**ES written comments to Lost Pines GCD Board of Directors January 17, 2018**

**Steve Box, Executive Director, Environmental Stewardship**

President Talbot and Board Members,

I am Steve Box, Executive Director of Environmental Stewardship. I want to speak to you solely to urge that the Lost Pines Groundwater Conservation District (Lost Pines District or District) NOT APPEAL the Final Judgment issued by Judge Carson Campbell on January 4, 2018, regarding the matter of Plaintiffs Meyer, Brown, Hanna and Environmental Stewardship (Cause No. 29,696).

A copy of the FINAL JUDGEMENT issued by Judge Carson Campbell is attached.

We urge that Lost Pines District *ACCEPT* that the *local* Court has ruled on this important *local* matter and is the *decision-maker* regarding the issues brought before the Court. As such we urge that the District *ACCEPT* the ruling that "REMANDED this case to the Lost Pines district for proceedings consistent with the Court's decision."

We urge that Lost Pines District *ACCEPT* that the Court announced its decision regarding jurisdiction over this matter in favor of ("*for")* the Plaintiffs and "HOLDS it has jurisdiction over Plaintiffs' request for judicial review of the decision to deny Plaintiffs' request for party status."

We urge that Lost Pines District *ACCEPT* that the Court further HOLDS "that the District *erred* in denying party status to Plaintiffs, and RENDER[ED] judgment *for* Plaintiffs, Andrew Meyer, Bette Brown, Darwyn Hanna, Individuals, and Environmental Stewardship, a non-profit organization" and "ORDER[ED] that the [Districts] decision to deny Plaintiffs' request for party status is ... REVERSED."

We urge that the Lost Pines District *ACCEPT* that the court "ORDER[ED] that Lost Pines Groundwater Conservation District's ... Order issuing permits to End Op, L.P. is ... REVERSED".

We urge that the Lost Pines District *ACCEPT* that the Court REVERSED the permit "because Plaintiffs [Landowners] are entitled to participate as parties in the contested case hearing on End Op, L.P.'s application for permits".

Finally, we urge that Lost Pines District ***reverse course*** *by ACCEPTING and ACKNOWLEDGING* the FINAL JUDGEMENT of the Court by NOT APPEALING this matter.

Perhaps the **single best reason** for the District to decline the opportunity to appeal the Judgment is to allow the District, the Applicant, and the Landowners to spend their time, energy, and money having a serious discussion about the impacts of groundwater pumping on the environment, rivers and springs, and our communities. We believe the result of such a discussion will benefit all parties by providing our communities with the best solutions that good science, open discussion, and responsible public policies can provide.

We look forward to working with you to develop positive solutions to the challenges we face.

Thank you,