MINUTE ITEM 24

W 24642 AD 162 Fossum Saggese

APPROVE A COMPROMISE TITLE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT REGARDING CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY IN THE CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH, ORANGE COUNTY, PURSUANT TO THE KAPILOFF LAND BANK ACT

Calendar Item 24 was presented by Curtis Fossum. This was an item that was before the Commission last July. At that time the Commission asked that it be put over for a period of time which would give opponents an opportunity to review the appraisal and comment upon it. Additionally, the opponents had filed suit challenging the project and had asked that the item be postponed pending completion of the litigation.

That litigation has now been resolved in the trial court and the Court of Appeal ruled in favor of the property owner and against the opponents. During that time the staff of the Commission conducted an additional analysis of the property, both with in-house experts as well as private consultants. The offer from Destiny II was increased to \$110,000. Nancy Saggese, of the Attorney General's Office, as well as SLC staff feels that this amount is equal to or greater than the value of the State's claim to the property.

Ms. Saggese also gave a brief history of the item advising it is the settlement of a claim on a public trust easement within a 1.7 acre parcel of land.

Barbara Devlin and Marilyn Willsie of the Huntington Harbor Homeowner's Association spoke in opposition to the project. Ms. Devlin presented various documents to be put into the record.

Patricia Snyder, the attorney representing Destiny II, and Jon Coultrup, owner of Destiny II, spoke in support of the project.

After a lengthy discussion it was voted to approve the compromise title settlement agreement regarding certain real property in the City of Huntington Beach, Orange County, pursuant to the Kapiloff Land Bank Act.

Approved 3-0

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Barbara Devlin 17156 Edgewater Lane Huntington Beach, CA 92649

(714) 846-3771

February 8, 1992

Gray Davis, State Controller, Chairman Leo T. McCarthy, Lieutenant Governor, Commissioner Thomas W. Hayes, Director of Finance, Commissioner

Re: Destiny II Development

Gentlemen:

I am appealing to you today not to give up this Land Trust Easement on the Destiny II development in Huntington Beach for \$110,000.00. This was supposed to be open space from day one, limited to uses for navigation, fishing and marina. Mr. Ahadpour, the owner of the land from 1980 to 1990 had knowledge from the day he bought the property that there was a Land Trust Easement on the property. According to deed transactions the sale to Mr. Coultrup occured the day after the Coastal Commission turned down my appeal March 16, 1990. Mr. Ahadpour was still the owner until then and they hid from anyone the knowledge of the 1980 letter mentioned in Deputy Robert Collins letter and Mr. Ahadpour know that the 1985 letter did not address the issues.

The whole flaw in the Staff report is that the Staff Report is merely looking at this as an unfortunate problem, and honest mistake, and that they are trying hard to do justice and provide equity. Its understandable that you didn't have all the facts about all of the lies, fraud & deceit the developers committed.

On page 5, Item D states "The parties have a Good Faith and Bona Fide dispute as to their respective interest and claims within the subject property." How can this be true if there is FRAUD involved as the Attorney General indicated and as we now know based on the January 1980 Letter to Virtue and Scheck.

Well, it is NOT an honest mistake--it is out and out Fraud ab Initio.

Just ask Deputy Attorney General Collins, just read his report--I have brought copies with me if you haven't seen it, --just look at the knowledge that Mr. Ahadpour had at the very beginning and his underhanded and fraudulent power play. They just can't throw themselves at your mercy now and ask for Anything! They should be estopped from asking for or getting AN YTHING!

Marily Willsie, who is with me today, called the State Lands Commission and was told by an employee that if Mr. Ahadpour or Mr. Coultrup had asked in advance for the Land Trust Easement to be lifted it would have been denied them.

On page 7 of Attorney Collins letter, in the last paragraph he states "Moreover it is inconceivable that the title companies were unaware of the existence of the public trust easement over the subject property. Given my experience with title companies; also believe that Destiny II developer and its predecessors in interest including Coultrup and Mr. Ahadpour were aware of the easement claims."

There have been nothing but lies, de eit, fraud and cover-up on this project I will start with Mr. Ahadpour and how the question of fraud, deceit or concealment applies to Mr. Ahadpour, the original owner. On page 6, Attorney Collins says he found in the files a letter dated January 28, 1980 stating "This is to advise you that the area of concern shown on your map is within tide land location 221 patented by the State on January 6, 1903." Attorney Collins called us when he discovered the letter (attached to a legal style brief attached hereto as Exhibit D). This letter was to the law firm of Virtue and Scheck in Newport Beach, CA. in answer to a letter from Attorney Scott McConnel (also attached as Exhibit C). Mr. Collins told us that he tried to contact the law firm of Virtue and Scheck but the firm no longer exists. He then said he called Mr. McConnell and was told that Attorney McGrnnell had no idea why he wrote the letter, that it was either for a client or an attorney in the firm but after ten years he really had no idea. Attorney Collins then asked us if we could find any relationship that might have existed between Mr. Ahadpour and/or the Huntington Harbour Beach Club and the Law Firm of Virtue and Scheck. We went to Orange County Superior Court and we researched the files. Lo and behold. We discovered that an Attorney from the law firm of Virtue and Scheck, Tim Paone (who was a Planning Commissioner for the City of Huntington Beach and who stepped down from the planning board specifically to continue representing the Huntington Harbour Beach Club and Marina) was representing Huntington Harbour Beach Club and Marina in a lawsuit filed in December 1979 (Orange County Superior Court No. 32 62 76. One of the allegations in this lawsuit was that this property was on State Tidelands (See page 17 from Lawsuit, Exhibit E in legal style brief). In my opinion it is obvious that the allegation was the reason that Virtue and Scheck wrote the January 18, 1990 letter to the State Lands Commission. So from January 28, 1990 Mr. Tim Paone of the law firm of Virtue and Scheck knew about the Land Trust Easement on the property. In August of 1980 Mr. Ahadpour purchased the property and the lawsuit continued with Mr. Ahadpour continuing using Mr. Paone as his attorney until June of 1981.

I prepared a legal style brief proving knowledge to Attorney is Knowledge to the Clinnt. This is a Conclusive Rule of Law! I presented this legal style brief to the City of Huntington Beach on February 6, 1992.

On November 4, 1991 I appeared before the City Council of Huntington Beach and read them part of Attorney Collins letter. The whole council was stunned when I read execerpts from the letter. The City Manager said that I and the Attorney General had made serious accusations and that the City would have to study them and get back to me and have a conference about the issues we raised. To date I have not heard one word from the City! So since the City Attorney was not interested in doing any work on this matter. (and I am not a lawyer) I decided to do the work for the City Attorney and research Agency.

Attorney Collins claimed that he believed that Destiny II, Coultrup and Mr. Ahadpour were aware of the easement claims. I felt then and feel that the Attorney Collins was indicating that FRAUD had been committed in this matter. Fraud to me is when one knows about something and tries to deceive you-that's what most people would claim as fraud. But I also looked it up in the dictionary. The definition of FRAUD according to Funck & Wagnalls New Comprehensive International Dictionary of the English Language (1973): (1.) Deception in order to gain by another's loss...(4.) Law: Any artifice or deception practiced to cheat, deceive, or circumvent another to his injury..." Synonymns: artifice cheat, cheating, deceive, deception, dishonesty, duplicity, imposition, imposture, swindle, swindling, treachery, treason, trick. A fraud is an act of deliberate deception with the design of securing something by taking unfair advantage of CALENDAR FACE.

As I mentioned before, I prepared a legal style brief for the City Council showing that Mr. Ahadpour knew from the day he purchased the property that there was a land trust easement on the property because his attorney and agent Mr. Tim Paone of Virtue and Scheck knew it. This is a conclusive rule of law; it actually does not matter even if Mr. Paone did or did not tell Mr. Ahadpour about it. And to my knowledge, Mr. Ahadpour has not made any denials that hi attorney actually did not inform him that I know about.

Attorney Collins also accuses Chicago Title of knowing about this land trust easement and even goes on to mention that "former SLC employees Don Davidson and James Dorsey who are now working with the title companies were aware of this."

I have an article from the Orange County Register dated 11-2-91 stating that 14 homes were built on land set aside as public domain, five years ago. County officials and the developer point the finger at Chicago Title Ins. Co. How many times has Chicago Title uone this and they weren't caught, you and the citizens weren't vigilant. It was the citizens who caught this and making them pay only \$110,000 is letting them get away with a mere slap on the wrist paying "a mere pittance for what they could not have obtained before had they even tried.

If they' had been lucky they would have gotten away without our finding out. Now that you've found out are you going to let them get away with what you would not even let them get away with in the beginning if you knew. But they knew, they knew all along that they could not build if they asked so why not go ahead and maybe no one will notice the mistake and they can get by with fraud again or if they get caught maybe they'll be luck enough to find a tender-hearted person that'll slap their wrists and make them pay only \$110,000 for what they could not have gotten away with for any amount of money if they had been honest in the beginning. Obviously there was no incentive for them not to try, and, of course, if they get away with it, there's no incentive for them not to do the same thing all over again. Clearly they have a pattern of doing this. This isn't the first time and it won't be the last time they do it, IF YOU LET THEM GET AWAY WITH IT--what company wouldn't want to pay \$110,000 to make a large profit on something that they knew in advance that they should not even start?

You will note in Attorney Collins letter on page 7 that in May of 1990 the State Lands staff sent another letter that rescinded the 1985 letter and Attorney Collins states "It is my understanding that Destiny II became aware of this 1990 letter after ground stabilization work at the property had been commenced but prior to above-ground construction."

So I guess that Destiny II decided head and build on it even though the law says we can't but we'll probably get away with it. Nobody will probably notice. The State has not the time or money and the little guys can be trampled upon and what citizen is going to find this out and use his or her time, money and effort to defeat us anyway. Hey, even if we lose we'll only have to pay a pittance and still make a fortune. They'll let us off the hook. I guarantee it."

The way I see it if you let them have it for this, then your're going along with it too.

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They have a problem now because they had knowledge from the very beginning and yet they went ahead and broke the law and they might well be on the stick to the developer for 5 to 7 million dollars and I'm sure that is what they are really interested in. That's the bottom line. They surely are not interested in you, me, the little people, or the State of California.

You have before you today a title insurance company who has a practice of not finding evidence of protected lands which benefit the public. You have an owner, Mr. Ahadpour, who knew from one that there was a tideland easement on this property and you have a developer, Mr. Goultrup who has lied to the Coasta Commission about the geological setbacks, inflating them from 25 feet to 142 feet, and having one edge of one building on the fault, who submitted papers from his geologist with a 10,000 year fossil dating error triting to take the project out of the Alquist Priolo Act, and a 43 foot surveying error which just happened to place the earthquake faults between the two buildings, when in reality, the fault goes under the corner of one building. The City now admits these errors. Mr. Coultrup even lied under penalty of perjury to the Dept. of Real Estate in stating that his project was not in a special studies zone and that no geological studies were done on the project.

