1 2 \*\*E-filed 1/15/09\*\* 3 4 5 6 7 8 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 9 FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA 10 SAN JOSE DIVISION 11 Case Number C 97-20099 JF (HRL) 12 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, 13 Plaintiff, ORDER<sup>1</sup> AUTHORIZING RECEIVER TO RETAIN AN ADDITIONAL 14 \$5,000 FROM THE SALE PROCEEDS v. TO PAY OPERATING AND 15 ALISAL WATER CORPORATION, et al., MAINTENANCE EXPENSES OF THE SAN JERARDO WATER SYSTEM 16 Defendants. [re: doc. no. 871] 17 18 19 20 Pending before the Court are: (1) the Receiver's Ex Parte Application for Authority to 21 22 23

Retain Certain Funds to Pay Monthly Operation and Maintenance Expenses, Insurance, and Well Removal Costs for the San Jerardo Water System, filed April 11, 2008; (2) the Receiver's Status Report for the period November 1, 2007 through April 30, 2008; and (3) the Receiver's Status Reports for the periods spanning November 1, 2006 through October 31, 2007.<sup>2</sup> The Court has

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> This disposition is not designated for publication in the official reports.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The Court previously approved payment of 80% of the Receiver's claimed expenses for these periods, but deferred consideration of the remaining 20% of these expenses.

received extensive briefing, particularly with respect to the Receiver's application to retain the bulk of the sale proceeds he is holding. The issues presented are quite complicated. It thus has taken the Court some time to sort through the evidence and arguments presented by the Receiver, Defendants, and the County of Monterey (appearing as amicus). The Court expects to issue a ruling shortly.

In the meantime, the Receiver has indicated that he does not have sufficient funds to pay even the basic operating expenses of the San Jerardo system. At the hearing on May 29, 2008, the Court authorized the Receiver to utilize \$4,000 of the funds he is holding to pay such expenses. On June 20, 2008, the Court authorized the Receiver to retain an additional \$4,000. However, monthly operating expenses have continued to accrue. As of December 10, 2008, the Receiver held \$407.00 in the San Jerardo operating account, an amount insufficient to cover PG&E bills or other necessary operating expenses. See Suppl. Decl. Of Diana Donabedian filed 12/10/08, ¶ 4.

The Court has reviewed Defendants' opposition to the Receiver's application for an additional \$5,000. However, the Court concludes that the Receiver's retention of such funds is necessary for the health and welfare of the individuals who rely upon the San Jerardo system for their water needs. The Court will consider the fact that the Receiver has retained \$13,000 of the sale proceeds when analyzing the Receiver's pending motions regarding the remainder of the sale proceeds.

Accordingly, the Receiver's application to retain an additional \$5,000 from the sale proceeds to pay the operating and maintenance expenses of the San Jerardo water system is GRANTED.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

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DATED: 1/15/09

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United States Instrict Judge

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