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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, WESTERN DIVISION

SHEA HOMES, INC., a Delaware
corporation,

Plaintiff,

vs.

WESTCHESTER SURPLUS LINES
INSURANCE COMPANY, a Georgia
corporation, and DOES 1 through 10,

Defendant.

Case No. 17-cv-04649-AB-PLAx

Case assigned to Judge André Birotte

PROTECTIVE ORDER

[Discovery Matter]

Trial Date: January 8, 2019

Having reviewed the Parties' Stipulation Re Protective Order, and for good
cause appearing, the Court hereby enters a Protective Order as follows:

1. Definitions.

1.1. In this Protective Order, the words set forth below have the following
meanings:

- a. "Confidential Materials" means any Document, Testimony, or
Information, as defined below: (i) that is produced for or disclosed to a
party (Plaintiff or Defendant); (ii) that the Designating Party reasonably
and in good faith believes to be entitled to confidential treatment under

1 applicable law, and (iii) that has been designated as “Confidential
2 Material” by the Designating Party in compliance with this Protective
3 Order, and prior to its production. Nothing in this Protective Order
4 shall be construed in any way to control the use, dissemination,
5 publication, or disposition by a party of any Document, Testimony, or
6 Information that legitimately, without breach of confidentiality, are
7 public record or in the public domain, received at any time by that party
8 outside the course of the discovery process in this litigation.

9 b. “Designating Party” means the party that designates Confidential
10 Materials as “Confidential.”

11 c. “Document” or “Documents” means and includes any documents or
12 electronically stored information as contemplated by Federal Rule of
13 Civil Procedure 34(a), including without limitation: (i) all writings as
14 defined in Federal Rule of Evidence 1001(a), all originals as defined in
15 Federal Rule of Evidence 1001(e); and (ii) any copies, reproductions,
16 or summaries of all or any part of the foregoing.

17 d. “Information” means the content of Documents or Testimony.

18 e. “Testimony” means all depositions, declarations or other testimony
19 taken or used in this Proceeding.

20 **2. Designation of Confidential Material.**

21 2.1. All or any part of any Documents, Testimony, or Information may be
22 designated as “Confidential Material,” but must be clearly so designated before it is
23 disclosed or produced. Each party or non-party that designates Documents,
24 Testimony, or Information for protection under this Protective Order must take care
25 to limit any such designation to specific material that qualifies under the appropriate
26 standards, so that other portions for which protection is not warranted are not swept
27 unjustifiably within the ambit of this Order. Mass, indiscriminate, or routine
28 designations are prohibited. The “Confidential” designation should not obscure or

1 interfere with the legibility of the Document, Testimony, or Information.

- 2 a. For Documents (apart from deposition transcripts), the Designating
3 Party must mark the words “CONFIDENTIAL” or “CONFIDENTIAL
4 MATERIAL” on each page of any Document containing Confidential
5 Information or, with respect to any such Document produced natively,
6 in the Document’s file name.
- 7 b. For Testimony given in depositions the party or non-party offering or
8 sponsoring the testimony shall designate on the record, before the close
9 of the deposition, all Confidential Information. When it is impractical
10 to identify separately each portion of Testimony that is entitled to
11 protection, and when it appears that substantial portions of the
12 Testimony may qualify for protection, the party or non-party that
13 sponsors, offers, or gives the Testimony may invoke on the record
14 (before the deposition is concluded) a right to have up to 30 days after
15 receipt of the transcript to identify in writing the specific portions of the
16 Testimony as to which protection is sought. Only those portions of the
17 Testimony that are appropriately designated for protection within the
18 30 days after receipt of the transcript shall be covered by the provisions
19 of this Protective Order.