Indeed, you <u>must</u> know the only reason that they are agreeing to pay you <u>anything</u> even now is because <u>we caught them</u> and found them out. (Knowing about the Land Trust Easement from the very beginning as they did you don't really think they'd ever have offered you <u>anything</u> at all unless they had to, do you?

DON'T LET them steal this land for a pittance just because we caught them with their hands in the "Cookie Jar"--our COOKIE JAR. It belongs to the Citizens of Huntington Beach and the entire State of California.!!

We have filed our appeal in the Supreme Court. Please do not make a decision now until we have exhausted our remedies in this matter. You OWE that to the citizens of Huntington Beach who have hired a lawyer and paid their own money to fight this in Court because you would not be getting a dime unless we citizens had spent our own money to fight this Fraud. Mr. Coultrup and Mr. Ahadpour knew about all of these problems and they went ahead. Mr. Coultrup kept saying "I'm doing it at my own risk." Now he's really saying, oh take pity on me and get me off the hook. Don't reward him now for doing it "at his own risk."

Please fealize that we turned down \$150,000 from the Title Ins. Co and another \$100,000 from Mr. Coultrup for a total of \$250,000 just for ourselves alone because we are fighting on Principles. Please don't sell us Short.

I also want to mention here that Destingy II will ALSO be asking for a release of more state tidelands by this property. I have a copy of the April 12, 1984 Coastal Commission Report in which Commission Nutter on page B-3 asks "These greenbelts area that are provided in the schematic in the area where the buildings are not now proposed to go. Are those areas assured of remaining open space? Liz Fuchs answer is "Yes." Gentlemen, we do not want the release of any more State Tidelands Easement on any more of this property. We know that all of this land should be open space and we want the rest of the property to remain open space and to be used for "navigation, fishing and commerce" as promised on April 12, 1984. We want, indeed we demand, a guarantee of this from the State Lands Commission...you are supposed to represent us, the

citizens of the State of California, not just the title insurance co, or Mr. Ahadpour or the Japanese company, Destiny II, that bought the property from Mr. Coultrup. They are all culpable and charged with the knowledge by the Attorney General's office and if there is a wrong the Japanesec company, Destiny II can sue Coultrup and Ahadpour for fraud and the State Lands Commission shouthot be releasing this state lands easement and thereby rewarding Ahadpour, Coultrup and Destin y II at the expense of the state.

I suggest that you request a formal opinion from the Attorney General's as to whether the State would have liability if it maintained its public trust a formal opinion from the Attorney General's office easement and 2. whether the State can require the developer to compensate the State fully for its violation of the public trust easement.

I would also like to know what is the value of the property. Attorney Collins claimed \$6,000,000 and I feel that \$110,000 is not at all related to a \$6,000,000 valuation. It was \$6,000,000 for its use for condos and \$4,000,000 for its use as a marina. In September the Staff justified \$60,000 just for a small part of the property. They felt only a small part of the property was tideland. That argument has been discarded and that changes the whole value of the property. I believe there is a \$2,000,000 difference. I would like this explained to me.

I am asking for at least a delay or a continuance while it is still before the State Supreme Court. Let the Supreme Court decide it. Please don't be premature and pull the rug out from under the Court. If we win the lawsuit and its remanded to the City for reconsideration the City will have a perfect right to insist that the developer get the proper letter from the State Lands Commission stating that the property does not have a land trust easement on it.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours, Barbara Devlin

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Barkara Pevlin 17156 Edgewater Lane Huntington Beach, (*A 92649

A LEGAL STYLE BRIEF REGARDING THE LEGAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FERYDOUN AHADPOUR, ATTORNEY TIM PAONE, AND THE LAW FIRM OF VIRTUE AND SCHECK AND THE KNOWLEDGE IMPUTED TO EACH THEREBY IN REGARD TO THE STATE TIDELANDS EASEMENT ON THE HUNTINGTON HARBOUR BEACH AND RACQUET CLUB AND ITS CONDOMINIUM DEVELOPMENT.

I.

LEGAL PROPOSITION:

THE ATTORNEY - CLIENT RELATIONSHIP IS ONE OF PRINCIPAL AND AGENCY.

FACTS:

Tim Faone of the firm of Virtue and Scheck was representing the Real Party in Interest, Huntington Harbour Beach Club and Marina in the case of Huntington Harbour Residents, et al vs. City of Huntington Beach, et al and Huntington Harbour Beach Club and Marina, Real Party in Interest, Case No 32 62 76 Orange County Superior Court See Filing dated Jan. 22, 1981 (Exhibit A, Attached Hereto.)

While the case was in the courts Mr. Ahadpour purchased the property on August 23, 1980 and continued to be represented by Tim Paone of Virtue and Scheck as his attorney at law. (Seè Filing dated Jan. 22, 1981 Exhibit A Attached Hereto).

The date of purchase of the Huntington Harbour Beach Club and Marina by Ferydoun Ahadpour was August 23, 1980. (See the Declaration of Ferydoun Ahadpour dated 12 April 1985 Attached Hereto as Exhibit B)

LEGAL CITATIONS:

California Civil Code Section 2332:

"s Notice to agent, when notice to principal.

As against a principal, both principal and agent are deemed to have notice of whatever either has notice of, and ought, in good faith and the exercise of ordinary care and diligence, to communicate to the other."

"The general rule that notice to an agent is imputed to the agent's principal applies to attorneys at law acting as their client's agents. The basis for this rule is the presumption which is conclusive when it arises, that the agent has fulfilled his or her duty to communicate to his or her principal all knowledge which he or she has with respect to the subject matter of the agency... Thus ordinarily a person is held to to know what his or her attorney knows and should communicate to him or her... Letters sent to the attorney must be regarded as sent to the client ... Similarly, knowledge of defects of titled acquired by an attorney during negotiations for the purchase of land for his or her client is constructive notice to the client." (7 Cal. Jur. 3rd, Attorneys at Law, Section 101)

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"(4) The general rule of agency is that notice to or knowledge possessed by an agent is imputable to the principal (Civ. Code, g2332; see Freeman v. Superior Court, 44 Cal 2d 533, 537-538 (282 p. 2d 857); Rest., Agency § § 9, 272-282) "Chapman College v. Wagener (1955) 45 C. 2d. 796, 802; 291 P. 2d 445.

"(5) This rule ordinarily applies in the relation of an attorney and client." (Lazzarevich v. Lazzarevich, 39 Cal. 2d 48, 50 (244 P. 2d 1); see Freeman v. Superior Court. 44 Cal. 2d 533-538 (282 P. 2d 857); 4 A. L. R. 1592.)" Chapman College v. Wagener (1955)45 C. 2d. 796, 802; 291 P. 2d 445.

CONCLUSIONS:

THE PRINCIPAL IN THIS CASE IS FERYDOUN AHADPOUR AND THE AGENT WAS HIS ATTORNEY, TIM PAONE, CO-COUNSEL WITH THE LAW FIRM OF VIRTUE AND SCHECK

THE ATTORNEY-CLIENT (PRINCIPAL-AGENT) RELATIONSHIP WAS INITIATED AT LEAST ON AUGUST 23, 1980 (AS PROVEN ABOVE) AND LASTED AT LEAST UNTIL JUNE 1981

II

LEGAL PROPOSITION:

KNOWLEDGE TO AN ATTORNEY IN A LAW FIRM IS ALSO IMPUTED TO CO-COUNSEL IN THE FIRM. THEY ARE CO-AGENTS AND CO-PRINCIPALS.

FACTS:

Attorney Tim Paone was representing Huntington Harbour Beach Club and Marina (See Exhibit A, Attached Hereto) and on January 18, 1980 Attorney Scott McConnell of the firm of Virtue and Scheck wrote a letter to the State Lands Commission (See Exhibit C, Attached Hereto) asking if the land was "subject to the state tidelands trust."

On January 28, 1980 the State Lands Commission wrote to Attorney McConnell of Virtue and Scheck "This is to advise the area of concern shown on your map is within tide land location 221 patented by the State on January 6, 1903." (See Exhibit D, Attached Hereto.)

"A junior attorney member of the firm of Virtue and Scheck wrote the letter to the State and they are considered and conclusively presumed under the law to be co-counsel and co-agents in this matter. (Cf. Infra on "Legal Citations.".)

(The Plaintiffs in the case have been making the allegation all along that the land in question was tidelands. See Page 17 of the Original Complaint Attached Hereto as Exhibit E.)

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LEGAL CITATIONS:

"Notice to one of two or more joint agents is notice to all.
(Wade on Law of Notice, sec, 681; Fulton Bank v. New York etc.
Canal Co., 4 Paige, 127; North River Bank v. Aymar, 3 Hill, 262;
Bank of United States v. Davis, 2 Hill 451; National Security Bank
v. Cushman, 121 Mass. 490.) Like other copartners, each is at the same same time a principal and an agent for all the others." Wittenbrock v.
Parker (1894) 102 Cal 93, 100.

"An attorney is an agent for his client within the scope of his employment, and two or more attorneys practicing together as copartners are joint agents as to the business transacted for their clients as such copartners," Wittenbrock v. Parker (1894) 102 Cal 93, 99, 100.

CONCLUSION:

ATTORNEY TIM PAONE WAS CO-COUNSEL IN THE LAW FIRM OF VIRTUE AND SCHECK AND HANDLING A COURT CASE INVOLVING THE HUNTINGTON HARBOUR BEACH CLUB AND MARINA AND THEREFORE A LETTER TO VIRTUE AND SCHECK AND KNOWLEDGE TO IT RE THE STATE TO ELANDS EASEMENT ON THE HUNTINGTON HARBOUR BEACH CLUB AND MARINA WAS IMPUTED TO MR. PAONE AS CO-COUNSEL.

III

PROPOSTION:

THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE ATTORNEY IS IMPUTED TO HIS CLIENT. THIS IS A CONCLUSIVE RULE OF LAW, IT IS NOT A REBUTTABLE PRESUMPTION.

FACTS:

Attorney Tim Paone, who was representing Mr. Ahadpour, had in his possession a letter from the State Lands Commission stating "This is to advise the area of concern shown on your map is within tide land location 221 patented by the State of January 6, 1903." (See Exhibit D Attached Hereto.)

LEGAL CITATIONS:

"Is 101. Imputation to client of attorney's knowledge

The general rule that notice to an agent is imputed.

