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EMERYVILLE

14 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

15 COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO

16  
17 SUCCESSOR AGENCY TO THE  
18 REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF THE  
CITY OF EMERYVILLE, a public entity,

19 Petitioner and Plaintiff,

20 v.

21 CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF  
22 FINANCE; KEELY BOSLER, in her  
official capacity as Director of the State of  
23 California Department of Finance; DOES  
1-50 inclusive, and ROES 1-50 inclusive,

24 Respondents and Defendants.  
25  
26  
27  
28

*Filing Fees Exempt Per Government  
Code Section 6103*

Case No.

**PETITION FOR WRIT OF MANDATE**

## INTRODUCTION

1. This petition for Writ of Mandate ("Petition") is brought by Petitioner and Plaintiff SUCCESSOR AGENCY TO THE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF THE CITY OF EMERYVILLE ("Successor Agency" or "Petitioner"), pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure Section 1085, and is directed to Respondents: (1) State of California DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE ("DOF"); and (2) KEELY BOSLER, in her official capacity as Director of the State of California Department of Finance ("Bosler"); (collectively, "Respondents"), seeking to compel Respondents to comply with the Dissolution Act (ABx1 26 [Assem. Bill No. 26 (2011-2012 1st Ex. Session)], AB 1484 [Assem. Bill No. 1484 (2011-2012 Reg. Session)], and SB 107 [Sen. Bill No. 107 (2015-2016 Reg. Session)], collectively ("Dissolution Law").

2. On October 5, 2009, the City of Emeryville ("City") and the former Redevelopment Agency of the City of Emeryville ("RDA") entered into a Settlement Agreement ("Settlement Agreement") with Union Oil Company of California, Chevron U.S.A. Inc. and Chevron Corporation (collectively, "Chevron") relating to recovery of costs, damages and fees incurred by the RDA in connection with the investigation and cleanup of hazardous materials on real property known as South Bayfront Site B ("Site B"). The Settlement Agreement and settlements with other defendants to the consolidated proceeding (Alameda County Superior Court, Case Nos. RG-06-267594; RG-06-267600; RG-07-332012) were approved by Order On Joint Motion For Determination Of Good Faith Determination Of Settlements And Settlement Allocation of the Alameda County Superior Court on July 23, 2010 ("Settlement Order").

3. Section VI.B. of the Settlement Agreement provides in relevant part as follows:

"...the Redevelopment Agency shall – without cost to the Settling Defendants (or any of the released parties herein) other than the Settlement Payment – perform or cause to be performed all environmental work reasonably required to study, investigate, evaluate, and remediate the Hazardous Substances or contamination within, on, under, at, or emanating from and/or migrating to or from Site B and the Powell Street CVOC Remediation to the satisfaction of DTSC..."

4. The Settlement Agreement and the Settlement Order constitute enforceable obligations of the Successor Agency pursuant to Health & Safety Code §§ 34171(d)(1)(D) and

1 34171(d)(1)(E). In a May 17, 2017 letter regarding the Successor Agency's Recognized  
2 Obligation Payment Schedule ("ROPS") for July 1, 2017 –June 30, 2018 ("ROPS 17-18  
3 Determination"), DOF acknowledged that "the Settlement Agreement is an enforceable  
4 obligation".

5 5. Despite that acknowledgement, on May 17, 2019 DOF in its Final Determination  
6 on ROPS 2019-2020 ("Final Determination"), DOF asserted that a cleanup agreement with EKI  
7 Environment & Water, Inc. ("EKI PSA"), approved by the Successor Agency on January 15,  
8 2019 pursuant to authority provided by Health & Safety Code § 34177.3 and entered into in  
9 order to comply with the Settlement Agreement was not an enforceable obligation.

10 6. The EKI PSA is listed as Item No. 123 on ROPS 19-20 and is a \$2,995,000  
11 professional services agreement for the provision of environmental engineering services for real  
12 property located at 5679 Horton Street, Emeryville, California (known as the "Corporation Yard"  
13 and/or "FMW<sup>1</sup> Site"). The RDA acquired fee title to the Corporation Yard in July 1999. The  
14 EKI PSA pertains to the environmental clean-up of the Corporation Yard, a site which is  
15 upgradient of, and a source of contamination migrating to, Site B. Pursuant to authority provided  
16 by Health & Safety Code § 34177.3, the Successor Agency approved the EKI PSA in  
17 compliance with an enforceable obligation that existed prior to June 28, 2011, namely (i) the  
18 Settlement Agreement dated October 5, 2009, and (ii) obligations imposed by State  
19 environmental law (Health and Safety Code §25323.5(a)(1)) on the Successor Agency as owner  
20 of fee title to the Corporation Yard acquired in July 1999. Accordingly, the EKI PSA is a valid  
21 enforceable obligation of the Successor Agency pursuant to Health & Safety Code §§  
22 34171(d)(1)(E), (F).

