1	NEW MEXICO OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION
2	STATE LAND OFFICE BUILDING
3	STATE OF NEW MEXICO
4	CASE NO. 10730
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6	IN THE MATTER OF:
7	The Application of Yates Petroleum Corporation for an Unorthodox
8	Gas Well Location, Eddy County, New Mexico.
9	New Mexico.
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13	BEFORE:
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15	DAVID R. CATANACH
16	Hearing Examiner
17	State Land Office Building
18	May 20, 1993
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20	DECE IVED
21	REPORTED BY:
22	CARLA DIANE RODRIGUEZ Certified Court Reporter
23	for the State of New Mexico OR CONSERVATION DIVISION
24	
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ORIGINAL

1	APPEARANCES
2	
3	FOR THE NEW MEXICO OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION:
4	ROBERT G. STOVALL, ESQ.
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8	FOR THE APPLICANT:
9	CAMPBELL, CARR, BERGE & SHERIDAN, P.A. Post Office Box 2208
10	Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-2208 BY: WILLIAM F. CARR, ESQ.
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1	EXAMINER CATANACH: At this time we'll
2	call Case 10730.
3	MR. STOVALL: Application of Yates
4	Petroleum Corporation for an unorthodox gas well
5	location, Eddy County, New Mexico.
6	EXAMINER CATANACH: Are there
7	appearances in this case?
8	MR. CARR: May it please the Examiner,
9	my name is William F. Carr with the Santa Fe law
10	firm, Campbell, Carr, Berge & Sheridan. I
11	represent Yates Petroleum Corporation, and I have
12	two witnesses.
13	EXAMINER CATANACH: Any other
14	appearances?
15	Will the two witnesses please stand to
16	be sworn in.
17	[The witnesses were duly sworn.]
18	D'NESE FLY
19	Having been first duly sworn upon her oath, was
20	examined and testified as follows:
21	EXAMINATION
2 2	BY MR. CARR:
23	Q. Will you state your name for the
24	record, please?
25	A. My name is D'Nese Fly.

- 1 Q. By whom are you employed?
- A. I'm employed by Yates Petroleum
- 3 | Corporation in Artesia, New Mexico.
 - Q. In what capacity?
- 5 A. As a petroleum geologist.
- Q. Have you previously testified before this Division and had your credentials accepted and made a matter of record?
 - A. Yes, I have.
- 10 Q. At the time of that prior testimony,
- 11 | were you qualified as an expert witness in
- 12 | petroleum geology?
- 13 A. Yes.

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- Q. Are you familiar with the application
- filed in this case on behalf of Yates Petroleum
- 16 | Corporation?
- 17 A. Yes, I am.
- Q. Are you familiar with the proposed
- 19 | unorthodox well location?
- 20 A. Yes.
- Q. Have you made a geological study of the area involved in this case?
- A. Yes, I have.
- MR. CARR: Are the witness!
- 25 | qualifications acceptable?

1 EXAMINER CATANACH: They are.

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- Q. Ms. Fly, could you briefly summarize for Mr. Catanach what Yates seeks in this case?
- A. Yes. Yates seeks authorization to
 drill to the Morrow formation, Cemetery-Morrow
 Gas Pool, its Conoco AGK Federal Well No. 15, at
 an unorthodox location 660 feet from the south
 line, 1980 feet from the east line of Section 26,
 Township 20 South, Range 24 East.
 - Q. Mrs. Fly, Yates proposes to test both the Canyon and the Morrow formation in this well, do they not?
 - A. Yes, they do.
- Q. This location will only be unorthodox
 in the Morrow formation?
 - A. That is correct.
 - Q. Could you refer to what has been marked for identification as Yates Petroleum Corporation Exhibit No. 1 and review this exhibit for Mr. Catanach?
 - A. Yes. This is a land plat of the southeast quarter of 20-24. It is the nine sections surrounding our proposed location.
 - The spacing unit of interest here is highlighted in yellow, with the proposed location