The general rule that notice to an agent is imputed to the agent's principal applies to attorneys at law acting as their clients' agents. The basis for this rule is the presumption, which is conclusive when it arises, that the agent has fulfilled his or her dutyto communicate to his or her principal all knowledge which he or she has with respect to the subject matter of the agency. The fact that the knowledge or notice of the agent was not communicated to the principal does not affect the operation of the general rule, since all that is necessary to charge the principal with constructive notice is that the agent obtain the knowledge while acting in the scope of his or her employment. Thus, ordinarily a person is held to know what his or her attorney knows and should communicate to him or her. " 7 Cal Jur 3d (Rev) Attorneys a Law Sec 101,

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LEGAL CITATIONS:

- "(6) An agent's knowledge ... is imputed to his principal.
 (Blair v. Wessinger, 39 Cal. App. 269, 273 (178 P. 545);
 Preleski v. Farganiasz, 97 Conn. 345 (116 A. 593, 595);
 Baruch v. Bucklet, 167 App. Div. 113 (151 N. Y. S. 853, 855);
 Shrader v. Porter, 210 Ky. 429(276 S. W. 115); Harding v.
 Home Inv. & Sav. Co., 49 Idaho 64 (286 P. 920, 922, 297 P.
 1101); Klundt v. Sands, 54 S. D. 421 (223 N. W. 338.)" Columbia
 Pictures Corp. v. DeToth, (1948) 87 C. A. 2d 620, 630, 631.
- "(7) This rule of law is not a rebuttable presumption. It is not a presumption at all. It is a rule which charges the principal with the knowledge possessed by his agent. (2 Am. Jur. § 369, p. 289; anno. 4. A.L.R. 1592, 38 A.L.R. 821.)"
 Columbia Pictures Corp. v. DeToth, (1948) 87 C.A. 2d 620, 631; 197 P. 2d 580.
- "(11) The rule rests on the premise that the agent has acquired knowledge which it was his duty to communicate to his principal, and the presumption is that he has performed that duty. (Ibid.: Lazzarevich v. Lazzarevich, 39 Cal. 2d 48, 50 (244 P. 2d 1).) (12) While under our law the presumption is deemed conclusive for the purposes of civil actions (Wittenbrock v. Parker, 102 Cal. 93, 104 (36P. 374, 41 Am. Sz. Rep. 172, 24 L.R.A. 197)" Freeman v. Superior Court (1955)44 C. 2d 539, 538; 282 P. 2d 872).

"As stated above, notice to an agent in course of a transaction is constructive notice to the principal, and it will not avail the latter to show that the agent failed to communicate to him what he was told. (Williamson v. Brown, 15 N. Y. 359.) This constructive notice, when it exists, is irrebutable. It is not merely prima facie evidence, for then it could be rebutted.

It is conclusive against the truth of the fact, as said by Gibson, J. in Weidler v. Farmers Bank, 11 Serg. & R. 134: "Constructive notice is not primafacie evidence of actual knowledge of the fact; the presumption of notice, if it arises at all, being conclusive even against the truth of the fact." Watson v. Sutro. (1890) 86 C 500, 523.

CONCLUSION:

MR AHADPOUR'S ATTORNEY AND AGENT, TIM PAONE KNEW THAT THE HUNTINGTON HARBOUR BEACH CLUB AND MARINA HAD A STATE TIDELANDS EASEMENT ON IT, THEREFORE MR. AHADPOUR KNEW THAT THE HUNTINGTON HARBOUR BEACH CLUB AND MARINA HAD A STATE TIDELANDS EASEMENT ON IT.

LEGAL PROPOSITION:

THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE ATTORNEY IS IMPUTED TO THE CLIENT EVEN IF HE DIDN'T ACTUALLY GIVE IT TO THE CLIENT.

FACTS:

Attorney Tim Paone of the law firm of Virtue and Scheck had been representing Mr. Ahadpour in Case No. 32 62 76 Orange County Superior Court Huntington Harbour Residents, et al., v City of Huntington Beach, et al. as Attorney for Real Party in Interest, Huntington Harbour Beach Club and Marina since Mr. Ahadpour purchased the property on August 23, 1980. (See Exhibits A and B Attached Hereto).

LEGAL CITATIONS:

"g 101. Imputation to client of attorney's knowledge The general rule that notice to an agent is imputed to the agent's principal applies to attorneys at law acting as their client's agents. (28. Hunter v. Watson(1859)12 C 363; Bierce v Red Bluff Hotel Co. (1866) 31 C 160; Donald v Beals (1881) 57 C 399; Watson v Sutro (1890) 86 C 500, 25 P 64; Wittenbrock v Parker (1894) 102 C 93, 36 P 374; Otis v Zeiss (1917) 175 C 192, 165 P 524; Rauer v Hertweck (1917) 175 C 278; 165 P 946; Bogart v George K. Porter Co. (1924) 193 C 197, 223 P 959, 31 ALR 1045; Estate of Rule(1944) 25 C2d 1, 152 P2d 1003, 155 ALR 1319 (disapproved on other grounds by Parsons v Bristol Development Co., 62 C2d 861, 44 Cal Rptr767, 402 P 2d 839) (applying rule to attorney for executors); Lazzarevich v Lazzar (1952) 39 C2d 48, 244 P2d 1; Freeman v Superior Court of San Diego County (1955) 44 C2d 533, 282 P 2d 857; Chapman College v Wagener (1955) 45 C 2d 796, 291 P 2d 445.) The basis for this rule is the presumption, which is conclusive when it arises, that the agent has fulfilled his or her duty to communicate to his or her principal all knowledge which he or she has with respect to the subject matterof the agency. The fact that the knowledge or notice of the agent was not communicated to the principal does not affect the operationof the general rule, since all that is necessary to charge the principal with constructive notice is that the agent obtain the knowledge while acting in the scope of his or her employment. Thus, ordinarily a person is held to know what his or her attorney knows and should communicate to him or her." 7 Cal Jur 3d (Rev) Attorneys At Law Section 101,

" 4. Imputed Notice

§ 8:56. Notice to an Agent--General Rule

The knowledge of an agent generally is imputed to the principal, and the principal is deemed to know all facts known by the agent. Since the agent has a duty to communicate to his principal all information received during the course and scope of his agency, it is presumed that the agent performed this duty even though the information was not actually transmitted to the principal.

(McKenney v Ellsworth (1913) 165 C 326, 329-331 P 75; Christic v Sherwood (1896) 113 C 526, 530-532, 45 P 820: Wittenbrock v

LEGAL ITATIONS Parker (1894) 102 C 93, 99-100, 36 P 374; Powell v Goldsmith (1984) 152 CA 3d 746, 750-751, 199 CR 554; Northern Natural Gas Co. v Superior Court (1976) 64 CA3d 983, 992, 134 CR 850; Columbia Pictures Corp. v DeToth (1948) 87 CA2d 620, 630, 197 P2d 580; Kelley v British Commercial Ins. Co. (1963) 221 CA2d 554, 557-560, 34 CR 564; Hanlon v Western Loan & Bldg Co. (1941) 46 CA 2d 580, 595-597, 116 P 2d 465; Atkinson v Foote (1919) 44 CA 149, 165-167, 186 P 831. In civil cases the presumption that the agent communicated his knowledge to his principal is conclusive. Freeman v Superior Court of San Diego County (1955) 44 C2d 533, 537, 282 P2d 857.) Real Estate Law 2d g 8:56

"(4) It is also well-settled law in this state that notice given to or possessed by an agent within the scope of his employment and in connection with and during his agency, is notice to the principal. (Sec. 2332, Civ.Code; Bogart v. George K. Porter Co., 193 Cal. 197 (31 A.L.R. 1045, 223Pac. 959); Waldeck v Hedden, 89 Cal. App. 485 (265 Pac. 340).) In the case of Shamlian v. Wells, 197 Cal. 716 (265 Pac. 340), it was held as follows: "The general rule is well settled that the knowledge of the agent in the course of his agency is the knowledge of the principal. (1 Cal. Jur. 846, and cases cited.) It rests on the assumption that the agent will communicate to his principal all information acquired in the course of his agency, and when the knowledge of the agent is ascertained the constructive notice to the principal is conclusive. (1 Cal. Jur. 853, and cases cited.)

In the case of Watson v. Sutro, 86 Cal. 500 (24 Pac. 176, 25 Pac. 64), it was held as follows: "Knowledge by notice to attorney or counsel or agent acquired during the negotiations for a purchase is constructive notice to their principal. If it were otherwise, it would cause great inconvenience and notice would be avoided in every case by employing agents. (See cases cited in 2 Lead. Cas. Eq., pt. 1, pp. 133, 134.) That notice to the principal has been held in this state ever since Connelly v. Peck, decided in 1856, and reported in 6 Cal. 348; followed in May v. Morell, 12 Cal. 91; Stanely v. Green, 12 Cal. 148; Hunter v. Watson, 12 Cal. 363 (73 m. Dec. 543). (See other cases referred to in Gear's California Index-Digest, 97.) Notice to counsel or attorney is constructive notice to client. (Bierce v. Red Bluff Co., 31 Cal. 161, decided in 1866 and Donald v. Beals, 57 Cal. 399.) All these cases in regard to an agent apply to an attorney or counsel; for they are a species of agent. Justice Bradley, in "The Distilled Spirits Case, 11 Wall. 367 (20 L. Ed. 16%), states the principle on which the rule rests: 'The general rule,' says the learned judge, 'that a principal is bound by the knowledge of his agent is based upon the principle of law that it is the agent's duty to communicate to his principal the knowledge which he has respecting the subject matter of the negotiations, and the presumption will be that he will perform that duty. It will be of no avail to the purchaser that the agent omitted to communicate what he ascertained to his principal. (Williamson v. Brown, 15 N. Y. 359.) In other words, one who acts through another will be presumed to know all that the agent learns during the transaction, whether it is actually communicated to him or not. There is no difference in ;this respect between actual and constructive notice;

LEGAL CITATIONS:

for if there were, an agent would be employed whenever it was convenient to remain in ignorance. (Bank of United States v. Davis, 2 Hill (N. Y.), 451-461.) Early v. Owens, 109 Cal. App. 490, 494, 495.

"Notice to Either Principal or Agent Imputed to Both. As a gainst a principal, both principal and agent are deemed to have notice of whatever either has notice of, and ought in good faith and the exercise of ordinary care and diligence to communicate to the other (CC g 2332).

"Principal Chargeable with and Bound by Knowledge of or Notice to Agent. A principal is chargeable with, and is bound by the knowledge of, or notice to his or her agent received while the agent is acting within the scope of his or her authority and in reference to a matter over which the authority extends (Trane Co. v Gilbert (1968) 267 Cal App2d 720, 727, 73 Cal Rptr 279; Columbia Pictures Corp. v DeToth (1948) 87 Cal App2d 620, 630, 197 P 2d 580).

