

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE HEARING CALLED
BY THE OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION FOR
THE PURPOSE OF CONSIDERING:

APPLICATION OF AMEREDEV OPERATING, CASE NO. 15987
LLC FOR A NONSTANDARD SPACING AND
PRORATION UNIT AND COMPULSORY POOLING,
LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

EXAMINER HEARING

February 22, 2018

Santa Fe, New Mexico

BEFORE: SCOTT DAWSON, CHIEF EXAMINER
WILLIAM V. JONES, TECHNICAL EXAMINER
DAVID K. BROOKS, LEGAL EXAMINER

This matter came on for hearing before the
New Mexico Oil Conservation Division, Scott Dawson,
Chief Examiner, William V. Jones, Technical Examiner,
and David K. Brooks, Legal Examiner, on Thursday,
February 22, 2018, at the New Mexico Energy, Minerals
and Natural Resources Department, Wendell Chino
Building, 1220 South St. Francis Drive, Porter Hall,
Room 102, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

REPORTED BY: Mary C. Hankins, CCR, RPR
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APPEARANCES

FOR APPLICANT AMEREDEV OPERATING, LLC:

ADAM G. RANKIN, ESQ.
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INDEX

PAGE

Case Number 15987 Called	3
Ameredev Operating, LLC's Case-in-Chief:	
Witnesses:	
Brandon Forteza:	
Direct Examination by Mr. Rankin	3
Cross-Examination by Examiner Brooks	11
Cross-Examination by Examiner Jones	14
Cross-Examination by Examiner Dawson	14
Parker Foy:	
Direct Examination by Mr. Rankin	16
Cross-Examination by Examiner Jones	20
Cross-Examination by Examiner Dawson	21
Recross Examination by Examiner Jones	22
Recross Examination by Examiner Dawson	23
Proceedings Conclude	24
Certificate of Court Reporter	25

EXHIBITS OFFERED AND ADMITTED

Ameredev Operating, LLC Exhibit Numbers 1 through 6	11
Ameredev Operating, LLC Exhibit Numbers 7 through 10	20

1 (9:44 a.m.)

2 EXAMINER DAWSON: The next case we will
3 hear is number nine on the list, which is Case Number
4 15987. It's the application of Ameredev Operating, LLC
5 for a nonstandard spacing and proration unit and
6 compulsory pooling, Lea County, New Mexico.

7 Please call for witnesses -- call for
8 appearances.

9 MR. RANKIN: Thank you, Mr. Examiner. Adam
10 Rankin on behalf of the Applicant. I have two witnesses
11 today.

12 EXAMINER DAWSON: Okay. Can your witnesses
13 please stand and be sworn in?

14 (Mr. Forteza and Mr. Foy sworn.)

15 MR. RANKIN: Mr. Examiner, I'd like to call
16 my first witness, Mr. Brandon Forteza.

17 BRANDON FORTEZA,
18 after having been first duly sworn under oath, was
19 questioned and testified as follows:

20 DIRECT EXAMINATION

21 BY MR. RANKIN:

22 **Q. Mr. Forteza, will you state your full name for**
23 **the record and spell it for the court reporter?**

24 A. Certainly. It's Brandon Forteza,
25 F-O-R-T-E-Z-A.

1 **Q. And by whom are you employed?**

2 A. I'm a petroleum landman with Ameredev
3 Operating, LLC.

4 **Q. Have you previously testified before the**
5 **Division and had your credentials as an expert in**
6 **petroleum land matters accepted and made a matter of**
7 **record?**

8 A. Yes, sir.

9 **Q. Are you familiar with the application that was**
10 **filed?**

11 A. I am.

12 **Q. Have you conducted a study of the lands that**
13 **are the subject of the application?**

14 A. Yes.

15 MR. RANKIN: Mr. Examiner, I would tender
16 Mr. Forteza as an expert in petroleum land matters.

17 EXAMINER DAWSON: Mr. Forteza will be
18 accepted as an expert in petroleum land matters at this
19 time.

20 **Q. (BY MR. RANKIN) Mr. Forteza, will you please**
21 **review for the Examiners what it is Ameredev is seeking**
22 **with this application today?**

23 A. Sure. We're seeking to form a proration unit
24 that comprises 233.69 acres of the west half-west half
25 of Section 27 and the west half-west half equivalent of

1 the irregular section, Section 34, all in 26 South, 36
2 East of Lea County, New Mexico.