- being in red in Unit O. The other Yates acreage
 is highlighted here in pink.
- Q. Does this exhibit also show the operators of the offsetting tracts?
- 5 A. Yes, it does.
- Q. Is current development in this area indicated by the color coding in the well spots?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. Now, Mrs. Fly, this would be a standard
 10 location for a lay-down spacing unit, would it
 11 not?
- 12 A. That is correct.
- Q. With the stand-up unit, on what operators are you actually encroaching?
- A. With the stand-up, we are encroaching on Conoco to the south.
- Q. And Conoco also has a well in the northeast of the offsetting tract to the south?
- A. Yes, the Preston Federal No. 6 in Unit
- Q. What acreage is dedicated to that well?
- 22 A. The north half of 35.
- Q. Was that well also drilled at an
- 24 unorthodox well location?
- 25 A. Yes.

- Q. The only other offsetting operator is who, to the south and the east?
 - A. That would be Marathon.
 - Q. This location actually does not encroach on the Marathon tract, does it?
 - A. No.

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- Q. Is Exhibit No. 2 a copy of an affidavit confirming that notice of this application has been provided to both Conoco and Marathon?
- 10 A. Yes.
- Q. And attached to that affidavit, are there letters and return receipts which show that the notice was actually received?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. Could you identify for Mr. Catanach what has been marked as Yates Petroleum Corporation Exhibit No. 3?
 - A. Yes, this is the letter we sent to Conoco, Inc., on September 16, 1992, regarding that we would not protest their unorthodox location in Section 35 if they, likewise, would not protest us in the south half of 26.
 - Q. Could you identify for Mr. Catanach what has been marked as Yates Exhibit No. 4, identify this and then review it for Mr.

- 1 | Catanach?
- 2 A. All right. This is a structure map on
- 3 | the top of the Canyon dolomite in the South
- 4 Dagger Draw field, with the contour interval
- 5 being 50 feet.
- 6 I'm submitting this structure map to
- 7 | show the location of the Conoco HEK Fed No. 15,
- 8 and show that it is in an orthodox location for
- 9 | the Canyon, which is our primary objective, and
- 10 | stating here that it is on the south trend of the
- 11 | oil leg which we are developing in South Dagger
- 12 Draw.
- Q. What is the primary objective for this
- 14 | well?
- 15 A. The primary objective is the Canyon
- 16 | dolomite.
- Q. Is this a reservoir which produces from
- 18 | the South Dagger Draw-Upper Pennsylvanian
- 19 associated pool?
- 20 A. Yes, it is.
- 21 Q. And it is in this formation that we
- 22 | have an orthodox location?
- 23 A. Correct.
- Q. What is the secondary objective?
- 25 A. The secondary objective is the Upper

Morrow formation. This location was chosen primarily for the Canyon. The necessity for this unorthodox hearing has to do with the Morrow, because this being a stand-up spacing unit makes the Morrow formation unorthodox at this location.

- Q. Was the necessity for the unorthodox location in the Morrow based on geologic conditions?
 - A. Yes.

- Q. Let's go now to Exhibit No. 5, and I would ask you to identify that and review it for the Examiner.
- A. Okay. Exhibit No. 5 is my combined structure and sand isopach map of the Morrow formation. The dotted lines here are structural contours on top of the main Morrow clastics, with the contour interval being 100 feet.

The solid lines are the isopach contours, showing varying thicknesses of total, clean, Upper Morrow sand. I'm defining "clean" here as sand with less than 50 gamma ray API units. The contour for the isopach is 10 feet.

I've shown here that the Morrow producers are highlighted in red, the Atoka producer is in yellow, the Canyon gas producers

are in blue, and the plugged-back Canyon oil
producers are in green. All of these did
penetrate the Morrow.

- Q. Can you explain to the Examiner exactly why this proposed location was selected?
- A. The proposed location was chosen to encounter the maximum amount of Morrow sand within our spacing unit. It's geologically located on the axis of the northward trending Upper Morrow sand thick, and we are expecting to encounter approximately 40 feet of sand, which is a little less than what the Preston Federal No. 6 encountered, to the south of us here.