"Knowledge or Notice Imputed Although No Actual Communication. The fact that an agent may or may not have reported information to the principal is immateria! when the agent was acting in the course of his or her employment and the information was acquired by the agent in the transaction of the principal's business." (Trane Co. v Gilbert (1968) 267 Cal App2d 720, 727, 73 Cal Rptr 279).

"The facts constituting knowledge, or want of it, on the part of the agent are proper subjects of proof, and are to be ascertained by testimony as in other cases, but, when ascertained, the constructive notice thereof to the principal is conclusive, and cannot be rebutted by showing that the agent did not in fact impart the information so required. (Watson v. Sutro, 86 Cal. 500.) "Wittenbrock v Parker (1894) 102 C 93, 36 P 374, 101, 102

"s 8:56. Notice to an Agent--General Rule Page 378, footnote 19.

In an action against the principal, both principal and agent are deemed to have notice of whatever either has notice of and ought in good faith and in the exercise of ordinary care and diligence to communicate to the other. CC § 2332 GHK Associates v Mayer Group, Inc. (1990) 224 CA3d 856, 881 fn 3, 274 CR 168. California Real Estate 2d § 8:56, 46.

CONCLUSION:

MR. AHADPOUR HAD KNOWLEDGE FROM HIS ATTORNEY,
MR. PAONE, THAT THE HUNTINGTON HARBOUR BEACH
CLUB AND MARINA PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT HAD A STATE
TIDELANDS EASEMENT--EVEN IF MR. PAONE DID NOT
ACTUALLY INFORM MR. AHADPOUR OF THIS (AND TO MY
KNOWLEDGE MR. AHADPOUR IS NOT EVEN CLAIMING THAT
HIS ATTORNEY, MR. PAONE, DID NOT ACTUALLY SO
INFORM HIM.)

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LEGAL PROPOSITION:

THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE ATTORNEY IS IMPUTABLE TO THE CLIENT EVEN IF THE ATTORNEY OBTAINED THE KNOWLEDGE BEFORE HE STARTED WORKING FOR THE CLIENT... IF HE HAD IT IN HIS MIND AND IF THE KNOWLEDGE WAS IMPORTANT TO THE CLIENT.

FACTS:

Attorney Tim Paone obtained the knowledge that there was a land Trust Easement on this property on January 28, 1980 while he was working on the case of Huntington Harbour Residents, et al vs. City of Huntington Beach, et al and Huntington Harbour Beach Club and Marina, Orange County Superior Court Case No. 32 62 76 and he was representing the Real Party in Interest, Huntington Harbour Beach Club and Marina. (See Exhibit A, attached Hereto). Mr. Ahadpour bought the club on August 23, 1980, seven months after Mr. Paone received the information from the State Lands Commission and while he was still working on the above named case and Mr. Ahadpour continued using Mr. Paone as his attorney of record in this case. Mr. Ahadpour probably hired Mr. Paone when he kept him on as Attorney of Record after buying the Club. Obviously the knowledge of a Land Trust Easement limiting development to marina, commerce and navigation (and not allowing residential development) was important to Mr. Paone's client, Mr. Ahadpour. (It was obviously Vital Information for Mr. Ahadpour to have before Mr. Ahadpour would want to begin a Multimillion Dollar construction project!)

LEGAL CITATIONS: "4. (§ 103) Knowledge of Agent Priot to Employment.

To be imputable, the knowledge or notice must ordinarily be acquired by the agent after the creation of the agency, for until he becomes an agent he is under no obligation to communicate any information to the principal, and the presumption that he will do so fails. .. knowledge acquired prior to the employment or in prior transactions may be imputed, it it is shown that, because of the close connection of the transactions, such knowledge was present in the mind of the agent at the time he acted for the principal. (Cook v. Mesmer (1912) 164 C. 332, 338, 128 P. 917; Wittenbrock v. Parker (1894) 102 C. 93, 102, 36 P. 374; Columbia Pictures Corp. v. DeToth 1948) 87 C. A. 2d 620, 631, 197 P. 2d 580; Eagle Indem. Co. v. Industrial Acc. Com. (1949) 92 C. A. 2d 222, 225, 206, P. 2d 877; see 3 Am. Jur. 2d, Agency g 287.) The Restatement broadly declares that it is ordinarily immaterial when the agent obtained the knowledge, the real issue being whether he has the knowledge in mind when it becomes relevant in his work for the principal. (Rest. 2d, Agency g g 276, 269; see also Rest. 2d, Agency a 281.)" Agency and Employment, 4 g 103, 100.

"...the principal's liability is based on the fact that his agent had relevant knowledge. Since the mind of the agent cannot be divided into compartments, the principal should be bound by whatever knowledge the agent has, irrespective of its source or time of acquisition, unless it is the kind of knowledge which the agent can properly disregard in the specific case because of having acquired it confidentially."

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LEGAL CITATIONS:

"g 269. Time When Notification Must be given.

To be effective as notice, a notification must be given to or by an agent during the time when the agent has power to affect his principal by giving or receiving such notification.

Comment: a. The principal may be affected by the knowledge which the agent acquired before the beginning of the agency relation (see g 276), and to the extent that a notification results in the agent's having knowledge, the principal is affected by it to the same extent as if the agent had obtained the information from other sources." Agency Second so 269

"Notice to an agent, notice to his principal.

The principle is elementary, that notice to an agent of facts arising from or connected with the subject matter of the agency, is constructive notice to the principal, where the notice comes to the agent while he is concerned for the principal and in the courseof the very transaction; and many authorities hold that the rule extends to cases where the notice was imparted to the agent so near before the transaction that he must be presumed to recollect it. (See Le Neve v. Le Neve, 1 Ves. Sr. 64; Lead. Cas. in Eq. Pt. 1, p. 106; Story on Agency, Sec. 140; Astor v. Wells, 4 Wheat. 466, Fuller v. Bennett, 2 are, 402; Sheldon v. Cox, 2 Eden, 224; Jackson v. Sharp, 9 Johns. 162; Reed's Appeal, 34 Penn. 207; Bracken v. Miller, 4 Watt & Serg. 102; Jackson v. Winslow, 9 Cow. 13; Jackson v. Leek, 19 Wend. 339; Willard Eq. 249; Bank U.S. v. Davis, 2 Hill, 461; Mech. Bank v. Seton, 1 Pet. 309.) "Bierce v. Red Bluff Hotel Co. (1866) 31 C. 160, 165.

""Knowledge possessed by an agent while he occupies that relation and is executing the authority conferred upon him as to matters within the scope of his authority, is notice to his principal, although such knowledge may have been acquired before the agency was created, if it appears that such knowledge was present in his mind at the time he acted for the principal."

(Cooke v. Mesmer, 164 Cal. 332, 228 (128 Pac. 917); Christie v. Sherwood, 113 Cal. 526 530 (45 Pac. 820).)" Bogart v. George K. Porter Co. (1924) 193 C 197, 210

"(8) While it is generally stated that before knowledge will be imputed, the agent must gain the knowledge in a transaction within the scope of his authority, that is neither a complete nor a correct statement of the rule. It is well-settled that the rule that notice to the agent is notice to the principal, extends to cases where the notice was imparted to the agent so near before the transaction in question that he must be presumed to recollect it. (Wittenbrook v. Parker, 102 Cal 93 136 Pac. 374, 24 L.R.A. 197); Bierce v. Red Bluff Hotel Co., 31 Cal. 160; Cooke v. Mesmer, 164 Cal. 332 (128 Pac. 917).)" Hanlon v. Western Loan & Bldg Co. (1941) 46 C.A. 2d 580, 596, 597

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LEGAL CITATIONS:

"Principal Charged with Agent's Knowledge Acquired Before Agency

The facts and procedural background of Columbia Pictures Corp. v DeToth (1948) 87 Cal App 2d 620, 197 P 2d 580, are discussed under Knowledge or Notice of Agent Imputed to Principal, supra. In De Toth, the court held that the fact that the agent not acquire his knowledge of the standard contract used by plaintiff during the course of the agency, but before the agency existed, did not affect the application of the rule (p 631). The court held that the principal is charged with knowledge that the agent acquires before the commencement of the relationship when that knowledge can reasonably be said to be present in the mind of the agent while acting for the principal (p 631).

CONCLUSIONS:

MR. AHADPOUR HAD KNOWLEDGE OF THE STATE TIDELANDS EASEMENT ON THE HUNTINGTON HARBOUR BEACH CLUB AND MARINA'S PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT EVEN IF MR. PAONE OBTAINED THE INFORMATION SOMETIME BEFORE HE OFFICIALLY BECAME MR. AHADPOUR'S ATTORNEY AND AGENT.

VI

LEGAL PROPOSITION:

MR. AHADPOUR WAS LEGALLY INVOLVED IN THE HUNTINGTON HARBOUR BAY AND RACQUET CLUB CONDOMINIUMS
DEVELOPMENT AS LATE AS 4.5/90 AS THE CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH"S FOUNDATION PERMIT No. 0046.74
WAS ISSUED TO OWNER: FERYDOUN AHADPOUR (See Exhibit F, Attached Hereto) AND BOTH MR. AHADPOUR AND HIS PREVIOUS ATTORNEY, MR. TIM PAONE, HAD KNOWLEDGE OF THIS STATE TIDELANDS EASEMENT AT THAT DATE.

FACTS:

Previous knowledge of the State Tidelands Easement on the Huntington Harbour Bay and Racquet Club Condominium Development was known to both Mr. A hadapour and his previous Attorney and Agent, Tim Paone for sometime. (See previous Legal Propositions, Citations and Conclusions.)

Mr. Ahadpour was actively involved in the construction of the Condominium Development Project in spite of his knowledge of the State Tidelands Easement as late as April 4, 1990 because the Foundation Permit No. 004674 shows Owner as Ferydoun Ahadpour and it is signed on 4-5-90 by initials which I assume are the initials of Mr. Ahadpour. (Photocopy attached hereto as Exhibit F).