3 Q. And Exhibit Number 1, is that the C-102 that
4 was filed for this well depicting the acreage that
5 you're seeking to combine?

6 A. It is.

7 Q. Does that also show the location of the
8 proposed well?

9 A. It does.

10 Q. And is Ameredev seeking to commit all the --
11 pool all the uncommitted interest owners within that
12 proposed spacing unit?

13 A. We are.

14 Q. And are you also asking that the Division
15 designate you as the operator of the well?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And what is the well you're seeking to drill
18 here -- proposing?

19 A. That is the Amen Corner State Com 26-36-27 111H
20 well.

21 Q. And what is the status of the lands that you're
22 seeking to drill through here?

23 A. Section 27, the west half is a fee tract, all
24 fee, and then Section 34 is state -- state land.

25 Q. Okay. And what is the pool that you're

1 **targeting here?**

2 A. It's the Wolfcamp Pool, Pool Code 98234.

3 **Q. And is that pool subject to statewide rules for**
4 **oil well spacing -- for setbacks, rather?**

5 A. Yes. Yes.

6 **Q. And will the completed interval for this**
7 **proposed well remain within the 330 -- 330-foot setbacks**
8 **required by the statewide rules?**

9 A. It will.

10 **Q. Looking at Exhibit Number 2, will you review**
11 **for the Examiners what this shows?**

12 A. Yes. This is just a schematic of the two
13 tracts we're seeking to pool: Section 27, the west
14 half-west half being the fee interest; and Section 34,
15 the west half-west half equivalent, is on the state
16 land.

17 **Q. Now, on the second next page of that exhibit,**
18 **is that a depiction of the interest owners within those**
19 **two tracts?**

20 A. It is.

21 **Q. And which of the parties that you're seeking to**
22 **pool today?**

23 A. Yeah, the parties with the asterisk. So these
24 are uncommitted working interest owners and unleased
25 mineral interests.

1 Q. Okay. So the bottom half of that exhibit shows
2 all the parties you're seeking to pool with the
3 asterisks?

4 EXAMINER BROOKS: What exhibit are you
5 looking at?

6 MR. RANKIN: I'm sorry. Exhibit Number 2,
7 the second page of that exhibit.

8 EXAMINER BROOKS: Okay. Thank you.

9 Q. (BY MR. RANKIN) So you're seeking to pool some
10 unleased mineral interest owners; is that right?

11 A. Correct.

12 Q. And have you sought to lease those interests?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And is Exhibit Number 3 a copy of the letter
15 that was sent -- a sample letter that was sent to the
16 unleased mineral interest owners whereby you're seeking
17 to lease their interests?

18 A. It is.

19 Q. And as to the working interest owners, have you
20 sent them a well-proposal letter?

21 A. We have.

22 Q. And is that sample letter that you sent
23 depicted in Exhibit Number 4?

24 A. It is.

25 Q. Did you include an AFE with that well-proposal

1 letter?

2 A. We did include an AFE.

3 Q. And are the costs that are depicted in the AFE,
4 are those costs consistent with what operators in the
5 area have incurred for similar wells?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Has Ameredev made an estimate of the overhead
8 and administrative costs while drilling each of -- while
9 drilling the well?

10 A. We have, 7,000 while drilling and 700 while
11 producing.

12 Q. Okay. And are those costs similar to what
13 other operators are charging in this area for these
14 types of wells?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And do you ask that these administrative costs
17 be incorporated into any order that results from today's
18 hearing?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And do you ask that these costs be adjusted in
21 accordance with the COPAS accounting procedures?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And with respect to the uncommitted interest
24 owners, do you ask that the Division impose a 200
25 percent risk penalty with respect to their working

1 interest?