And the Preston Federal 6 is also unorthodox and is producing at gas line capacity of over 7 million cubic feet of gas per day. I put the structural configurations on here just to help interpret the geologic picture. It does not really pertain to this prospect at all.

- Q. But it does show the regional southeast trend?
 - A. The regional dip to the southeast.
- Q. Let's go now to Yates Exhibit No. 6. Could you identify and review this for Mr.

25 | Catanach?

A. Yes. Exhibit No. 6 here is a portion of the Conoco Preston Federal No. 6 density neutron log located at its unorthodox bottom hole location of 729 feet from the north line and 753 feet from the east line of Section 35, Township 20 South, Range 24 East.

This well was deviated, for topographic reasons, from the surface location of 990 feet from the north and 460 feet from the east. The log excerpt covers the entire main Morrow clastics interval, with pertinent tops being highlighted here as the main Morrow clastics at 9293 measured depth, the Lower Morrow at 9408 measured depth, and the Mississippian unconformity at 9443.

- Q. What portion of the Morrow formation actually constitutes the Upper Morrow?
- A. This is the shaley interval seen here above the Lower Morrow marker at 9408 in what we consider the main Morrow clastics, the shaley sand interval, at 9293.
 - Q. Okay.

A. And it's these clean sands within this Upper Morrow interval that were counted by the less than 50 gamma ray API units and isopached,

1 | that was shown in the previous exhibit.

The Preston Federal No. 6 log has encountered about 48 feet of these sands.

- Q. And what portion of the Morrow is of principal interest to Yates?
- A. The 32-foot sand that I've highlighted here in red is the principal interest in this well, and it's the pay delivering zone, and the perforations are shown here on the log in the center, on the right-hand side.
- Q. Could you generally summarize for Mr. Catanach the geological reasons behind Yates selecting this unorthodox location in the Morrow formation?
- A. Yes. In summary, the proposed location is, geologically, the best location in the east half of Section 26 for the Morrow formation, and should recover the greatest amount of hydrocarbon products from this proration unit, thereby preventing waste and protecting correlative rights.
- Q. Mrs. Fly, will Yates call an additional witness to discuss penalty considerations, drainage, and other correlative rights issues?
- 25 A. Yes.

1	Q. Were Exhibits 1 through 6 either
2	prepared by you or have you reviewed them and can
3	you testify as to their accuracy?
4	A. Yes.
5	MR. CARR: At this time, Mr. Catanach,
6	we would move the admission of Yates Petroleum
7	Corporation Exhibits 1 through 6.
8	EXAMINER CATANACH: Exhibits 1 through
9	6 will be admitted as evidence.
10	MR. CARR: That concludes my direct
11	examination of Mrs. Fly.
12	EXAMINATION
13	BY EXAMINER CATANACH:
14	Q. Mrs. Fly, is structure important, as
15	far as getting a good Morrow well?
16	A. No, this is mainly stratigraphic here.
17	It does play an important role farther to the
18	east, but we're updip from that.
19	Q. At a standard location in the east half
20	for a Morrow, you would expect to encounter
21	considerably less sand?
22	A. Correct, less than 10 feet, which would
23	not be economic. It would not pay for the
24	Morrow, for the well.

Q. The Marathon well in Section 36, do you

1 | know anything about that well's capability?

- A. I just know they have applied for an
- 3 unorthodox location there in Unit L, I think is
- 4 what it would be, 1980 from the south and 660
- 5 | from the west, I think. And I have no idea if
- 6 that has been drilled yet or is in the process of
- 7 being drilled.
- Q. Looks like the Indian Hills No. 2, the
- 9 one in Unit P of Section 36--
- 10 A. Yes.
- Q. --that looks like it encountered, what,
- 12 | about four feet of sand?
- A. Uh-huh, in the upper Morrow that's what
- 14 | it encountered.
- Q. Do you know if that's a commercial
- 16 | producing well?
- 17 A. I think they did IP that one for--let
- me see if I can find that -- this cum'd 48 MMcf,
- 19 and I am not sure if that is solely out of the
- 20 Upper Morrow. I cannot say right now.
- 21 Q. There are currently some Canyon wells
- 22 | in Section 26 that Yates operates?
- 23 A. Yes. They are shown in Exhibit No. 4.
- Q. Are those proration units already
- 25 established as the east half and the west half?