CONCLUSION:

MR. AHADPOUR CAN NEITHER DISCLAIM KNOWLEDGE OR OR INVOLVEMENT IN THE HUNTINGTON HARBOUR BAY AND RACQUET CLUB CONDOMINIUMS DEVELOPMENT THE STATE TIDELANDS EASEMENT EVEN ASNUT PAGES 4/5/90.

ne, Addréss, and Telephone Number of Attornes/s) ther by of Court (Terk Oaly) TIM PAONE VIRTUE & SCHECK, INCORPORATED FILED 17 Corporate Plaza Drive P.O. Box 2950 Newport Beach, CA 92660 JAN221981 (714) 644-9030 LEE A BRAHCH, County Clerk ATYONNEY BAD # 69253 Dy Populy ATTORNEY FOR: Real-Party-in-Interest SUPERIOR-COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF ORANGE **BUNTINGTON HARBOUR RESIDENTS** et al., NATURE OF CASE (state fully): PLABURET(S) Declaratory and Injunctive Relief and Writ of Handate CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH, et al., COUNTER AT ISSUE MEMORANDUM (Rule 206, Calif. Rules of Comt) DETENDANT(S) Specify one or more of the following:

|X | Irial Setting Conference Required (Rule 2 'P(a)

Attainer for

[] Exempt Short Cause (Rule 207.1) - Set for trial only

Time estimated for trial: $\begin{bmatrix} \hat{\mathbf{g}} \end{bmatrix}$ (If more than 1 day, number of days) _______5 ____days BOTE: 3 here π 1 trial days [2] (If 5 hours or less, number of hours) _______ hours

Do you demand a Jury trial? 110 NOTE: No case will be set for trial as a short cause matter unless ALL PARTIES join in estimate of trial time of 5 hours or less. Rule 207.1 authorizes judge to declare mistrial if case is not completely fried within 5 hours Yes Code Section CCP 1062; Public Resource Code "1167.7% and 21168.3 Is this ense entitled to legal preference in setting? ALL ATTORNEYS OF RECORD OR PARTIES APPEARING IN PERSON ARE LISTED BELOWfindiente whether attorney for Plaintiff or Defendant) 151 CPHONE NAME ADDRESS 401 Civic Ctr. Dr. West (714)Jeffrey H. Oderman Attorney for Plaintills 835-2200 RUTAN & TUCKER Santa Ana, CA 92702 (714) P.O. Box 190 Gail Hutton Attomey for Defendant S Huntington Beach, CA 92648 536-5555 City Attorney (714)P.O. Box 2950 Meal Party Tim Paone Newport Beach, CA 92660 644-9030 in interest VIRTUE & SCHECK Attorney for Attorney, for Attomey for CALENDAR PAGE ..

[] Pretrial Confesence Requested (See Rule 208 before

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AND THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPER

EXHIBIT "A"

DECLARATION OF FERYDOUN ANADYOUR

- I, FERYDOUN AHADFOUR, hereby state:
- I am and at all times relevant hereto have been the majority stockholder in Huntington Harbour Beach Club and Marina doing business as Huntington Harbour Bay & Racquet Club (hereafter "Club"), a defendant in this case. Each fact set forth herein is personally known to me and I have first-hand knowledge of each such fact. If called as a witness, I could and would testify to each such fact under oath.
- On August 23, 1980, I purchased the Club from Byron 2. 11 Tarnutzer and Dennis French, who between them owned 100% of the 12 stock in Huntington Harbour Beach Club and Marina. Before the purchase I was shown the Conditions, Covenants and Restrictions ("CC&Rs) recorded in connection with the Club. Of particular interest to me was a provision in the CC&Rs which indicated that use of the Club as an athletic, social or recreational facility was mandated only until June 30, 1983. I also saw Tract Map 4880 before I purchased the Club. In particular, the language appearing on the first page of the Map showed me that the Club property could be used for both commercial and non-commercial uses. (Λ true and correct copy of Tract Map 4880 is attached hereto and 22 incorporated herein by reference as Exhibit "3").
 - 3. Based on my review of these two documents, I purchased the Club. My review of the Club financial records before I purchased the Club indicated that the Club had been unprofitable while operated as an athletic, social and recreational Club. In fact, the financial records of the Club revealed a loss of hundreds of thousands of dollars annually. I understood that the

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EXHIBIT "B"

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1 CC&Rs allowed different uses of Club property after June 1983, 2 and I felt that the development of the property for other uses 3 would produce revenue while at the same time allow continued 4 operation of the Club. I purchased the property relying on the 5 CC&Rs and would not have purchased the property if I were not 6 confident it could be developed. The Club was losing substantial 7 || sums of money and I was not about to throw my money away by in-8 vesting in a losing venture. (A true and correct copy of the 9 CC&Rs is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference as 10 Exhibit "2").

After purchasing the Club I began to develop plans 12 for developing portions of Club property. After years of going 13 through the approval process before both city and state govern-14 ments, we obtained approval from the Huntington Beach City Council 15 and the California Coastal Commission. Our plans contemplate 16 constructing 42 condominium units on portions of the parking lot 17 of the Club and on which commercial buildings (a marina office 18 and shower facility) presently exist and have existed for over a (True and correct copies of photographs of the Club 19 decade. 20 property as it currently exists and the proposed development plan 21 are attached hereto as Exhibit "1").

Ever since I purchased the Club I have been respon-23 sive to the residents' concerns. For example, when I took over 24 the Club, the previous owner had a plan to expand the boat slips 25 || in the marina. Residents who lived in the homes directly across 26 from the marina opposed this plan and filed a lawsuit, Case No. 27 32-62-76 in Orange County Superior Court. I decided not to pursue 28 this expansion in order to accommodate these residents' concerns-

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I I also worked with the members of the Huntington Harbour Property 2 Owners Association, Inc. ("HHPOA"), an organization of residents In Huntington Harbour to accommodate their concerns. That organization supports my proposed development on Club property and also supported my previous plan for 54 guest cottages. (A true and correct copy of a letter from the HHPOA to the mayor and City Council of Huntington Beach is attached as Exhibit "4").

Ever since I purchased the Club property in 1980, I have been unable to accomplish what I intended with respect to development of the property. I have attempted to build condominiums on the property and improve the Club facilities in order to operate the Club at a profit and maintain an asset for the entire Huntington Harbour community. The plaintiffs, none of whom own homes that are adjacent to the Club, have attempted to stop me every step of the way and have demonstrated a personal interest in preventing me from doing what I want with my own property. This lawsuit prevents me from obtaining a construction loan to begin the development.

I am losing money daily on the Club in interest 7. Interest payments for the loan on the Club total payments alone approximately \$24,000 a month.

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

Executed this /2 day of April, 1985, at Newport Beach, California.

S. aharlipoer

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EXHIBIT "B"

VIRTUE @ SCHECK

LAWYERS

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GERALD M SHAW
PAUL J SHETTLER
SUE J STOTT
BRUCE C STUART
JOHN VIRTUE
PAUL F WALDAU

January 18, 1980

California State Lands Commission Attn: Betty Louie 1807 13th Street Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Louie:

Bursuant to our telephone conversation of January 17, 1980, enclosed you will find a copy of the map of Tract No. 4880, a portion of Huntington Harbour. As I mentioned to you on the phone, we are interested in ascertaining whether or not the area shaded in red on page 2 of this map is subject to the state tidelands trust. It is my understanding that you will be able to determine this for us.

Please note that the pierhead line which forms one boundary of the shaded area and the boat slips contained in the shaded area have been sketched onto the map by me. Of course, the sketch is not completely accurate with respect to the number or size of the boat slips in the subject area or the exact location of the current plerhead line. Rather, the sketch is merely an attempt to show the orientation which the existing slips have to the shoreline and the approximate location of the pierhead line.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you very much for your help and cooperation in this matter.

very truly yours,

VIRTUE & SCHECK, INCORPORATED

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SM/vi

Enclosure

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EXHIBIT "C"

January 28, 1980

File Nef.: SD 80 1 22

Virtue and Scheck, Inc. P. O. Box 2950 : Hemport Beach, CA 92660

Attn: Mr. Scott McConnell

Dear Mr. McConnell:

In response to your letter of January 18, 1980, the State Lands Commission's staff has reviewed the area shaded in red on the map of Tract No. 4880.

This is to advise that the area of concern shown on your map is within tide land location 221 patented by the State on January 5, 1903.

I trust this information answers your questions.

Sincerely,

BETTY K. LOUIE Land Agent (916) 322-7823

Enclosure bee: D. Hadly

BKL/nyo

EXHIBIT "D"

CALENDAR PAGE 5555

Party In Interest applied for or the City of Huntington Beach purported to approve a variance from the City's parking requirements to permit such deficient parking, nor was any substantial evidence submitted to Defendant City Council which would have justified its approval of CUP 79-20 in the face of the deficient parking situation.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray for judgment as hereinafter set forth.

FIFTH CAUSE OF MCTION

(Violation of State/Tidelands Trust, Navigational Servitude)

- 32. Plaintiffs refer to and incorporate herein by this reference the allegations set forth in Paragraphs 1-14 of this pleading.
- 33. Real Party In Interest owns and operates a private club. The boat slips presently on the subject property and the additional 26 slips authorized to be constructed under CUP 79-20 are to be reserved for the private use of Real Party In Interest's members and guests. The general public has no right to use such boat slips.
- 34. Huntington Harbour, including the portion of the subject property where the existing boat slips and those authorized to be constructed under CUP 79-20 are located, is State tidelands, subject to the provisions of Article X, Section 4 of the California Constitution, which provides, in pertinent part, that "No individual partnership, or corporation, claiming or possessing the frontage or tidal lands of a harbor, bay, inlet, estuary, or other navigable

CALENDAR PAGE 570

CITY OF HUNTINGTON SEACH Stone Min St. HUNTINGTON BEACH, CA 92848

Nº 004674

Department of Community Development P.O. Dox 190 - Cal II Omna Pross [14] 578 5741

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DANIEL E. LUNGREN
Attorney General

State of California DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE



300 SOUTH SPRING STRIEET, 5th FLOOR -1.OS ANGELLIS, CA 90013 (213) 346-2000

(213) 346-2705

September 6, 1991

PATRICIA SNYDER, Esq. LEVINSON & LIEBERMAN, Inc. 9401 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1250 Beverly Hills, CA 90212

Re: Proposed Destiny II Settlement Agreement, Tract
No. 11881, Lots 2, 3, 4 and 5.

Dear Ms. Snyder:

As you are aware, I have been assigned to review the proposed Destiny II agreement. In doing so, I have investigated the facts you claim support such agreement, which are cited in your letter to Alan Scott dated April 18, 1991. I have also considered the points made in Jonathan Lehrer-Graiwer's letter of August 9, 1991, on behalf of certain homeowners who contend that the agreement should not be approved. Based upon this preliminary investigation it is my conclusion that I cannot at this time recommend approval of the agreement. The purpose of this letter is to set forth the reasons for my conclusion.

A. The Characterization of the Land.

You contend that the subject property was never tidelands. In support of this contention, you cite the report of James R. Dorsey, dated March 17, 1991, which concludes "since September 9, 1850, the subject property was not tidelands, as it last existed in a state of nature, nor has it been made tidelands by artificial means." My investigation of the facts, however, does not support this conclusion.