23 7. A site map showing the location of Site B and the Corporation Yard in  
24 relation to each other is attached to this Petition as Exhibit A. The Successor Agency is  
25 the current owner of fee title to Site B and the Corporation Yard.

26 <sup>1</sup> The phrase "FMW Site" is an acronym for "Former Marchant-Whitney Site". The  
27 Marchant Calculating Machine Company, a California corporation, and its successors  
28 owned and conducted industrial operations at the site from approximately 1910 to 1959.  
The Whitney Research and Tool Company operated at the site from approximately 1960  
to the late 1990s.

8. This Petition seeks to compel DOF to comply with its mandatory statutory duties under the Dissolution Act to approve payment of Item No. 123 on ROPS 19-20.

## PARTIES

9. Petitioner Successor Agency to the Redevelopment Agency of the City of Emeryville (“Successor Agency”) is, pursuant to Health & Safety Code § 34173(a), the Successor Agency to the former RDA. Pursuant to Health & Safety Code § 34173(g), the Successor Agency is a separate public entity from the City and can sue and be sued in its own name.

10. Respondent California Department of Finance is, and at all relevant times mentioned herein was, an arm of the executive branch of the sovereign State of California responsible for preparing the State budget and advising the Governor on budgetary and fiscal matters.

11. Respondent Keely Bosler is the current Director of the DOF, and is named herein at all times in her official capacity as such.

12. The true names and capacities, whether individual, corporate, or otherwise, of Respondents/Defendants DOES 1 through 50, inclusive, are unknown to Petitioner at this time, who therefore sues these Respondents by such fictitious names. Petitioner will seek leave of court to amend this Petition to reflect the true names and capacities of these fictitiously named Respondents when they have been ascertained. Petitioner is informed and believe, and based thereon allege, that each of the Respondents named herein as DOES 1 through 50, inclusive, is legally responsible in some manner for the actions challenged herein, and therefore should be bound by the relief sought herein.

13. The true names and capacities, whether individual, corporate, or otherwise, of Real Parties in Interest ROES 1 through 50, inclusive, are unknown to Petitioner at this time. Petitioner therefore sues these Real Parties in Interest by such fictitious names. Petitioner will seek leave of court to amend this Petition to reflect the true names and capacities of these fictitiously named Real Parties in Interest when they have been ascertained. Petitioner is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that each of the Real Parties In Interest named



1 herein as ROES 1 through 50, inclusive, is legally responsible in some manner for the actions  
2 challenged herein, and therefore should be bound by the relief sought herein.

3 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

4 14. Pursuant to Health & Safety Code § 34168, “any action contesting the validity of  
5 [Part 1.8] or Part 1.85 (commencing with § 34170) or challenging acts taken pursuant to these  
6 parts shall be brought in the Superior Court of the County of Sacramento.” The actions  
7 challenged by this Petition were taken pursuant to Parts 1.8 and/or 1.85 and therefore venue is  
8 proper in this Court.

9 15. This Petition is deemed verified pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure § 446.

10 16. Petitioner has performed all conditions precedent to filing this Petition, including  
11 exhausting all available administrative remedies, and has no other remedy other than to bring this  
12 action. Petitioner has no plain, speedy, and adequate remedy in the ordinary course of the law  
13 other than to bring this action.

14 **COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT LAW**

15 17. Prior to enactment of the Dissolution Act, the Community Redevelopment Law  
16 (“CRL”) (Health & Saf. Code §§ 33000 et seq.) authorized cities and counties to form  
17 redevelopment agencies to remediate urban decay and to revitalize blighted neighborhoods  
18 through publicly and privately funded redevelopment projects. Redevelopment agencies were  
19 created “to protect and promote the sound development and redevelopment of blighted areas and  
20 the general welfare of the inhabitants of the communities in which they exist . . .” (Health &  
21 Saf. Code § 33037(a).)

22 18. Redevelopment agencies had the power to acquire, sell, or lease property,  
23 construct infrastructure, and improve public facilities. (Health & Saf. Code §§ 33391, 33430,  
24 33431, 33435.) They also had the power to borrow funds and incur debt. (*See, e.g., County of*  
25 *Solano v. Vallejo Redevelopment Agency* (1999) 75 Cal.App.4th 1262.)