1 A. Yes.

- Q. There is no Morrow production in the north half of Section 26?
 - A. There is no Morrow production at all in Section 26.
 - Q. Okay. The well just to the east of the proposed location, that is a Canyon oil producer?
 - A. Yes, it is. We did take that down to the Morrow, and encountered 16 feet within the Upper Morrow, and plugged back to the Canyon.
 - Q. A completion wasn't attempted in the Morrow?
 - A. No. We did DST it and it was tight.

 And when we logged it-- No, sir, we did not DST that one. I'm sorry. We logged it, and there was not enough porosity there or permeability.
 - Q. Is that, in your opinion, because it's on the outer flank of the sand channel?
 - A. Yes. It was a more very fine to fine sand, whereas the heart of the channel, which the Preston 6 encountered, was a coarse, grain sand.
 - Q. What control do you have to map that sand to the north there?
 - A. As you can see, there's not much control down in this area. This Preston 6 opened

- up a new, what I consider a distributary channel
 running through here. This is kind of a deltaic
 sequence in the Morrow in this area, and you have
 dendritic channels running through here.
- Q. So you just use the existing wellbores to map that channel?
- 7 A. Yes. There is no seismic involved, if 8 that's what you mean.
 - Q. In your opinion, a well at a standard location would be probably noncommercial?
 - A. Yes, sir.

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- Q. You testified, on Exhibit No. 3, you had a letter dealing with Conoco. Do you know if Conoco actually executed the agreement?
 - A. I am not sure. I don't think we ever got a written response from them. We did not appear at the hearing, and the well has already been drilled, and they have not submitted any protest.
- 20 EXAMINER CATANACH: I have nothing 21 further.
- MR. STOVALL: Not me.
- MR. CARR: At this time we would call

 Or. Boneau.
- DAVID FRANCIS BONEAU, Ph.D.

- 1 Having been first duly sworn upon his oath, was
 2 examined and testified as follows:
 - EXAMINATION
- 4 BY MR. CARR:

- Q. Will you state your name for the record, please?
- 7 A. My name is David Francis Boneau.
- 8 Q. By whom are you employed?
- 9 A. Yates Petroleum Corporation.
- 10 Q. In what capacity?
- 11 A. I work as reservoir engineering
 12 supervisor.
- Q. Dr. Boneau, have you previously testified before this Division?
- 15 A. Yes, sir.
- Q. At the time of that prior testimony,
 were your credentials as a petroleum reservoir
 engineer accepted and made a matter of record?
- 19 A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Are you familiar with the application filed in this case on behalf of Yates Petroleum Corporation?
- 23 A. Yes, that's correct.
- Q. Are you familiar with the proposed unorthodox location?

1 A. Yes.

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- Q. Have you made an engineering study of the area involved in this matter?
 - A. Yes, sir.
- 5 MR. CARR: Are the witness'
- 6 | qualifications acceptable?
- 7 EXAMINER CATANACH: They are.
 - Q. Have you prepared certain exhibits for presentation here today?
 - A. Yes, I have prepared two exhibits, I would say.
 - Q. Would you refer to what has been marked as Yates Exhibit No. 7, identify this and then and review it for Mr. Catanach?
 - A. Yates Exhibit No. 7 consist of three pieces of paper. The front page is a semblance of a map. It's a little map talking mainly about the drainage area of the Preston Federal No. 6.
 - Yates is seeking this unorthodox location. We are asking that no penalty be applied to our well. We actually have three reasons, I think, for seeking that, and you've heard probably the two best.
 - We think there should be no penalty because the proposed location is an orthodox