2 A. Yes, we do.

3 Q. And in addition to sending the lease offer --
4 lease offers and the well-proposal letters, have you
5 undertaken good efforts to reach a voluntary agreement
6 with the parties you're seeking to pool?

7 A. We have. We're continuing to talk via phone
8 calls and emails and -- to work out a deal.

9 Q. And you've reached and contacted each of the
10 parties you're seeking to pool?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And if you're able to reach a voluntary
13 agreement with the parties, will you let the Division
14 know that you're no longer seeking to pool those
15 interests?

16 A. We will.

17 Q. So in your opinion, did you undertake a
18 good-faith effort to reach agreement with these
19 uncommitted owners?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And have you undertaken a good-faith, diligent
22 effort, for all these interests, to locate them?

23 A. Yeah, we have.

24 Q. And were there any unlocatable interests that
25 you're seeking to pool?

1 A. No.

2 Q. Now, did you also identify the offsetting
3 operators or lessees of record in each of the 40-acre
4 tracts surrounding the proposed spacing unit?

5 A. We did.

6 Q. And is Exhibit Number 5 a copy of the affidavit
7 that I prepared stating that we provided notice to each
8 of those offsetting interest owners, as well as the
9 parties that you're seeking to pool?

10 A. Yes, it is.

11 Q. And are the subsequent pages a copy of the
12 letters that went to each of those interest owners and
13 offsets?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. As well as a list identifying each of those
16 addresses with the green cards and the green card
17 receipts where we received them back?

18 A. Yes, it is.

19 Q. And did we also provide Notice of Publication
20 in the newspaper in the county identifying the parties
21 by name that you're seeking to pool and the offsets?

22 A. We did.

23 Q. Has that been provided in Exhibit Number 6?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. By -- and that's the affidavit indicating that

1 **the publication was published in the newspaper?**

2 A. Yes.

3 **Q. Mr. Forteza, I have no other questions.**

4 MR. RANKIN: Mr. Examiner, I would move
5 into the record Exhibits 1 through 6.

6 EXAMINER DAWSON: Okay. At this time
7 Exhibits 1 through 6 will be admitted to the record.

8 (Ameredev Operating, LLC Exhibit Numbers 1
9 through 6 are offered and admitted into
10 evidence.)

11 MR. RANKIN: No further questions of this
12 witness, and we'll pass the witness.

13 EXAMINER DAWSON: David, do you have
14 questions?

15 CROSS-EXAMINATION

16 BY EXAMINER BROOKS:

17 **Q. The list on Exhibit 2 of owners --**

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 **Q. -- these are all the people that have working**
20 **interests. Are some of them unleased mineral interests?**

21 A. Yes, the Osborn heirs, the Clara Jane Miller,
22 and the Floyd C and Norma T. Stuart Living Trust.

23 **Q. Yeah. I assume they're all working interest**
24 **owners because their interests add up to 100 percent; is**
25 **that correct?**

1 A. The way it includes is the unleased minerals
2 and the committed -- or uncommitted working interest
3 owners.

4 Q. Right.

5 I realize in our definitions -- I wasn't
6 really aware until recently. I should have been. But
7 realizing the definition of working interest owners is
8 defined in such a way that it does not include unleased
9 mineral owners. But if you're going to compute gross
10 working interests, you have to make it add to 100
11 percent. You have to treat them the same.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. So you're asking to pool everybody except
14 yourselves, because you have asterisks by every interest
15 in that lower table?

16 A. Correct.

17 Q. You haven't acquired any interest as of now?

18 A. No. We have interests. I don't --

19 Q. Well, I mean any of the interests listed here.

20 A. Everyone's listed. All -- all the interest we
21 have leased, we have authority to pool under the lease.

22 Q. Okay. Now -- that's right.

23 Are there people on this list that are
24 not -- the people on this Tract 1 list, I didn't -- I
25 didn't realize -- it looked like they were all the same

1 people. It doesn't really matter. The people on the
2 lower portion there are the ones that you're pooling?