26 19. Redevelopment agencies financed projects through “tax increment financing,”  
27 and were required to incur debt in order to receive tax increment revenue. (Cal. Const. art. XVI,  
28 § 16; Health & Saf. Code § 33670.) Tax increment revenue consisted of the portion of the local

1 property taxes generated from within a designated redevelopment project area resulting from  
2 increases in the assessed valuation of property in that project area. (Cal. Const. art. XVI, §  
3 16(b); Health & Saf. Code § 33670; *Craig v. City of Poway* (1994) 28 Cal.App.4th 319, 325.)  
4 On an annual basis, tax increment was calculated by subtracting the base year assessed value of  
5 project area property (i.e., the value in effect as of the date of the adoption of the redevelopment  
6 plan) from the current assessed value of property in the project area. (See *California*  
7 *Redevelopment Agency v. Matosantos* (2011) 53 Cal.4th 231, 246-47.)

8         20. Redevelopment agencies were expressly authorized under the Polanco  
9 Redevelopment Act (Health & Saf. Code §§ 33459, *et seq.*) to take any actions that the agency  
10 determines are necessary and that are consistent with other state and federal laws to remedy or  
11 remove a release of hazardous substances on, under, or from property within a project area,  
12 whether the agency owns that property or not, if the party determined by the agency to be a  
13 responsible party for the release has been provided notice and an opportunity to respond and to  
14 propose a remedial action plan and schedule, and the responsible party has not subsequently  
15 agreed to implement a plan and schedule to remedy or remove the release that is acceptable to  
16 the agency and that has been found by the agency to be consistent with the National Contingency  
17 Plan published pursuant to Section 9605 of Title 42 of the United States Code for similar  
18 releases, situations, or events.

19         21. All of the authority granted by the CRL remained in force until June 28, 2011  
20 with the enactment of ABx1 26.

### 21                     **DISSOLUTION OF REDEVELOPMENT AGENCIES**

22         22. On June 28, 2011, redevelopment agencies in California were radically changed  
23 as a result of the Legislature's adoption of AB x1 26. AB x1 26 added Parts 1.8 and 1.85 to  
24 Division 24 of the Health & Safety Code, and severely limited the powers exercised by all  
25 redevelopment agencies throughout the state, including the former RDA. The legislature  
26 subsequently passed AB 1484 and SB 107, which made changes to the Dissolution Law.

27         23. Declarations of legislative intent within the Dissolution Law recognize that  
28 obligations incurred by redevelopment agencies prior to their dissolution shall be honored. (See,

1 e.g. Health & Saf. Code §§ 34167(f) and 34175(a).)

2 24. Each successor agency is required to have an oversight board, which is a seven-  
3 member board composed of representatives of the affected taxing entities, that oversees the  
4 successor agency's actions in winding down the affairs of the former redevelopment agency.  
5 The oversight board has fiduciary responsibilities to holders of enforceable obligations and the  
6 affected taxing entities that benefit from distributions of property tax revenues. (Health & Saf.  
7 Code § 34179(i).) The oversight board is responsible for approving certain actions of the  
8 successor agency including, but not limited to, the establishment of the ROPS. (Health & Saf.  
9 Code § 34180(g).) The responsibilities of the oversight board are detailed in Section 34179 of  
10 the Dissolution Law.

11 25. On January 17, 2012 the City Council of Emeryville adopted Resolution No. 12-  
12 12 pursuant to which the City agreed to serve as the Successor Agency. The former RDA was  
13 dissolved by operation of law effective February 1, 2012.

#### 14 **REDEVELOPMENT IN THE CITY OF EMERYVILLE**

15 26. Emeryville has a long history of industrial activity, dating back to the late 1800s.  
16 Industrial activity in Emeryville increased as a result of the United States' entry into World War  
17 II. In the post-war decades, as in other American inner cities, industries with increasingly  
18 outdated facilities began moving away from Emeryville to outlying areas where land was  
19 plentiful and cheap. As large industries began to contract and relocate to other cities, they left  
20 behind properties with toxins that had to be cleaned up before the land could be put towards  
21 other uses.

22 27. In July 1976, the City approved and adopted its first redevelopment plan, the  
23 Emeryville Redevelopment Plan for the Emeryville Redevelopment Project Area. A major focus  
24 of the Plan was the "Bayfront" area, which includes the area encompassing Site B.