- 1 location for a south half spacing unit. We think
- 2 | it should have no penalty because the competing
- 3 | well is a very good well and is also at an
- 4 orthodox location. And the third reason I really
- 5 came to discuss is the performance of the Preston
- 6 Federal No. 6, and the conclusion, really, is
- 7 going to be that we have a good possibility of
- 8 being drained by that well, and there's
- 9 essentially no chance that our well will drain
- 10 | anything off our lease.
- Q. Dr. Boneau, when you talk about the
- 12 | competing well, the Conoco well in the north half
- 13 of 35, that well is at an unorthodox location, is
- 14 | it not?
- 15 A. Yes.
- Q. And is that well penalized because of
- 17 | the unorthodox location?
- 18 A. No, sir.
- 19 Q. All right. Let's go to Exhibit No. 7
- 20 now, and if you could review that for Mr.
- 21 Catanach?
- 22 A. Okay. So what's shown on the front
- 23 | page of Exhibit No. 7 is an outline of the Morrow
- 24 channel, and that is the outline of the isopach
- 25 | that was drawn on Exhibit 5. It shows three

wells, an open circle for the proposed Yates location for the Conoco AGK #15. It shows a black circle for the location of the Yates-Conoco AGK #9, the well that was taken to the Morrow and plugged back to the Canyon by Yates.

We avoided coming to a hearing on that one by drilling a dry hole.

For the Examiner's information, the AGK #15, just to diverge a second, is being drilled at this moment. Yesterday we were about 7500 feet testing the Canyon on DST.

The third well is the real interesting well, the Preston Federal No. 6, located in Unit A of Section 35. This Conoco well went on line approximately March 1st, and what I've shown on the front page is a circle showing its drainage area as of the end of this month.

So, at the end of May it will have produced three months and drained 26-1/2 acres, and has a drainage circle as shown on the front page of the exhibit.

The continuing story--and we'll get to the other pages in just a second--the continuing story, the well's making 7 million a day and it's a solid 7 million a day, so it's making about 200

million a month. The exhibit shows where it will
be at the end of this month.

On July 10th, that circle will reach our boundary. In September, that circle will completely fill the channel, from the northeast edge of the channel to the southwest edge of the channel.

So, the Conoco well is draining the available Morrow reservoir very rapidly, and it's going to compete with the Yates well and it is going to drain its own area and the surrounding areas very rapidly.

So the Yates well has probably, in my opinion, a zero chance of being a 7 million a day well. We hope it's a 2 or 3 million a day well. The competition is just going to be such that we're going to be after our gas, and the Conoco well has the proven capability to drain its own area and some Yates and Marathon acreage.

That's the basic argument. The other pages fill in those numbers. On the second page--I'm not going to go through all the numbers, but a couple of them are of interest--two or three inches down, right above Item No. 2, it says, "Hydrocarbon pore volume is

1 2.637 feet of gas porosity in the Preston Federal
2 No. 6."

The third page of the exhibit is a foot-by-foot calculation of that number. Item

No. 2 on the second page talks about production.

In March of 93, the first month it was on line,
it made 191 million cubic feet. In April it made

218 million cubic feet.

Yates has a small interest in the well. We get the reports, and these are the numbers. The May number has got to be an estimate since May is not quite over yet, but the well is holding steady at 7 million a day. So, in three months it will have made over 600 million cubic feet of gas.

Part 3 of the second page of the exhibit is a calculation of this drainage area, and as of June 1st the circle will have a radius of 606 feet. By an extension of that, on July 10th that circle will reach our boundary, and a couple of months later it will entirely fill that channel.

So, the Preston Federal is draining the Morrow channel very rapidly, and our well is going to have a tough time competing with no

penalty, and with the penalty we would have no chance at all.

- Q. All right. Let's go to what's marked as Exhibit No. 8, and I would ask you to identify and review that.
- A. Exhibit No. 8 consist of two pieces of paper, and it's some subsidiary numbers just to kind of fill in the picture for the Examiner.

It is simply a calculation of the gas in place in the Morrow channel, both in Section 26 and in Section 35, and it uses the isopachs that were presented in Exhibit 5. I didn't redraw those, but I planimetered all those.

The conclusion is that in Section 26 there's 1.9, approximately, Bcf of gas in place, and in Section 35 there's about three and a half Bcf in place. Most of the gas, as you can see from the map, is in Section 36. There's about 10 Bcf of gas in Section 36.