20 **3. Inadvertent Failure to Designate.**

21 3.1. If a party inadvertently produces any Document, Testimony, or
22 Information during discovery that it considers to be “Confidential Material,” in
23 whole or in part, without a “Confidential” designation, it may correct the situation as
24 follows:

- 25 a. Within twenty days of the discovery of the inadvertent production
26 without “Confidential” designation, and no later than forty-five (45)
27 days prior to trial, the producing party must give written notice to all
28 parties who received the Document, Testimony, or Information that the

1 producing party claims it, in whole or in part, is “Confidential
2 Material,” together with a further copy of the subject Document,
3 Testimony, or Information marked “Confidential” as intended by the
4 Designating Party (the “Inadvertent Production Notice”).

5 b. Upon timely receipt of such Inadvertent Production Notice, the party
6 that received the Document, Testimony or Information inadvertently
7 produced without a “Confidential” designation shall promptly destroy
8 the subject Document, Testimony or Information and all copies thereof,
9 or, at the expense of the Designating Party, return them together with
10 all copies, and shall retain only the version marked “Confidential” as
11 intended by the Designating Party. Upon timely receipt of an
12 Inadvertent Production Notice, the receiving party must make
13 reasonable efforts to assure that the material is treated in accordance
14 with the provisions of this Order.

15 c. If timely corrected, an inadvertent failure to designate qualified
16 Documents, Testimony, or Information as “Confidential” does not,
17 standing alone, waive the Designating Party’s right to secure protection
18 under this Order for such material.

19 **4. Access to and Use of Confidential Material.**

20 4.1. “Confidential Material,” shall be used or disclosed solely for the
21 purposes of preparing for, conducting, participating in the conduct of, and/or
22 prosecuting and/or defending this Proceeding, and in accordance with the provisions
23 of this Protective Order, and shall not be used for any other purpose without further
24 order of the Court.

25 4.2. “Confidential Material” may be disclosed only to the following
26 persons:

- 27 a. the Court;
- 28 b. court reporters in this Proceeding (whether at depositions, hearings or

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- other proceeding);
- c. any mediator or settlement officer, and their supporting personnel, mutually agreed upon by any of the parties engaged in settlement discussions;
- d. a party’s or non-party’s directors, officers, employees, former employees, representatives and agents in connection with the prosecution, defense, or supervision of this action or in connection with the production of documents or the giving of testimony in this lawsuit;
- e. auditors, reinsurers, accountants, regulators or retrocessionaires of any party who, in the normal course of business, would have access to or to whom a party has a business obligation to provide such information in connection with this Proceeding;
- f. counsel of record for the respective parties in this action and counsel for any non-party required to produce documents or give testimony in this lawsuit and secretarial, clerical, litigation support and paralegal personnel regularly employed by such counsel to whom such counsel deems necessary that the confidential information be shown for purposes of this litigation;
- g. other counsel for the respective parties in this action and their employees, agents, and representatives who are assisting in the prosecution or defense of this action;
- h. experts and consultants who are employed, retained, or otherwise consulted by counsel or a party for the purpose of analyzing data, conducting studies, or providing opinions to assist, in any way, in this action, provided that access to “Confidential Material” by experts and consultants shall be limited to documents that the experts or consultants reasonably need to review in their roles as experts or consultants, and such access shall be conditioned upon each expert’s and/or consultant’s

- 1 agreement to abide by the terms of this Protective Order;
- 2 i. the author or recipient of a document containing the information or a
- 3 custodian or other person who otherwise possessed or knew the
- 4 information;
- 5 j. during their depositions, witnesses, and attorneys for witnesses, in the
- 6 Proceeding to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary provided:
- 7 (1) the deposing party requests that the witness execute the Non-
- 8 Disclosure Agreement attached as Exhibit A hereto; and (2) they will
- 9 not be permitted to keep any confidential information unless they
- 10 execute the Non-Disclosure Agreement attached as Exhibit A hereto,
- 11 unless otherwise agreed by the Designating Party or ordered by the
- 12 court (pages of transcribed deposition testimony or exhibits to
- 13 depositions that reveal Confidential Material may be separately bound
- 14 by the court reporter);
- 15 k. other factual witnesses who agree to comply with and be bound by the
- 16 requirements of this Protective Order and whose role as a witness is
- 17 such that they have a genuine need to know the content of the
- 18 confidential information;
- 19 l. any other person that the Designating Party agrees to in writing.
- 20 4.3. Before disclosure of “Confidential Material” to any person in
- 21 categories h, k, and/or l above, each such person shall be provided with a copy of
- 22 this Protective Order and shall execute a Non-Disclosure Agreement (Exhibit A).
- 23 The qualified persons listed above shall not distribute, disclose, or otherwise publish
- 24 or make available “Confidential Material” to any third person unless consented to in
- 25 writing by the Designating Party, or permitted to do so by the Court. Storing
- 26 documents on a Party’s internal electronic document management system is
- 27 sufficient to comply with the requirements of the Protective Order, regardless of
- 28 whether other officers, directors or employees of a Party not involved in the Action