3 A. Yes, sir.

4 Q. And I believe that the notice issues were
5 covered. Let's see.

6 Yes. You did do an Affidavit of
7 Publication. But you have addresses for everyone?

8 A. We do. We've been able to contact them, and
9 we've spoken with everyone.

10 Q. So you got return receipts?

11 A. I believe there was one --

12 Was this one missing?

13 MR. RANKIN: I don't know.

14 Mr. Examiner, if you look at Exhibit Number
15 5, I believe that we didn't get return receipts for
16 everybody, but Mr. Forteza testified he's been in
17 contact with everybody, their known addresses, valid
18 addresses.

19 EXAMINER BROOKS: Very good.

20 Another thing I learned studying the notice
21 rules is that you only have to provide return receipts
22 if -- if you don't have them, you don't have to produce
23 them.

24 MR. RANKIN: Yeah. It's timing sometimes,
25 the way the system works.

1 EXAMINER BROOKS: That's all I have.

2 EXAMINER DAWSON: Mr. Jones, do you have
3 any questions?

4 CROSS-EXAMINATION

5 BY EXAMINER JONES:

6 Q. Just quickly, Burlington, is that still
7 Burlington Resources or --

8 A. It's a subsidiary of Conoco, so --

9 Q. Conoco.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. So Hilcorp didn't buy this area of this --

12 A. No. So this is minerals owned under
13 Burlington. And then Conoco, they keep it under the
14 Burlington name. So --

15 Q. I remember the Osborns. They were subject to
16 several hearings in the past.

17 A. Yeah. But we're -- we're pretty close. We'll
18 probably have a lease with them, I think.

19 Q. Your terms are really -- seem very good.

20 A. Yeah. We have good terms.

21 Q. That's all. I don't have any more questions.

22 CROSS-EXAMINATION

23 BY EXAMINER DAWSON:

24 Q. Mr. Forteza, in looking at your Exhibit 3 --

25 A. Yes, sir.

1 Q. -- and it's the Trustees of the Jal Public
2 Library Fund --

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. -- which -- which ones are those on your list
5 in 2?

6 A. That's Clara Jane Miller. Her interest, it's
7 still -- I believe it's being probated, and they're
8 going to be the ones that we would get the lease from.
9 It will be passed to them.

10 Q. Were you able to contact that Lilis Energy?

11 A. Yes. We're still working with them. They've
12 indicated they might participate. We still haven't
13 reached an agreement or reached a JOA.

14 Q. That's all the questions I have. Thank you
15 very much.

16 MR. RANKIN: Thank you, Mr. Examiner. I
17 would now like to dismiss Mr. Forteza and call our next
18 witness.

19 EXAMINER DAWSON: Okay.

20 MR. RANKIN: Our next witness is Mr. Parker
21 Foy.

22 PARKER FOY,
23 after having been previously sworn under oath, was
24 questioned and testified as follows:

25

DIRECT EXAMINATION

1
2 BY MR. RANKIN:

3 Q. Mr. Foy, please state your name and address for
4 the record.

5 A. Parker Yates Foy.

6 Q. And by whom are you employed?

7 A. Ameredev, LLC.

8 Q. And in what capacity do you work for Ameredev?

9 A. I'm a geologist.

10 Q. Have you had a chance to testify before the
11 Division?

12 A. I have not.

13 Q. Will you please review for the Examiners your
14 educational background?

15 A. I got my geology degree from the University of
16 Texas in 2011. I got my master's in petroleum geology
17 from the University of Houston in 2013. I subsequently
18 worked for a consulting firm, Morningstar Consultants
19 briefly, and then a smaller operator, Saint Gabriel
20 Resources, and then Ameredev since 2015.

21 Q. And you've been a petroleum geologist during
22 that -- during that period of time?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And are you familiar with the application that
25 was filed in the case today?

1 A. I am.

2 Q. Have you conducted a study of the lands
3 underlying the subject area?

4 A. I have.

5 MR. RANKIN: Mr. Examiner, I would tender
6 Mr. Foy as an expert in petroleum geology.

7 EXAMINER DAWSON: Mr. Foy will be admitted
8 to the record as an expert in petroleum geology.

9 MR. RANKIN: Thank you.

10 Q. (BY MR. RANKIN) Now, Mr. Foy, will you review
11 for the Examiners Exhibit Number 7 and review for them
12 what it shows?