25 28. In October 1987, the City approved and adopted its second redevelopment plan,  
26 the Shellmound Park Redevelopment Plan for the Shellmound Park Redevelopment Project  
27 Area. The land within both plan areas was predominantly industrial.

28 29. The intent of the Emeryville Redevelopment Plan and the Shellmound Park



1 Redevelopment Plan was, in part, to provide for the construction and installation of necessary  
2 public infrastructure and facilities, facilitate the repair, restoration, and/or replacement of  
3 existing public facilities, perform specific actions necessary to promote the redevelopment and  
4 the economic revitalization of the project areas, and take all other actions necessary to implement  
5 the redevelopment plans for the project areas, including expending tax increment to accomplish  
6 the goals and objectives of the redevelopment projects.

7 30. These goals are echoed in the Five-Year Implementation Plan for the Project areas  
8 that the RDA prepared in 1993 (as amended from time to time pursuant to Assembly Bill 1290,  
9 Health and Safety Code § 33490), which commits project area redevelopment funds to affordable  
10 housing, economic development, and community and commercial revitalization based on  
11 estimated tax increment revenue and debt financing structures.

12 31. In Emeryville, a necessary first step in accomplishing these goals was  
13 environmental remediation of the toxic legacy of the City's past. Since the adoption of the first  
14 redevelopment plan in 1976, the City and the RDA have overseen the cleanup of the majority of  
15 polluted land within the city limits, either by using their powers under the Polanco  
16 Redevelopment Act to force polluters to clean up their own messes,<sup>2</sup> or facilitating private  
17 cleanup activity by leveraging funding with federal grants, state loans and in some instances tax  
18 increment financing. The City and the RDA's remediation of contaminated properties has  
19 allowed the City to create a robust, livable community through commercial, residential, and  
20 public development projects, including affordable housing, community facilities, open space, and  
21 parks.

22 *Environmental Cleanup Efforts for Site B*

23 32. Site B is an approximately 3-acre property made up of five different parcels in  
24 Emeryville. The site has a long history of industrial uses, including serving as a manufacturing  
25 facility, metal working operation, and as a lumberyard. In the early 1900s, Union Oil operated a  
26 distribution yard on the northern portion of Site B. As of 2006, the RDA had acquired fee title or

27 <sup>2</sup> See *Emeryville Redevelopment Agency v. Harcros Pigments, Inc.* (2002) 101  
28 Cal.App.4th 1083; *City of Emeryville et al. v. Robinson et al.* (9th Cir. 2010) 621 F.3d 1251.



1 possession of all parcels comprising Site B through negotiation or eminent domain proceedings,  
2 and by 2009 had acquired fee title to all of Site B.

3 33. Commencing in 2004, investigations of the soil and groundwater at Site B were  
4 initiated by the RDA under the oversight of the California Environmental Protection Agency,  
5 Department of Toxic Substances Control ("DTSC") pursuant to an oversight agreement. The  
6 environmental assessments of Site B indicated that hazardous materials were present in  
7 concentrations requiring environmental cleanup. The assessments found that the most significant  
8 contaminants in the soil included petroleum hydrocarbons, and metals such as arsenic, antimony,  
9 and lead. After an extensive process of environmental study, investigation and evaluation, in  
10 June 2008 the RDA awarded a contract for soil remediation of hazardous materials  
11 contamination at Site B. Soil remediation activities were conducted in accordance with the Final  
12 Feasibility Study/Remedial Action Plan ("FS/RAP") and Final Remedial Design and  
13 Implementation Plan ("RDIP") prepared by EKI and approved by DTSC. Soil remediation  
14 activities were completed in the fall of 2009 and the Soil Remediation Completion Report was  
15 approved by DTSC on June 15, 2010.

16 34. As part of the eminent domain actions filed to acquire four of the five parcels  
17 comprising Site B, the RDA also initiated an action utilizing the Polanco Redevelopment Act to  
18 recover its costs of hazardous materials remediation from responsible parties.

19 35. As noted above, on July 23, 2010, the Alameda County Superior Court approved  
20 the Settlement Order with several defendants that allocated \$22,400,000 in settlement proceeds  
21 amongst costs incurred, and to be incurred, by the RDA for soil remediation, environmental  
22 investigation, assessment and engineering, legal fees and future groundwater remediation costs.  
23 Chevron—one of the parties to litigation initiated by the RDA with respect to Site B—agreed to  
24 pay \$15,500,000.