1 have access to the document management system.

2 4.4. Without written permission from the Designating Party or a Court order
3 secured after appropriate notice, a party may not file in the public record in this
4 Proceeding any Confidential Material. A party that seeks to file under seal any
5 Confidential Material must comply with L.R. 79-5.1. **Good cause must be shown**
6 **for the under seal filing.**

7 4.5. Nothing in this Protective Order shall preclude any party from
8 disclosing or using, in any manner or for any purpose, any information that is (i)
9 generally available to the public, other than as a result of disclosure by any Party to
10 this Proceeding in violation of this Protective Order; (ii) already lawfully in the
11 Party's possession prior to its designation as "Confidential" in this Proceeding; (iii)
12 lawfully obtained on a non-confidential basis from a non-party to this Proceeding
13 who, insofar as is known after a reasonable inquiry, is not bound by any obligation
14 of confidentiality with respect to such information; or (iv) developed independently,
15 as evidenced by a written record.

16 4.6. Upon termination of this lawsuit by judgment, and the expiration of any
17 and all appeals therefrom, or by settlement, all parties shall return to counsel for
18 such producing party all "Confidential Material" received from such party,
19 including all copies, prints, summaries, and other reproductions of such information,
20 in the possession of the parties, their counsel, or retained experts or consultants. As
21 an alternative to returning all or part of such "Confidential Material," parties may
22 certify to counsel for the producing party that they have destroyed all unreturned
23 "Confidential Material." Notwithstanding this provision, Counsel and each Party
24 are entitled to retain an archival copy of all pleadings, motion papers, trial,
25 discovery, deposition, hearing transcripts, legal memoranda, correspondence,
26 deposition and trial exhibits, expert reports, attorney work product, and consultant
27 and expert work product, even if such materials contain Confidential Material. This
28 Protective Order and the agreements embodied herein shall survive the termination

1 of this action and continue in full force and effect.

2 **5. Right to Challenge Designation, Assert Other Objections, and Seek**
3 **Amendment of this Order.**

4 5.1. Complying with the terms of this Protective Order shall not operate as
5 an admission by any person that any particular Document, Testimony, or
6 Information marked “Confidential” contains or reflects information entitled to
7 confidential treatment under applicable law. Any party may seek a determination by
8 the Court as to whether any Document, Testimony, or Information marked
9 “Confidential” should be subject to protection as “Confidential” under the terms of
10 this Protective Order, as follows:

- 11 a. Unless a prompt challenge to a Designating Party’s confidentiality
12 designation is necessary to avoid foreseeable substantial unfairness,
13 unnecessary economic burdens, or a later significant disruption or delay
14 of the litigation, a party does not waive its right to challenge a
15 confidentiality designation by electing not to mount a challenge
16 promptly after the original designation is disclosed.
- 17 b. The parties will abide by Central District Local Rule 37 in seeking such
18 a determination. Specifically, counsel for the parties shall confer in a
19 good faith effort to eliminate the necessity for hearing the motion or to
20 eliminate as many of the disputes as possible. It shall be the
21 responsibility of counsel for the moving party to arrange for this
22 conference. If counsel are unable to settle their differences, they shall
23 formulate a joint written stipulation. Following the conference of
24 counsel, counsel for the moving party shall provide counsel for the
25 opposing party with the moving party’s portion of the stipulation.
26 Counsel for the opposing party shall deliver or e-mail to counsel for the
27 moving party the opposing party’s portion of the stipulation within
28 seven (7) days of receipt of the moving party’s draft. After the Joint

1 Stipulation is filed, each party may file a supplemental memorandum of
2 law not later than fourteen (14) days prior to the hearing date.