13 A. Yes. So here we have a locator map of the
14 Ameredev -- Ameredev project acreage. The surface-hole
15 location of our wells is indicated by the red square.
16 We are drilling north to south. You can -- yeah. Our
17 acreage is highlighted in yellow. And then a nearby
18 producing well is the Wildhog, drilled by Impetro,
19 indicated by the green circle.

20 Q. So in this case, Mr. Foy, what is the target
21 interval you're seeking to produce?

22 A. Wolfcamp A.

23 Q. Okay. And did you -- did you prepare a
24 structure map of the Wolfcamp?

25 A. I did.

1 **Q. Is that the next exhibit, Number 8?**

2 A. In Exhibit 8, you see a structure at the top of
3 the Wolfcamp. It's a very consistent dip to the
4 southwest, with contour intervals of 50 feet, and it's
5 very uniform and consistent.

6 **Q. And based on the structure map, did you**
7 **identify any impediments within the structure to**
8 **horizontal well development in the area?**

9 A. I do not.

10 **Q. And did you also prepare a cross section for**
11 **the proposed interval?**

12 A. I did.

13 **Q. Is that your next exhibit, showing your**
14 **cross-section lines?**

15 A. It is. So this is a map view of the cross
16 section going from A to A prime in the south. The
17 Pawnee Deep is controlled in the north, and the
18 Horseback is south, and our Azalea well to the west.

19 **Q. And is your next exhibit a copy of your cross**
20 **section? Will you review for the Examiners what it**
21 **shows?**

22 A. Sure. The Pawnee Deep, again, is going A to A
23 prime, so north to south. The tracts indicated -- going
24 from left to right, our first track in blue is the gamma
25 ray. In red is your resistivity, and the furthest

1 right, in green, is your density porosity. This cross
2 section is hung on the top of the Wolfcamp, and we are
3 indicating our target interval, which is very consistent
4 throughout in log character.

5 Q. And the wells you've identified here for your
6 cross section, are they, in your opinion, representative
7 of the wells in the area and of the Wolfcamp that you're
8 seeking to develop?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Now, when you conducted your analysis, based on
11 your review of the geology and the structure here, have
12 you identified any geologic hazards, impediments,
13 pinch-outs or any other impediments to developing the
14 horizontal well as you proposed?

15 A. No. I do not see any geological hazards.

16 Q. Based on the continuity of the formation across
17 the proration unit, in your analysis, do you expect that
18 each quarter-quarter section of this proration unit will
19 contribute more or less equally to the production in the
20 well?

21 A. I do.

22 Q. And in your opinion, do you believe horizontal
23 well -- this horizontal well will be the most
24 efficient method of developing oil in this area?

25 A. I do believe that.

1 **Q. In your opinion, do you believe granting of**
2 **Ameredev's application will be in the interest of**
3 **conservation, the prevention of waste and for the**
4 **protection of correlative rights?**

5 A. I do.

6 **Q. Did you prepare Exhibits 7, 8, 9 and 10?**

7 A. I did.

8 MR. RANKIN: Mr. Examiner, I would move to
9 admit Exhibits 7 through 10 into the record.

10 EXAMINER DAWSON: Exhibits 7 through 10
11 will be admitted to the record at this time.

12 (Ameredev Operating, LLC Exhibit Numbers 7
13 through 10 are offered and admitted into
14 evidence.)

15 MR. RANKIN: No further questions at this
16 time. Pass the witness.

17 EXAMINER DAWSON: Okay. Mr. Brooks, do you
18 have any questions?

19 EXAMINER BROOKS: No questions.

20 EXAMINER DAWSON: Mr. Jones?

21 CROSS-EXAMINATION

22 BY EXAMINER JONES:

23 **Q. Are you calling it Wolfcamp A?**

24 A. Yeah. We call it the Wolfcamp A.

25 **Q. Thank you.**

CROSS-EXAMINATION

BY EXAMINER DAWSON:

Q. Mr. Foy, in looking at your Exhibit Number 9, I'm looking at the wells to the west, your Azalea.

A. Yes.

Q. Is that a recently drilled well?

A. Yes.

Q. That's producing pretty well?

A. No. Actually, they have not been completed. They're stacked wells. One's been drilled. The lateral's been drilled, and the second one is currently being drilled right now.

