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**COUNTY OF INYO
WATER DEPARTMENT**

June 27, 2014

Mr. Chris Ellis, Site Manager
Coso Operating Company, LLC
P.O. Box 1690
Inyokern, California 93527

Subject: Conditional Use Permit #2007-03/Coso

Dear Mr. Ellis:

Pursuant to Conditional Use Permit #2007-03/Coso and the associated Hydrologic Monitoring and Mitigation Plan (HMMP), Coso Operating Company's (COC) groundwater pumping rate and duration are subject to restrictions based on ongoing analysis of monitoring data. The Water Department's consultant Daniel B. Stephens & Associates (DBS&A) has completed an assessment of the current state of the Rose Valley groundwater system with respect to groundwater pumping pursuant to the Conditional Use Permit. DBS&A recently completed a reevaluation of allowable pumping rates and duration based on the following activities:

- Updating the groundwater model with pumping that has occurred since COC was granted permission to continue pumping from September 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014. During this period, COC was permitted to pump at a rate of 3,040 acre-feet/year. The actual pumping rate over this period has averaged 1,860 acre-feet/year, or about 61% of the permitted rate.
- Modification of groundwater model boundary conditions at Little Lake to better simulate observed groundwater discharge. Data from surface water flow gauges installed on the Little Lake Ranch property in 2009 were used to estimate groundwater discharge at Little Lake. Previous estimates were improved by including a more complete analysis of evaporation from open water surfaces. This resulted in an estimated average annual groundwater discharge of 1,256 acre-feet/year.
- Assessment of the rate at which COC may pump for a period of two years beginning July 1, 2014, and maintain the requirement of the HMMP that groundwater discharge at Little Lake not exceed a 10% reduction in groundwater discharge to Little Lake.

Based on the above, the Water Department approves continuation of pumping at an average annual rate not to exceed 1,614 acre-feet/year until June 30, 2016, subject to the revised groundwater level triggers as set forth in Table 1, below.

Table 1. Modified drawdown triggers, in terms of drawdown from baseline and groundwater elevation (GWE).

Well ID	Well Name	Baseline GWE (ft amsl)	Drawdown at cessation of pumping		Maximum acceptable drawdown	
			Drawdown (ft)	GWE (ft amsl)	Drawdown (ft)	GWE (ft amsl)
RV-80	Hay Ranch 2A	3240.92	15.3	3225.62	16.5	3224.42
RV-90	Coso Junction Ranch	3230.65	9.3	3221.35	9.3	3221.35
RV-100	Coso Junc. Store #1	3227.59	8.3	3219.29	8.4	3219.19
RV-120	Red Hill	3200.66	3.0	3197.66	3.8	3196.86
RV-130	G-36	3198.35	2.2	3196.15	3.3	3195.05
RV-140	Lego	3199.21	0.7	3198.51	2.4	3196.81
RV-150	Cinder Road	3186.92	1.0	3185.92	2.3	3184.62
RV-160	18-28 GTH	3187.67	0.7	3186.97	2.1	3185.57
RV-180	LLR North Well	3158.88	0.4	3158.48	1.3	3157.58

This approval does not diminish the discretion afforded to the Water Department under Conditional Use Permit #2007-03 to further enforce or modify mitigation measures to protect the citizens, economy, and environment of the County.

Please feel free to call me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Robert Harrington, Water Director

cc: Inyo County Board of Supervisors
Inyo County Planning Commission
Inyo County Water Commission
Kevin Carunchio, County CAO
Margaret Kemp-Williams, County Counsel
Josh Hart, Planning Director
Neil Blanford, Daniel B. Stephens & Assoc.
Keith Rainville, TEAM Engineering
Gary Arnold, Little Lake Ranch