25 36. With respect to the groundwater at Site B, the assessments conducted in  
26 connection with the approval of the FS/RAP found the presence of chlorinated volatile organic  
27 compounds ("CVOCs"), metals, and petroleum hydrocarbons. The properties of these  
28 contaminants result in adverse impacts to air quality within structures constructed on the site. It

1 was determined that the CVOCs on Site B were, in part, attributable to sources that were  
2 migrating onto Site B from other unknown surrounding contaminated sites.

3 37. Not surprisingly, when Chevron agreed to pay \$15.5M to the RDA (a sum  
4 significantly driven by future groundwater work), they extracted a commitment by the RDA to  
5 spend a significant portion of the proceeds on the problem for which they were paying, i.e.,  
6 groundwater contamination and the related soil vapor problem. Accordingly, as noted above,  
7 Section VI.B. of the Settlement Agreement provides that the RDA:

8 “shall . . . perform or cause to be performed all environmental work  
9 reasonably required to study, investigate, evaluate, and remediate the  
10 Hazardous Substances or contamination within, on, under, at, or  
emanating from/or migrating to or from Site B . . . to the satisfaction of  
DTSC.”

11 38. Having completed the remediation of hazardous materials in soil at Site B to the  
12 satisfaction of DTSC, and in order to fulfill its contractual obligations under the Settlement  
13 Agreement, on June 27, 2011, the RDA and DTSC entered into a new agreement for regulatory  
14 oversight services related to the remediation of groundwater at Site B.

15 39. Pursuant to investigations contemplated by the Settlement Agreement and  
16 conducted in the fall of 2011 under the oversight of DTSC, it was determined that a property in  
17 close proximity to Site B, namely the Corporation Yard, was a significant source of CVOCs at  
18 Site B. In December 2011, RDA staff and EKI met with DTSC to share the investigative results  
19 conducted at the Corporation Yard.

20 40. Health and Safety Code § 34167(f) provides “[n]othing in this part shall be  
21 construed to interfere with a redevelopment agency’s authority, pursuant to enforceable  
22 obligations as defined in this chapter, to (1) make payments due, (2) enforce existing covenants  
23 and obligations, and (3) perform its obligations.” The term “enforceable obligations” is defined  
24 in Section 34167(d)(4) to include “judgements or settlements entered by a competent court of  
25 law”. Similarly, Section 34169 (b) provides that redevelopment agencies shall “perform  
26 obligations required pursuant to any enforceable obligations...”

27 41. Thus, in order to remediate hazardous materials which are migrating to Site B, on  
28 January 31, 2012, the RDA appropriately adopted a resolution authorizing a voluntary cleanup

1 agreement with DTSC to address the contamination at the Corporation Yard which was, and  
2 continues to, migrate to Site B. The RDA also authorized entering into a contract with EKI for  
3 environmental engineering services to address contamination at the Corporation Yard. The RDA  
4 authorized these transactions for the purpose of performing its obligations under the Settlement  
5 Agreement and those imposed under State environmental law.

6 42. In 2012, following an assessment by an certified industrial hygienist of the indoor  
7 air in the building at the Corporation Yard, the building was vacated due to health concerns for  
8 workers resulting from impacts to indoor air from CVOCs in groundwater. Concentrations of  
9 trichloroethene ("TCE"), a known human carcinogen, exist in groundwater at the Corporation  
10 Yard site up to 100,000 times the drinking water standard.

11 43. With respect to the remediation of groundwater at Site B, roughly a year after  
12 investigations at the Corporation Yard had commenced, when DTSC reviewed and approved the  
13 Draft Remedial Action Plan Amendment and Remedial Design and Implementation Plan for  
14 Shallow Groundwater at Site B by letter dated March 7, 2013 , it directed as follows:

15 "In addition, it should be clearly stated in the Draft RAP that  
16 investigations conducted since the time that the Feasibility Study/  
17 Remedial Action Plan was approved have revealed the presence of  
18 CVOCs in deeper groundwater on the southeastern portion of Site B, and  
19 that these CVOCs are the result of releases from the Former Marchant  
20 Whitney (FMW) and/or potentially other upgradient sources.  
21 Remediation of deeper groundwater is not included in this RAP  
22 Amendment, since EKI has determined that Site B does not contribute to  
23 the deeper groundwater contamination in the southeastern portion of the  
24 Site. Cleanup of deeper groundwater under the southeastern portion of  
25 Site B will be addressed as part of the FMW site.