Q. Okay. And that's the Wildhog, the second one?

A. No. The second one -- it's two Azaleas.

Q. Oh, the two Azaleas.

A. Yeah. It's two right on top of each other, stacked, the Wolfcamp A and Wolfcamp B, I believe.

Q. What about that Wildhog well? Is it producing?

A. Yes, it is. It's a pretty good well. It's a Wolfcamp B.

Q. How long ago was that drilled?

A. I think it's only been on production for -- I want to say like six months.

Q. Do you have an idea how much that's produced?

A. Not off the top of my head.

1 Q. But you expect your well to produce similar to
2 that well, the Wildhog well?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Or better maybe, since it's a half mile long?

5 A. Yeah, better because it's longer, and also we
6 believe, you know, the A. It's going to be different
7 because that's a B well, and this is going to be an A.
8 But we believe it's going to be better.

9 Q. And that Pawnee Deep unit to the north --

10 A. Uh-huh.

11 Q. -- did that ever produce in the Wolfcamp?

12 A. I think that -- I think that's a deeper
13 Ellenburger well, like an older control point.

14 Q. But it's plugged out?

15 A. Yeah.

16 EXAMINER DAWSON: I think Mr. Jones has a
17 question.

18 RE CROSS EXAMINATION

19 BY EXAMINER JONES:

20 Q. The well name itself, you're calling it the
21 26-36-27. Is that -- is that what you meant -- okay.
22 So 27 is the section --

23 A. It's the section.

24 Q. -- that's it in. Okay. I was thinking the
25 section would be before the township and range, but I

1 guess it's just the way you do it, however you want to
2 do it.

3 And why are you putting the well in the
4 section to the north? I should have asked the land guy
5 this.

6 A. I think it's -- I think to be able to be in
7 zone longer in the lease.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. Okay. Thanks.

11 RECROSS EXAMINATION

12 BY EXAMINER DAWSON:

13 Q. Does that also just to help you guys build the
14 curve so you can hit the 330-foot offset?

15 A. Yeah. Exactly. And right when we get to that
16 point, we are, you know, in the zone.

17 Q. You're producing 330 from the line?

18 A. Yeah.

19 EXAMINER DAWSON: That's all the questions
20 we have. Thank you very much.

21 MR. RANKIN: No further questions from me.
22 And with that, I'd ask the case be taken under
23 advisement.

24 EXAMINER DAWSON: Okay. At this point Case
25 Number 15987 will be taken under advisement.

1 Thank you, Mr. Rankin.

2 MR. RANKIN: Thank you very much.

3 (Case Number 15987 concludes, 10:05 a.m.)

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I do not recall the name of the
person who was present at the
the above hearing on Case No. _____
heard by me on _____.

_____, Examiner
Oil Conservation Division

1 STATE OF NEW MEXICO
2 COUNTY OF BERNALILLO
3

4 CERTIFICATE OF COURT REPORTER

5 I, MARY C. HANKINS, Certified Court
6 Reporter, New Mexico Certified Court Reporter No. 20,
7 and Registered Professional Reporter, do hereby certify
8 that I reported the foregoing proceedings in
9 stenographic shorthand and that the foregoing pages are
10 a true and correct transcript of those proceedings that
11 were reduced to printed form by me to the best of my
12 ability.

13 I FURTHER CERTIFY that the Reporter's
14 Record of the proceedings truly and accurately reflects
15 the exhibits, if any, offered by the respective parties.

16 I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am neither
17 employed by nor related to any of the parties or
18 attorneys in this case and that I have no interest in
19 the final disposition of this case.

20 DATED THIS 9th day of March 2018.
21

22
23 MARY C. HANKINS, CCR, RPR
24 Certified Court Reporter
25 New Mexico CCR No. 20
Date of CCR Expiration: 12/31/2018
Paul Baca Professional Court Reporters