1. Tidelands Location No. 221.

As you recognize, the subject property was included within Tidelands Location No. 22) which was patented by the State to R. J. Northam on January 6, 1903. This tidelands patent was based upon a survey of tidelands (including the subject property) made by Los Angeles County Surveyor E. T. Wright in 1885 (This survey was originally filed as Tidelands Survey No. CALNDAR MAGE—County.) Destiny II obtained title to the subject property through series of conveyances which emanated from this tidelands patent. This being the case, and because Destiny II does not

PATRICIA SNYDER, Esq. September 6, 1991 Page 2

have title emanating from any other source, under California law Destiny II cannot contest the tideland character of the subject property. (Newcomb v. City of Newport Beach (1936) 7 Cal.2d 393, 398; Ord Land Co. v. Alamitos Land Co. (1926) 199 Cal.380, 384.)

You contend that there was "a technical error" made in the "State patenting process" and that the tidelands patent should have been a patent of swamp and overflowed ("S&O") lands. You further contend that the "Curative Acts" of 1872 solve Destiny II's title problem by somehow transforming the tidelands patent into an S&O patent. The bases of these contentions, however, are not clear. First of all, there is no legal basis to suggest that the Curative Acts of 1872 would resolve Destiny II's title problem even if the subject property could have been characterized as swamp and overflowed lands. Furthermore, the evidence strongly suggests that the subject property was not S&O lands but was, in fact, tidelands which the State owned in its sovereign capacity prior to the issuance of Tideland Location No. 221.

Because the subject property has never been identified as swamp and overflowed lands, or patented as such by the Federal Government, legal title could not have passed to Destiny II under the Arkansas Swamp Act. As is provided in Rogers' Locomotive Works v. Immigrant Co. (1896) 164 U.S. 559, referring to the Swamp Act:

"While therefore, as held in many cases the act of 1850 was in praesent!, and gave an inchoate title, the lands needed to be identified as lands that passed under the act; which being done, and not before, the title becomes perfect as of the date of the granting act. (Id. at p. 570; emphasis added.)

In another case where a claim was made similar to that being made by Destiny II, i.e., that by operation of law title has vested in Destiny II, the United States Supreme Court ruled as follows:

"But it is said on behalf of the levee District that, even though the lands were not included in the patent, they passed to the State under the Swamp-Land Act independently of any patent; and passed thence to the district under the state act of 1893. The contention is not tenable. The lands were never listed as swamp lands and their listing does not appear to have been even requested, doubtless because they were not surveyed. Assuming in fact they were swamp lands, the State's title under the Swamp-Land act was at most inchoate and never was perfected." (Chapman & Dewey v. St. Francis (1913) 232 U.S. 186, 198.)

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Thus, under the Arkansas Swamp Act, lands had to be formally identified as swamp and overflowed lands before title to them could pass. Once that occurred, the lands could be patented by the United States to the State (not to private parties); and the State could issue S&O patents to private parties. (Id. at p. 571.) Obviously, this process has not occurred in the present case; therefore, Destiny II has no title based upon the Swamp Act.

2. The 1873 USCGS and Other Relevant Surveys.

You contend that the 1873 USCGS topographic survey, T-1345, depicts the subject property as being salt marsh lying above the ordinary high water mark. (This, in fact, is the principal evidence cited by Mr. Dorsey for his conclusion.) Based upon my investigation, I believe that you are in error on this point.

You cite Shalowitz, <u>Shore and Sea Boundaries</u>, Vol II, as support for your assertion that the "dark line", at the edge of the marsh depicted on the 1873 survey, designates the line of mean high tide. This, however, is not what Shalowitz says. In fact, Shalowitz states:

"Unless there is some evidence on the survey, it must be assumed in the case of marsh that the high water line has not been determined". (Id. at p. 176.)

"In surveying such areas, the Bureau has not deemed necessary to determine the actual high water line but rather the outer or seaward edge of the marsh, which to the navigator would be the dividing line between land and water. Therefore, from the topographic survey alone, and in absence of any collaborating collateral information, no conclusion could be drawn as to the exact location of the high water line, nor as to the condition of the marsh area with reference to the tidal plane of high water; that is, whether the ground itself was above water, or whether only the marsh grass was above water and the ground below water at the time of high tide." (Id. at p. 177; emphasis added.)

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^{1.} Mr. Dorsey's report also cites four aerial photographs (from 1927 and 1939), copies of which are included as exhibits D1, D2, E1 and E2. Would you allow us to examine the actual photographs, as it is impossible to draw any conclusions from the copies due to their poor quality? Also, in this regard, how did Mr. Dorsey determine that the mean high tide line did not reach the subject property at the time of these photographs. Did Mr. Dorsey know the stage of the tide at that time? If so, please also submit that information to us.

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Page 4

My conclusion regarding the 1873 USGCS survey is confirmed by Noffatt & Nichol, Engineers, in their exhaustive 1971 report entitled, "Historic Tidelands Investigation Bolsa Ch a and Anaheim Bays." In this study, Moffatt & Nichol (whi was employed by a private owner) examined all of the various surveys and aerial photographs it could obtain. Moffatt & Nichol compared the edge of marsh line shown on the 1873 survey with 1962 marsh profiles in an area within the tidelands patent which was relatively unchanged between 1873 and 1962. This study confirmed Shalowitz's statement regarding marsh surveys and showed that, on the average, the edge of marsh was at an elevation some 2.5 feet below the elevation of mean high water.

Moffatt & Nichol concluded that the 1873 USGCS map did not show the line of mean high tide and further concluded that the last natural location of the mean high water line in the area in which the subject properly is located is best represented by the E. T. Wright tideland survey.

mon an aerial survey of Anaheim Bay, including the subject property, made in 1960 which shows the subject property to have an elevation of approximately 2 feet below mean high water. In addition, there are other maps which indicate that the subject property was below mean high tide (including a USGS map dated 1935, surveyed in 1932). Moreover, the tidal marsh, which the subject property at one time was a part of, still exists on the south side of the subject property and Warner Avenue. It is my, understanding that this marsh is connected to Huntington Harbor, by pipes and that this area fills with water at mean high tide. This is further tangible evidence that the subject property is legally tidelands.

B. 1961 Low Water Boundary Line and Land Exchange Agreements

You assert in your letter that those certain 1960 low water boundary line and land exchange agreements, between the State and Huntington Harbor Corporation, resolved the State's public trust easement claims to the tideland areas within the Huntington Harbor ownership. After reviewing those agreements and the related correspondence and documentation, I have concluded that there is no merit to this assertion.

Clearly the 1960 "Agreement Arbitrating and Stipulating Oldinary Low Water Mark and Interests in Real Property" related only to the State's fee title claims in the submerged lands below the ordinary low water mark. The agreement very simply sets forth the location of that low water mark; it makes no mention of any claims of the State to the tidelands above the agreed upon

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low water mark. Similarly, the 1960 "Agreement for the Exchange of Lands in the Sunset Beach Area, Orange County, California" relates only to the State's fee ownership claims to the submerged lands found to be below the ordinary low water mark as defined by the boundary line agreement. The agreement specifically describes, by metes and bonds, the submerged lands being exchanged and releases the same from the public trust easement for fishery, navigation and commerce. The agreement does not mention or in any way describe the tidelands, and certainly it does not release the tidelands area from the public trust easement. That these agreements on their face relate solely to the State's fee interest in the submerged lands and their boundaries is beyond reasonable doubt. Therefore, these agreements me not be construed to affect the public's interest in the tidelands above the low water mark. (See City of Long Beach v. Daugherty (1977) 75 Cal.App. 3d 972, 976-977).

In addition to the 1960 agreements being absolutely "Jear on their face, the extrinsic evidence relating to the negotiation of these agreement also makes it absolutely clear that they did not involve the tidelands easement. It is true that the attorney for Huntington Harbor Corporation, Robert B. Krueger, originally proposed that the agreements also provide for termination of the easement. In fact Mr. Krueger by letter of November 23, 1960, sent draft agreements to Mr. J. L. Shavelson, of the Attorney General's Office, which if implemented would have had this effect. Mr. Shavelson, however, rejected these proposed agreements and required that all of the language relating to termination of the tidelands easement be deleted. On December 1, 1960, Mr. Krueger wrote Mr. Shavelson a letter which described the changes in the draft agreements which the State requested on this point as follows:

"The patent from the State to Huntington will quitcleim only specifically described submerged lands to which the State now claim title and which would not be in the channel area; it will not quitclaim the State' candelands easement which may affect the remainder of the bootham lands."

Later in that letter Mr. Krueger argued that Mr. Shavelson should change his mind on this point and agree to recommend that the State terminate the easement; nowever, the letter also stated that if "you still believe after examining the matter further" that the changes "are necessary, Huntington Harbor will abide with your decision." Mr. Shavelson refused to change his position and on December 5, 1960, Mr. Krueger sent Mr. Shavelson new drafts of the proposed agreements which were revised as required by the State, deleting the easement release. These new drafts became the final agreement and were approved by the Commission later that month. Therefore, there can be no arguement that the extrinsic evidence supports any contention

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PATRICIA SNYDER, Esq. September 6, 1991 Page 6

that the agreements are susceptible to an interpretation that they were intended to terminate the public trust easement.

C. Equitable Estoppel

In your letter of April 18, you also claim that the State of California by its actions over the last 30 years is estopped to assert that the tidelands easement exists over the subject property. My investigation, however, of the facts which you chaim would create an estoppel against the State leads me to conclude that such a claim would not prevail if this matter was litigated.

Notwithstanding your claims to the contrary, it has been the long standing position of the State Lands Commission that the lands within Tidelands Location 221, except those which have been involved in title settlements, are subject to the public trust easement for navigation, commerce and fisheries. This position of the Commission and its staff is reflected in numerous correspondence and certain official actions of the Commission I specifically refer you to the 1973 Gulf Oil Corporation Boundary Settlement and Exchange Agreement (BLA 138) which involved another portion of the tidelands patent area which had been owned by Huntington Harbor Corporation. There the State made it quite clear that it believes that the public trust easement encompasses the entire tideland patent area. American and Ticor Title Companies were intimately aware of this agreement and the State's official position; therefore, they may not now claim the benefit of any equitable theory. A

I know of no instance where the Commission or its staff has indicated that the tidelands easement does not exist over the tidelands patent area. In fact, most of the correspondence which I have seen expressly states or implies that the easement does exist. (Note, my investigation of this point has not been completed.) For example, in 1980, an attorney wrote and inquired of the State Lands Commission as to whether property included within Tract 4880 (including the subject property) "is subject to the State tidelands trust." In response to that letter, the State Lands staff wrote:

on your map is within tideland location 221 patented by the State on January 6, 1903.

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^{2.} We also believe that former SLC employees, Don Davidson and James Dorsey, who now are working with the title companies were quite aware of this.

