additions are necessary. For all other significant changes or effects not previously discussed, a subsequent EIR or a supplement to the EIR is required. Subsequent EIRs and supplements to EIRs must receive the same notice and public review as is given to a draft EIR.
- 69. The 2014 FEIR itself states that "[i]f the subsequent activities would have effects not analyzed in the [2014 FEIR], then further environmental review would be required pursuant to the CEQA Statues [sic] and Guidelines." (2014 FEIR p. 1-6.)
- 70. CEQA also mandates that the lead agency adopt all feasible mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid any of the project's significant environmental impacts. If any of the project's significant impacts cannot be mitigated to a less than significant level, then CEQA bars the lead agency from approving the project if a feasible alternative is available that would meet the project's objectives while avoiding or reducing its significant environmental impacts.
- 71. CEQA further mandates that a lead agency may approve a project that would have significant, unavoidable environmental impacts only if the agency finds that the project's benefits would outweigh its unavoidable impacts.
- 72. CEQA additionally mandates that an EIR consider the cumulative impacts of a proposed project and probable future projects.
- 73. Under CEQA, all the findings required for an agency's approval of a project must be legally adequate and supported by substantial evidence in the administrative record, and

INJUNCTIVE RELIEF

## **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

# Violation of the California Planning and Zoning Law

(Government Code § 65450 et seq.)

- 82. Petitioner realleges and incorporates by reference the preceding paragraphs in their entirety.
- 83. Under the California Planning and Zoning Law, no local public works project may be approved and no tentative map may be approved within an area covered by a specific plan unless it is consistent with the adopted specific plan.
- 84. The City is required to follow the law, including, but not limited to, the requirement that the City must not approve projects that are inconsistent with General Plan, CAP, CPU and/or Specific Plan policies.
- 85. The Specific Plan requires that "[s]ewer flows generated in the portions of the site located west of Cactus Road, as well as portions of Planning Areas 10 and 13, would be conveyed to a gravity main located underneath Cactus Road extending from Siempre Viva Road to just north of Street C." (Specific Plan § 2.6.1.2.) The area described encompasses the Project.
- 86. The Project does not include the construction of a gravity sewer main as the Specific Plan requires, but instead proposes the construction of two non-gravity sewer mains which each connect to existing Sewer Pump Station 23T.
- 87. An actual and immediate controversy has arisen and now exists regarding the legality of the City's action in approving the Project to proceed without construction of a gravity sewer main, thereby necessitating further construction of pump stations in the Central Village west of Cactus Road, when the Specific Plan specifically requires that sewer flows generated in the area west of Cactus Road be conveyed to a gravity main.
- 88. Additionally, the Project's proposed sewer system is a substantive modification to the Specific Plan and therefore requires a formal Process 5 Specific Plan Amendment.
- 89. The City violated the law by failing to approve a Specific Plan Amendment to address the Project's substantive modification to the Specific Plan.

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## PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Petitioner prays for judgment as follows:

- 1. Alternative and peremptory writs of mandate directing the City to vacate and set aside the Project Approvals;
- 2. Alternative and peremptory writs of mandate directing the City to comply with the requirements of CEQA and to take any other action as required by Public Resources Code Section 21168.9;
- 3. Alternative and peremptory writs of mandate directing the City to comply with the requirements of the General Plan, CAP, CPU and Specific Plan;
- 4. For a temporary stay, temporary restraining order, and preliminary and permanent injunctions restraining the City and Real Parties in Interest and their agents, servants, and employees, and all others acting in concert with the City on their behalf, from taking any action to implement the Project pending full compliance with the requirements of CEQA, the CEQA Guidelines, State law, and the Specific Plan;
- 5. For a declaration that the City's action in approving the Project without a gravity-fed sewer system is inconsistent with the Specific Plan, is an abuse of discretion, or otherwise fails to comply with law;
  - 6. For costs of the suit;
- 7. An order awarding Petitioner its attorneys' fees under Code of Civil Procedure section 1021.5, Government Code section 800, and other applicable authority; and
  - 8. For such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

DATE: AUGUST 30, 2019

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