3 c. The burden of persuasion in any such challenge proceeding shall be on
4 the Designating Party. Unless and until the Court rules on the
5 challenge, all parties shall continue to treat the material in question as
6 “Confidential Material.”

7 5.2. This Protective Order does not preclude any party from moving to have
8 any other information or material designated as confidential in accordance with the
9 rules of this Court. Any such additional information or material designated as
10 confidential shall be treated as “Confidential Material” pursuant to the terms of this
11 Order.

12 5.3. This Protective Order is entered without prejudice to the right of any
13 party to knowingly waive the applicability of this Protective Order to any
14 Confidential Material designated by that party. However, if the Designating Party
15 uses Confidential Materials in a non-confidential manner, including revealing it to
16 any person other than those designated in Paragraph 5, all such materials shall no
17 longer be designated “Confidential Materials,” and the Designating Party shall
18 promptly advise the other parties that the designation no longer applies.

19 5.4. No party waives any right it otherwise would have to object to
20 disclosing or producing any Document, Testimony, or Information on any ground
21 not addressed in this Protective Order. Similarly, no party waives any right to object
22 to the admissibility of any of the material covered by this Protective Order.

23 5.5. The Court may amend this Order to prevent manifest injustice.
24 Additional protective orders also may be entered whenever deemed appropriate by
25 the Court.

26 **6. Inadvertent Production of Privileged Matter.**

27 6.1. If a producing party inadvertently produces information or documents
28 that it considered privileged, in whole or in part, it may retrieve such information or

1 documents or parts thereof as follows:

- 2 a. Within twenty days of the discovery of the inadvertent production, and
3 no later than forty-five (45) days prior to trial, the producing party must
4 give written notice to all parties who received copies of the produced
5 document that the producing party claims said document, in whole or in
6 part, to be privileged and must state the nature of the privilege; in the
7 event that only part(s) of document(s) are claimed to be privileged, the
8 producing party shall furnish redacted copies of such privileged
9 documents, removing only the part(s) thereof claimed to be privileged,
10 to all parties together with the notice (the “Inadvertent Production of
11 Privileged Materials Notice”).
- 12 b. Upon receipt of such Inadvertent Production of Privileged Materials
13 Notice, all parties who have received copies of the inadvertently
14 produced document(s) shall promptly return them to the producing
15 party and destroy any other copies thereof except to the extent
16 reasonably necessary to promptly present the information to the court
17 under seal for a determination of the claim pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P.
18 26(b)(5)(B).
- 19 c. After service of such notice, no motion to compel the production of the
20 inadvertently produced privileged documents may rely on an allegation
21 that any privilege as to the document was waived solely by virtue of its
22 inadvertent production.

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24 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

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26 DATED: November 8, 2017



27 _____
28 Honorable Paul L. Abrams
U.S. MAGISTRATE JUDGE

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EXHIBIT A

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND

I, _____ [print or type full name], of

_____ [print or type full address], declare under penalty of perjury that I have read in its entirety and understand the Protective Order that was issued by the United States District Court for the Central District of California on _____ [date] in the case of *Shea Homes, Inc. v. Westchester Surplus Lines Insurance Co.*, Case No. 2-17-cv-04649-AB-PLA. I agree to comply with and to be bound by all the terms of this Protective Order and I understand and acknowledge that failure to so comply could expose me to sanctions and punishment in the nature of contempt. I solemnly promise that I will not disclose in any manner any information or item that is subject to this Protective Order to any person or entity except in strict compliance with the provisions of this Order.

I further agree to submit to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the Central District of California for the purposes of enforcing the terms of this Protective Order, even if such enforcement proceedings occur after termination of this action.

Date: _____

City and State where sworn and signed: _____

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____