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"I trust this information answers your questions." "I

It is true that the 1985 letter which you cite stated: "Based on information available to us at this time the project does not appear to involve State land. Therefore a permit from the State Lands Commission would not be required." The term "State land", however, refers to State fee-owned land, without reference to the public trust easement. It has not been the practice of the State Lands Commission to issue leases or permits. over private fee lands which are subject to the public trust easement. Furthermore, this same letter stated that it was not intended to be a waiver of the State's right, title or interest in any lands owned by or under the jurisdiction of the State. This letter was written by a State employee without any study or formal action by the State Lands: Commission.

In May of 1990, the State Lands staff in another letter rescinded the 1985 letter and asserted the public trust exists, over the property. It is my understanding that Destiny II Decame aware of this 1990 latter after ground stabilization work at the property had been commenced but prior to above-ground construction.

Clearly, an employee of the State Lands Commission does not have the ability to estop the State of California, or the Commission, by simply sending a letter to a developer. (Particularly when the letter expressly does not waive any State interest.) Certainly any claims of estoppel must be based on the actions of the Commission, itself, particularly in view of the official action of the Commission in 1973 in conjunction with the Gulf Settlement where the public trust easement was asserted. (See County of Los Angeles v. Berk (1980) 26 Cal 3d 201, 221-222.) To allow the raising of estoppel to defeat the claim of public rights to the tidelands here involved would be manifestly contrary to the clearly enunciated policy in this State in favor of public access to shoreline areas.

Moreover, it is inconceivable that the title companies were unaware of the existence of the public trust easement over the subject property. Given my experience with title companies, I also believe that the Destiny II developer and its predecessors in interest, including Coultrup and Mr. Ahadpour were aware of the easement claims. Therefore, estoppel would not operate against these parties who bought with knowledge. (In order to help resolve this question, it would be helpful if you could send me copies of all of the relevant title insurance policies and all

3. Notes made by SLC staff in the file containing these letters also state: *Parcel is subject to publicate the

PATRICIA SNYDER, Esq. September 9, 1991 Page 8

related correspondence involving Destiny II, Coultrup, Ahadpour, the title companies and their agents.)

You argue that because residential development has been allowed to proceed in the Huntington Harbor area outside of the subject property, the State would be estoppel to assert the public trust easement over the subject property. I know of no legal theory by which alleged equities of other parties in other properties are automatically transferred to adjoining property owners.

You cite <u>City of Long Beach</u> v. <u>Mansell</u> (1970) 3 Cal.3d 462, as supporting your position. In that case the court found that an estoppel operated against the State's public trust claims to the "section 2(a) lands" which had been the subject of residential development for some 45 years. You should note, however, the court in <u>Mansell</u> did not find an estoppel operating against the state as to the "section 2(b) lands". (3 Cal.3d at p. 486.) These "2(b) lands", which were filled but undeveloped, were owned by developers who had entered into the McGrath-Macco Boundary Settlement and Exchange Agreement with the State so that they could clear title and then proceed with residential development. (3 Cal.2d at pp. 476-477.)

Destiny II's position in this case is much closer to the position of the owners of the "2(b) lands" in Mansell. The subject property had never been developed for residential purposes prior to the summer of 1990. Prior to 1963, it was completely undeveloped. In 1963 the property was filled and According to the original subdivision map (Tract 4880, dated November 1962) any structures on the subject property were to be used for "aquatic, recreational, fishing, boating, marina or harbor purposes" which were to be supportive of the adjoining public marina. And, in fact, between 1963 and 1990, the property was used for these purposes and principally as parking for the marina. Therefore, contrary to your assentions, ! there has never been a time prior to the summer of 1990 when the subject property has been subjected to uses which are violative of the State's rights under the public trust easement. Therefore, I do not believe that an estoppel argument under Mansell can be successfully sustained by your clients.

D. Exchange Value

Given the above factors, I do not believe that the proposed agreement can be justified under Public Resource Code section 56307 and the Kapiloff Land Bank Act. The idea of Kapiloff is to allow land exchanges under section 6307 when an exchange parcel is not immediately available. Implicit in applying Kapiloff is the notion that the exchange value could be objectively ascertained so that a relatively equivalent parcel could later

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be purchased. This, however, is not what it proposed in this case. Here the State has been offered some \$60,000 which is approximately 1% of the appraised vacant land value of the subject property. I do not believe that there is any property which would be equivalent in its public trust utility which could be obtained in the immediate vicinity of the subject property for \$60,000. Given the additional recently discovered information, \$60,000. Given the additional recently discovered information, a value substantially greater than \$60,000.

Finally, by this letter I do not mean to foreclose the possibility of recommending approval of an appropriate title settlement. It would seem that if an agreement cannot be reached as to the precise value of the public easement, perhaps an equivalent parcel (of at least an equal amount of acreage) could be found and exchanged in order to meet the requirements of section 6307.

It is my understanding that Curtis Fossum and I are scheduled to meet with you at my office on September 19 or 20, at 1:30 p.m. At that time we will show you some of the materials referred to above which support the position tal in in this letter. I look forward to meeting you.

Sincerely,

Robert G. Collins / it

ROBERT G. COLLINS
Deputy Attorney General

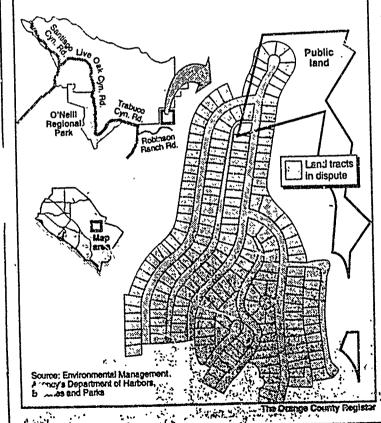
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cc: Curtis Foseum

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Homes on public land

Twenty-one houses worth up to \$260,000 apiece have been built on land designated as public land. County staff members will recommend the Board of Supervisors hand over the land to the developer, who they think has made an honest mistake. The developer, the William Lyon Co., calls the snafu merely "dolting the i's and crossing the t's." Meanwhile, people who have bought the homes do not have clear title to the property.



ENVIRONMENT

OC planners willing to give protected land to developer

By Danielle Herubin
The Orange County Register

Orange County planners will recommend to the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday that 3.35 acres of protected land be handed over to a developer who has built 21 homes on the property.

Fourteen of the Robinson Ranch homes have been sold, but because the Trabuco Canyon land was set aside as public domain five years ago, none of the new homeowners has clear title to the land.

"The i's weren't dotted and the t's weren't crossed," said Richard M. Sherman, counsel and senior vice president for the William Lyon Co., the developer.

County officials and the fleveloper point the finger at the Chicago Title insurance Co., which was
to ensure that all property was
free from other claims as the final
maps were drawn up. In this case,
the county's claim wasn't discovered. A spokesman for Unicago
Title could not be reached for
comment.

And in light of a similiar case in Laguna Niguel that sparked several lawsuits, county planners are going out of their way to portray the developer as only human.

"The big difference in this case is we are taking great care to ensure the Board of Supervisors is fully informed of all the circumstances," said Bob Hamilton, manager of the county's Harbors, Beaches and Parks Department.

Public lands are areas designated as parks or wilderness. At least 50 percent of any new residential development must be made public land. And because Robinson Ranch has more than met the 50 percent rule — 345 acres are developed and 478 acres are open land—county officials are willing to hand over the property.

Even without such a drastic move, the 14 homeowners are in limbo until the mess is sorted out.

"I'm sure those people are dying," said Ronda Macy, a homeowner who lives down the street from the homes in question. "It would be aggravating if I owned one of those houses."

11/2/91

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D. Check applicable box: There will be no fill in excess of 2 feet. Some lots have or will have fill in excess of 2 feet. All lots have or will have fill in excess of 2 feet. All tots have or will have fill in excess of 2 feet. 13.0 GEOLOGIC HAZARDS SPECIAL STUDIES ZONE [Master File Item] A. Is the subdivision (or any part of it) located within a Geologic Hazards Special Studies Zone as defined by the Alquist-Priolo Act? If YES, 1) List all lots/parcels affected: All lots within this tract 11881	
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2) If vacant lots are to be offered, list what special requirements, if any, lot	
2) If vacant lots are to be offered, list what special requirements, if any, lot	
purchasers must satisfy to obtain a building permit within the Geologic Hazards Special Studies Zone. (You may obtain this information from local government planning and building authorities.) CERTIFIED	COPY
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2000 MAIN STREET, HUNTINGTON BEACH, CA 92648 Corrected	Amendment
B. Water supplier:	_
1) Is water supplier one of the following?	AN 🔘 c
If YES, check appropriate box. municipality	_
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CERTIFICATION

I/We hereby certify under penalty of perjury that the information contained in Parts II and III of this form constitutes my/our Notice of Intention to sell or lease subdivision lands, and that the information, together with any documents submitted herewith are full, true, complete and correct; and that I/we am/are the owner(s) of the lots, units or parcels herein described, or will be the owner(s) at the time lots or parcels, improved or otherwise, are offered for sale of lease to the general public—or that I am the agent authorized by such person(s) to complete this statement.

- Certification signed outside the State of California must be acknowledged by a Notary Public.
 - Prior to signing, review all answers submitted. Errors or omissions must be corrected and initialed by the subdivider(s).
 - If the subdivider is a corporation, partnership, etc., the individual(s) signing the certification must stipulate the capacity (e.g., president, general partner, etc.) of the signer and an authorization to sign (e.g., a corporate resolution, partnership statement, etc.) must be submitted. [Master File Item]
 - If an agent will be submitting documents to Department of Real Estate on behalf of the subdivider, the subdivider must provide written authorization to that effect. [Master File Item]

must provide written authorization	to that effect. [Master File Item]		
SIGNATURE OF SUBDIVIDER		DATE	·
>			
PRINTED NAME OF SUBDIVIDER	CAPACITY		
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SIGNATURE OF SUPDIVIDER		OATE	
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PRINTED NAME OF THE RESTAURANT TO SHAN CETRINE	CAPACITY		
Jon T. : Coultaup /	PRESIDENT		
NAME OF CORPORATION, PART HERSHIP, ETC.			
DESTINY II, a California general	partnership		
BY: COULTRUP DEVELOPMENT COMPAN	I, a California Corporation.	, general	partner
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MINUTE ITEM
This Calendar Item No. 24
was approved as Minute Item
No. 24 by the State Lands
commission by a vote of 3
0 at its 215193
meeting.

CALENDAR ITEM

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APPROVE A COMPROMISE TITLE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT REGARDING CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY IN THE CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH, ORANGE COUNTY, PURSUANT TO THE KAPILOFF LAND BANK ACT

PARTY:

Destiny II 13001 Seal Beach Boulevard, Suite 300 Seal Beach, California 90740

A title dispute exists between the State acting by and through the State Lands Commission ("State") and Destiny II, a California general partnership, concerning ownership of approximately 1.7 acres of real property within the City of Huntington Beach in Orange County ("Subject Property").