26 It should be clear that this in no way means that remediation of the  
27 deeper groundwater at Site B will not occur, but rather remediation  
28 at the Site by an upgradient responsible party may or may not be  
necessary at a later date."

44. Pursuant to the voluntary cleanup agreement with DTSC and the contract with  
EKI approved by the RDA on January 31, 2012, and as required by the Settlement Agreement  
and State environmental law, over the next several years the Successor Agency investigated and  
evaluated the hazardous substances at the Corporation Yard under DTSC's oversight.

45. In the wake of the Dissolution Act, the California state legislature enacted the



1 Gatto Act (AB 440)(Health and Safety Code §25403 et.seq.) effective January 1, 2014, which  
2 provides cities powers similar to those previously afforded redevelopment agencies under the  
3 Polanco Redevelopment Act. On November 12, 2014, the City sent letters to the record owner  
4 of 20 parcels of real property in an area identified as the “Horton District”. A site map showing  
5 the properties in the Horton District is attached to this Petition as Exhibit B. The letter advised  
6 that the Successor Agency had undertaken and completed soil remediation activities at Site B,  
7 was implementing groundwater activities at Site B, and was investigating soil and groundwater  
8 contamination at the Corporation Yard. Further, the letter advised that the results of these  
9 activities suggest that one or more properties in the Horton District may be impacting  
10 groundwater in the area. Accordingly, the City advised that it was undertaking the preparation of  
11 a Phase 1 Environmental Assessment of the Horton District and requested the property owners to  
12 allow EKI to conduct a visual inspection of their property, respond to a questionnaire related to  
13 their property, and provide copies of all non-privileged existing environmental information  
14 related to their property.

15 46. Thereafter, based on the information secured by the City in response to the letters  
16 sent to the property owners in the Horton District and as set forth in the Phase 1 Environmental  
17 Assessment prepared by EKI, on June 16, 2015, pursuant to authority under the Gatto Act, the  
18 City Council of the City of Emeryville adopted Resolution No. 15-80 and designated the  
19 Corporation Yard as a “blighted property” and the Horton District as a “blighted area”.

20 47. In recognition of the obligation in the Settlement Agreement to “perform or cause  
21 to be performed all environmental work reasonably required to study, investigate, evaluate, and  
22 remediate the Hazardous Substances or contamination within, on, under, at, or emanating  
23 from/or migrating to or from Site B”, on July 1, 2015, December 28, 2015 and January 12, 2016,  
24 the City and Successor Agency provided notice to “responsible parties” for the releases at and  
25 from the Corporation Yard in accordance with the Gatto Act and Polanco Redevelopment Act,  
26 respectively.

27 48. As required by statute, the notice provided the “responsible parties” an  
28 opportunity to undertake the work necessary to remediate the Corporation Yard. The letter



1 advised that the City and Successor Agency stood ready to provide the “responsible parties” with  
2 the environmental data that had been developed to that date through the efforts of EKI in order to  
3 avoid duplication of costs. Finally, the “responsible parties” were advised if they chose not to  
4 undertake such work, the City and Successor Agency could undertake the work themselves and  
5 thereafter pursue recovery of its costs, including interest thereon, and reasonable attorneys’ fees.

6 49. None of the “responsible parties” elected to pursue the work required to study,  
7 investigate, evaluate, and remediate the hazardous substances or hazardous materials at the  
8 Corporation Yard. Therefore, in keeping with the mandate in the Settlement Agreement to  
9 “cause to be performed” the required work, the Successor Agency filed an action in federal court  
10 against the “responsible parties” to recover its costs, interest, attorneys’ fees, compensatory  
11 damages, as well as injunctive relief ordering the defendants to abate the endangerment to health  
12 and the environment at and emanating from the Corporation Yard. The expenses incurred by the  
13 Successor Agency for legal services are reflected in line item 49 of the ROPS.

14 50. As required by the Settlement Agreement and State environmental law, the  
15 Successor Agency continued to “perform” the work required to address the contamination  
16 migrating to Site B. In early 2017, the Successor Agency and DTSC were preparing to release  
17 for public comment a draft Feasibility Study/ Remedial Action Plan (“FS/RAP”) for the  
18 Corporation Yard site, which set forth the measures necessary to remediate contamination  
19 migrating to Site B. Up to that point the Successor Agency had expended approximately  
20 \$7,000,000 of RPTTF approved by the Emeryville Oversight Board, without objection by DOF,  
21 during the preceding 5 years towards the study, investigation and evaluation of hazardous  
22 materials migrating to Site B from the Corporation Yard under the oversight of DTSC. As of  
23 February 2017, the draft FS/RAP for the Corporation Yard indicated that the estimated present  
24 worth total cost range for the preferred remedial alternative (Alternative 4) to remediate the  
25 hazardous materials at the Corporation Yard at \$32.4 million to \$59.8 million over the next 30  
26 years.