The Yates well, assuming it is successful, is going to be competing for that 1.9 Bcf of gas. We hope to get 1.2, 1.5 Bcf. And with no penalty we'll have a good chance of getting that; with a penalty, the huge production from the Preston Federal is going to drain us.

The second page of Exhibit 8 is simply the planimetered calculations that lead to these gas in place numbers on the front page of Exhibit 8.

- Q. Dr. Boneau, if this application is approved and a penalty should be imposed by the Division, would the correlative rights of Yates Petroleum Corporation be impaired?
 - A. Yes, that's clearly my opinion.
- Q. Conversely, if the application is approved with no penalty, will the correlative rights of any offsetting operator be adversely affected?
- A. No, sir.

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- Q. In your opinion, will approval of Yates' application be in the best interest of conservation, prevention of waste, and the protection of correlative rights?
- 19 A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Were Exhibits 7 and 8 prepared by you?
- 21 A. That's correct.
- MR. CARR: At this time, Mr. Catanach,
- 23 we move the admission of Yates Petroleum
- 24 | Corporation Exhibits 7 and 8.
- 25 EXAMINER CATANACH: Exhibits 7 and 8

1 | will be admitted into evidence.

2 MR. CARR: That concludes my direct

3 examination of Dr. Boneau.

EXAMINATION

BY EXAMINER CATANACH:

- Q. Dr. Boneau, is this going to be a dual completion?
 - A. No, I think it is not going to be a dual completion. If this well is a successful Morrow completion, we will produce the Morrow; and when it is depleted, we will plug back to the Canyon. That's the answer. We've had one or two other wells go like that, and that's been the mode of operation.
 - Q. Is it your opinion that the Preston well will, if you don't drill a well in Section 26 to the Morrow, will that Preston Federal drain the acreage in Section 26?
 - A. If there were no other wells drilled, the Preston Federal No. 6 would drain most of the gas in Section 26 and an appreciable amount of the gas in Section 36. It would drain a long way, yes. It has very good permeability and porosity.
 - Q. All of your calculations and reserve

1 estimates are based upon Ms. Fly's geologic
2 interpretation?

- A. That's correct. The performance of the Preston Federal 6 and the expansion of its drainage area is not based strictly on that interpretation, but the rest of it clearly is.
- Q. Is the quality of the reservoir in the Preston Federal No. 6, is it going to be considerably better than what you hope to encounter?
- A. The map and the geological interpretation has the Yates well being right on top, in the thickest part of the channel. If that is actually true, the well will be somewhat poorer than the Preston Federal. It's got 42 feet compared to 48 feet, or something on that order.

The geologists aren't always exactly right, and we'll be real lucky to get something 75 percent as good as the Preston Federal. We'll take something half as good as the Preston Federal.

EXAMINER CATANACH: I don't have anything further. Bob?

MR. STOVALL: I've learned long ago not

1	to question Dr. Boneau.
2	MR. CARR: We have nothing further in
3	this case, Mr. Catanach.
4	EXAMINER CATANACH: There being nothing
5	further, Case 10730 will be taken under
6	advisement.
7	MR. CARR: Thank you.
8	(And the proceedings concluded.)
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17	I do hereby certify that the foregoing is
18	a complete record of the proceedings in
19	the examiner hearing of Case No. 10730. neard by me on 1953.
20	Louid Cotanl, Examiner
2 1	Oil Conservation Division
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1 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER 2 STATE OF NEW MEXICO 3 SS. COUNTY OF SANTA FE 5 I, Carla Diane Rodriguez, Certified 6 7 Court Reporter and Notary Public, HEREBY CERTIFY 8 that the foregoing transcript of proceedings 9 before the Oil Conservation Division was reported by me; that I caused my notes to be transcribed 10 11 under my personal supervision; and that the 12 foregoing is a true and accurate record of the 13 proceedings. 14 I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative or employee of any of the parties or 15 attorneys involved in this matter and that I have 16 17 no personal interest in the final disposition of this matter. 18 19 WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL May 21, 1993. 20 21 22 CARLA 23 DIANE RODRIGUEZ CCR No. 24