Commission staff has conducted a study of the evidence of title to the Subject Property and has drawn a number of factual and legal conclusions, including, but not limited to, those summarized below:

- 1. Destiny II is the record owner of the Subject Property.
- 2. The Subject Property is located within the meander survey for Tideland Location 221 (TLL 221). The State of California sold the Subject Property to R. J. Northam in 1901 and issued a patent for the tidelands on January 6, 1903. The State does not contend that it owns the fee title to the Subject Property.
- 3. At least a portion, and possibly all, of the Subject Property was in a natural state, as evidenced by historical data (including, but not limited to, the 1873 United States Coast Survey Topographic sheet T 1345), covered by the ordinary tides of tidal sloughs, the precise extent of

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(REVISED pgs. 164 & 165)

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CALENDAR ITEM NO. 24 (CONT'D)

coverage being subject to dispute. To the extent the Subject Property was tidelands in its natural condition, it is owned by Destiny II, subject to the Public Trust Easement for commerce, navigation, and fisheries.

- 4. The Subject Property is a relatively small parcel which has been improved, bulkheaded, filled, and reclaimed for the improvement of navigation and enhancement of the shoreline, and is no longer, in fact, tide and submerged lands.
- 5. Boundary Line Agreement 18 (BLA 18) (PRC 2686.1[A]), dated December 22, 1960, by and between the State Lands Commission and Huntington Harbour Corporation, predecessor-in-interest to the present owner of the Subject Property, established, pursuant to P.R.C. Section 6357, the ordinary low-water mark of certain portions of Anaheim Bay. That agreement established the boundary between the lands sold by the State, pursuant to TLL 221, which were at the time owned by Huntington Harbour Corporation, and the unsold submerged lands located within the perimeter description of TLL 221.
- Sovereign Land Location 34 (SLL 34) (PRC 2686.1(B)), dated December 22, 1960 as amended by the agreement dated November 22, 1961, by and between the State Lands Commission and Huntington Harbour Corporation exchanged, pursuant to P.R.C. Section 6307, 17.91 acres of submerged lands of the State for 66.47 acres of tidelands patented under TLL 221 and owned by Huntington Harbour Corp. The exchange agreement did not terminate the Public Trust Easement, except as to the 17.91 acres conveyed pursuant to the agreement.
- 7. Destiny II, through its attorneys and its title insurance company, dispute the effect to be given the boundary line and exchange agreements described in paragraphs 5 and 6 above (BLA 18 and SLL 34), respectively. Their conclusion is that the State terminated the Public Trust Easement over the entire area encompassed within TLL 221, including the Subject Property, not just the 17.91 acres conveyed by the State.
- 8. Destiny II further contends that the Subject Property was never, in fact, tidelands. Finally, they argue the State is guilty of laches and should be estopped from asserting any interest in the Subject Property, based upon its actions and inactions relative to the development of Huntington Harbour over the last 30 years, and specifically its actions relating to the Subject Property.

CALENDAR ITEM NO. 2 4 (CONT'D)

9. The Subject Property is currently improved with 36 condominium units completed in 1991 at a reported cost in excess of \$10,000,000, not including land value.

The staff is of the opinion that the title evidence and the applicable legal principles lead to the conclusion that the State, in its sovereign capacity, is the owner of some public trust right, title, or interest in the Subject Property. indeed, staff belies that the Public Trust Easement potentially exists over substantial portions of this relatively small parcel.

However, the Subject Property has been filled and reclaimed since the 1960s and is currently occupied by two condominium buildings which include a total of 36 units. If the State were to exercise the Public Trust Easement, pursuant to P.R.C. Section 6312, the State would be required to compensate the fee owner of the property for the fair market value of his improvements.

Moreover, the exact extent and nature of the State's interest in the Subject Property is subject to uncertainty and continued vigorous dispute. Litigation to resolve the uncertainty and dispute would be lengthy and expensive. In the end, if the State prevailed on all the issues, it would have confirmed its ownership of a Public Trust Easement over property only recently improved with substantial residential development.

Staff has, therefore, conducted an evaluation of the easement, taking into account the factual uncertainties, the legal disputes, as well as the present and foreseeable future utility to the public in asserting, exercising, or preserving the easement in its preset location, and recommends terminating any remaining interest in the Subject Property in order to acquire lands of value and utility to the Public Trust. The Kapiloff Land Bank provides the mechanism for pooling funds and acquiring parcels with public trust values and utility which are then held by the State as public trust assets.

Destiny II has offered to resolve the existing title dispute by entering into a compromise title settlement that would advance the public interest in acquiring land with public trust values and utility through the use of the Kapiloff Land Bank. The staff of the State Lands Commission recommends approval of the settlement in substantially the form of the agreement now on file with the Commission.

While the agreement sets forth all the specific terms and conditions of the settlement, a brief summary of some of the

CALENDAR ITEM NO. 2 4 (CONT'D)

principal terms and conditions of the settlement is set forth below. It should be noted that, between the lots on which the condominiums are located and the waters of Huntington Harbour, there exists a lot (Lot D, as shown on Exhibit "B"), owned in fee by Destiny II, but which has been dedicated as a public accessway. The proposed agreement does not terminate the State's claim of a Public Trust Easement over any portions of Lot D.

- Destiny II will deposit the sum of \$110,000 into the Kapiloff Land Bank Fund which is administered by the State Lands Commission as trustee pursuant to P.R.C. 8600 et seq.
- 2. The State Lands Commission, as Land Bank Trustee, will hold the funds in trust and expend them only for interests in land which provide a public trust benefit (wetlands protection, public access, etc.).
- 3. In exchange for the above transfer of funds by Destiny II to the State, the State will convey to Destiny II all its right, title, and interest, and will terminate any public trust interest in the Subject Property.
- 4. The agreement provides for an escrow period and is to be effective upon its recordation. The State will not incur any costs associated with escrow fees and title insurance.

Staff has appraised the Subject Property, has evaluated the law and evidence bearing on the title dispute, and is of the opinion that the sum of \$110,000 is equal to or greater than the value of the State's interest in the Subject Property.

The agreement is in lieu of the costs, delays, and uncertainties of title litigation, is consistent with, and is authorized by the requirements of law.

AB 884:

N/A

OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:

1. Pursuant to the Commission's delegation of authority and the State CEQA Guidelines (14 Cal. Code Regs. 15061). the staff has determined that this activity is exempt from the requirements of the CEQA as a statutorily exempt project. The project is exempt because it involves settlements of title and boundary problems.

CALENDAR ITEM NO.

(CONT'D)

Authority: P.R.C. 21080.11.

2. In taking action on this staff recommendation the Commission is acting as the trustee of the Kapiloff Land Bank Fund created by P.R.C. 8610.

EXHIBITS:

- A. Description of Subject Property.
- B. Site Map

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION:

- 1. FIND THAT THE ACTIVITY IS EXEMPT FROM THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE CEQA PURSUANT TO 14 CAL. CODE REGS. 15061 AS A STATUTORILY EXEMPT PROJECT PURSUANT TO P.R.C. 21080.11, SETTLEMENT OF TITLE AND BOUNDARY PROBLEMS.
- 2. FIND THAT, WITH RESPECT TO THE PROPOSED COMPROMISE TITLE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT, INCLUDING THE EXCHANGE OF THE STATE'S INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT PROPERTY FOR FUNDS WITH WHICH TO BUY AN EXCHANGE PARCEL:
 - A. THE AGREEMENT IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE STATE AND CONSISTENT WITH PUBLIC TRUST NEEDS.
 - B. THAT THE MONIES RECEIVED BY THE STATE ARE OF A VALUE EQUAL TO, OR GREATER THAN, THE VALUE OF THE INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT PROPERTY BEING RELINQUISHED BY THE STATE.
 - C. THE SUBJECT PROPERTY, WHICH IS A RELATIVELY SMALL PARCEL (APPROXIMATELY 1.7 ACRES), HAS BEEN IMPROVED, RECLAIMED, AND FILLED FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF NAVIGATION AND ENHANCEMENT OF THE CONFIGURATION OF THE SHORELINE, HAS BEEN EXCLUDED FROM THE PUBLIC CHANNELS, AND IS NO LONGER AVAILABLE OR USEFUL OR SUSCEPTIBLE OF BEING USED FOR NAVIGATION AND FISHING AND IS NO LONGER, IN FACT, TIDE OR SUBMERGED LAND.
 - D. THE PARTIES HAVE A GOOD FAITH AND BONA FIDE DISPUTE AS TO THEIR RESPECTIVE INTERESTS AND CLAIMS WITHIN THE SUBJECT PROPERTY.
 - E. THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT CONSTITUTES A COMPROMISE OF THE CONTESTED ISSUES OF LAW AND FACT UPON WHICH THE DISPUTE IS BASED.

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CALENDAR ITEM NO. 24 (CONT'D)

- F. THE AGREEMENT IS IN LIEU OF THE COSTS, DELAYS AND UNCERTAINTIES OF TITLE LITIGATION, AND IS CONSISTENT WITH AND IS AUTHORIZED BY THE REQUIREMENTS OF LAW.
- G. ON THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE AGREEMENT AND CONSISTENT WITH ITS TERMS, THE SUBJECT PROPERTY WILL NO LONGER BE NECESSARY OR USEFUL FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE PUBLIC TRUST AND THE PUBLIC TRUST INTEREST MAY BE TERMINATED.
- 3. APPROVE AND AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTION, ACKNOWLEDGEMENT, AND RECORDATION ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION OF THE COMPROMISE TITLE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT IN SUBSTANTIALLY THE FORM OF THE COPY OF SUCH AGREEMENT ON FILE WITH THE COMMISSION.
- AUTHORIZE AND DIRECT THE STAFF OF THE STATE LANDS COMMISSION AND/OR THE CALIFORNIA ATTORNEY GENERAL TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY OR APPROPRIATE ACTION ON BEHALF OF THE STATE LANDS COMMISSION, INCLUDING THE EXECUTION, ACKNOWLEDGEMENT, ACCEPTANCE, AND RECORDATION OF ALL DOCUMENTS AND PAYMENTS AS MAY BE NECESSARY OR CONVENIENT TO CARRY OUT THE COMPROMISE TITLE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT; AND TO APPEAR ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION IN ANY LEGAL PROCEEDINGS RELATING TO THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THE AGREEMENT.

EXHIBIT "A"

AD 162

LAND DESCRIPTION

A parcel of land in the City of Huntington Beach, Orange County, State of California, more directly described as follows:

Lots 2, 3, 4, and 5, of Tract No. 11881, Miscellaneous Maps Book 542, pages 20 through 23 inclusive, filed in the Office of the Orange County Recorder.

END OF DESCRIPTION

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