27 51. Initial funding for environmental engineering services with EKI was included on  
28 the 2017-2018 ROPS to pursue the cleanup of the Corporation Yard site. However, the ROPS

1 17-18 Determination issued by DOF denied the obligation as an enforceable obligation. While  
2 DOF acknowledged that “the Settlement Agreement is an enforceable obligation”,  
3 notwithstanding the presentation of the foregoing evidence to them, it argued that “the  
4 Settlement Agreement does not specifically pertain to the FMW Site and the proposed  
5 remediation of the FMW Site seems to go beyond the scope of the Agency’s obligations under  
6 the Settlement Agreement”.

7 52. Upon receiving DOF’s ROPS 17-18 Determination, Successor Agency staff and  
8 EKI met with representatives of DTSC on June 13, 2017, to share with them DOF’s position and  
9 the resulting reality that the Successor Agency had no funds to pursue the remediation of the  
10 Corporation Yard. DTSC representatives indicated that the environmental condition of the  
11 Corporation Yard warranted issuance of an Imminent & Substantial Endangerment Order  
12 (“Cleanup Order”) by DTSC to clean up the Corporation Yard site.

13 53. Instead of engaging in litigation to challenge DOF’s ROPS 17-18 Determination,  
14 the Successor Agency opted to wait until DTSC issued a Cleanup Order to remediate the  
15 Corporation Yard site, which undoubtedly would constitute an enforceable obligation under  
16 Health and Safety Code § 34171(d)(1)(C). On October 9, 2017, DTSC issued the Successor  
17 Agency with a Request for Information and Documents. The Successor Agency provided its  
18 response to DTSC on November 30, 2017 and on October 25, 2018 DTSC confirmed that a  
19 Cleanup Order to remediate the Corporation Yard site would be forthcoming.

20 54. On January 15, 2019, pursuant to authority provided by Health & Safety Code  
21 § 34177.3, and in order to comply with its obligations under the Settlement Agreement and under  
22 state and federal law, the Successor Agency approved and authorized the execution of the EKI  
23 PSA commencing on July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020, in the amount of \$2,995,000, for  
24 environmental engineering services related to the remediation of hazardous materials at the  
25 Corporation Yard migrating to Site B. The EKI PSA was approved by the Successor Agency in  
26 compliance with the Settlement Agreement and obligations imposed under state and federal law,  
27 enforceable obligations that existed prior to June 28, 2011. Accordingly, the EKI PSA is an  
28 enforceable obligation of the Successor Agency pursuant to Health & Safety Code §§

1 34171(d)(1)(E), (F), and is reflected in ROPS 19-20 line item 123. Thus, for the ROPS 19-20  
2 cycle and as reflected in ROPS line item 123, it is estimated that the Successor Agency will incur  
3 approximately \$2,995,000 for EKI's environmental engineering services.

4 55. On January 23, 2019, the Alameda County Oversight Board ("Oversight Board")  
5 approved ROPS 19-20 of the Successor Agency pursuant to Resolution No. OB-2019-03,  
6 including line item 123 without exception.

7 **DOF's Final Determination on ROPS 19-20**

8 56. On April 15, 2019, DOF sent the Successor Agency its initial determination on  
9 ROPS 19-20. In it, DOF stated that Item No. 123 (EKI PSA) was not allowed because the  
10 Successor Agency executed the agreement without approval from the Oversight Board. DOF did  
11 not provide an explanation for why Item No. 123 required oversight board approval.

12 57. The Successor Agency and DOF met and conferred on April 25, 2019 regarding  
13 Item No. 123 (EKI PSA). The Successor Agency advised DOF that it did submit the EKI PSA to  
14 the Oversight Board for its review and approval as part of its consideration and approval of  
15 ROPS 19-20 on January 23, 2019. Further, the Successor Agency advised DOF that no  
16 provision of the Dissolution Law requires submission of the EKI PSA to the Oversight Board  
17 prior to and separate and apart from ROPS 19-20. To the contrary, Health and Safety Code §  
18 34180 outlines actions of the Successor Agency that "shall first be approved by the oversight  
19 board" and the EKI PSA does not fall within that list.

20 58. The Successor Agency explained that, to fulfill its obligation under the terms of  
21 the Settlement Agreement, an enforceable obligation, it authorized the EKI PSA pursuant to  
22 authority conferred on it in Health and Safety Code § 34177.3. The Successor Agency also  
23 explained that, as the owner of fee title to the Corporation Yard, it is a responsible party under  
24 state and federal environmental laws for the remediation of hazardous materials on the site (42  
25 U.S.C. 9607(a) and Health and Saf. Code § 25323.5(a)(1)), and obligations imposed by state law  
26 constitute an enforceable obligation under Health and Safety Code § 34171(d)(1)(C), and that the  
27 EKI PSA is necessary for the Successor Agency to fulfill its obligations under state law.

28 59. Subsequent to the April 25, 2019 meet and confer meeting, the DOF issued



1 several follow up questions to the Successor Agency on May 3, 2019, and the Successor Agency  
2 responded on May 7, 2019. Thereafter the DOF requested additional information on May 8,  
3 2019 and the Successor Agency responded on May 13, 2019.

4 60. DOF issued its Final Determination on ROPS 19-20 on May 17, 2019. It  
5 continued to deny Item No. 123 (EKI PSA), but it modified the basis for denial. Instead of  
6 asserting that the EKI PSA needed to be approved by the Oversight Board separate and apart  
7 from the 2019-2020 ROPS process, DOF concluded that the EKI PSA is not an enforceable  
8 obligation.

9 **DOF's Denial Impedes the Successor Agency from Performing Mandated Cleanup**

10 61. Once the Successor Agency completes the groundwater remediation efforts to Site  
11 B as required by the Settlement Agreement and Settlement Order, it will obtain immunity from  
12 future regulatory actions pursuant to Health and Safety Code § 33459.3, which immunity can be  
13 transferred to future owners of Site B. Further, once DTSC confirms the application of the  
14 immunity pursuant to the Polanco Redevelopment Act, the Site B parcels are to be transferred by  
15 the Successor Agency to the City for future development pursuant to the terms of the DOF  
16 approved Long Range Property Management Plan ("LRPMP").

17 62. In the absence of an agreement to remediate the Corporation Yard as provided in  
18 the EKI PSA, the groundwater remediation of Site B cannot be completed "to the satisfaction of  
19 DTSC" as required by the Settlement Agreement. Further, the immunity under the Polanco  
20 Redevelopment Act cannot be confirmed by DTSC, and thus the condition precedent to the  
21 transfer of the Site B parcels to the City pursuant to the LRPMP will not be satisfied. As a result,  
22 the Site B parcels will remain an asset of the Successor Agency, the expenses related thereto will  
23 remain an obligation of the Successor Agency, and the process of redeveloping the Site B parcels  
24 and putting them back into productive use for the benefit of the taxing entities is further delayed.  
25 Regulatory closure from DTSC for Site B is also dependent on the assurance that upgradient off-  
26 site groundwater that is impacting Site B is being addressed. As explained in the Responsiveness  
27 Summary dated January 2008 and prepared by DTSC in response to public comments on the Site  
28 B Draft FS/RAP:



1           “the proposed remedy includes a remedial component to address  
2           upgradient impacted off-site groundwater migrating onto Site B to protect  
3           human health for potential future land uses at Site B. This component of  
4           the proposed remedy may not be necessary if the upgradient impacted off-  
5           site groundwater is remediated or mitigated by the responsible party prior  
6           to migrating onto Site B.”

7           Further, as previously noted, in DTSC’s letter of March 7, 2013, approving the Draft  
8           Remedial Action Plan Amendment and Remedial Design and Implementation Plan for Shallow  
9           Groundwater at Site B, DTSC advised:

10           “[c]leanup of deeper groundwater under the southeastern portion of Site B  
11           will be addressed as part of the FMW site. It should be clear that this in  
12           no way means that remediation of the deeper groundwater at Site B will  
13           not occur, but rather remediation at the Site by an upgradient responsible  
14           party may or may not be necessary at a later date.”

15           63.     Thus, unless and until groundwater contamination migrating from the Corporation  
16           Yard and impacting the deeper groundwater at Site B is addressed “to the satisfaction of DTSC”,  
17           regulatory closure from DTSC for Site B will not be obtained. As a result, the recurring  
18           expenses associated with treating contaminated groundwater that continues to migrate onto Site  
19           B will remain an obligation of the Successor Agency. Until the source of the groundwater  
20           problem at the Corporation Yard is addressed, the Successor Agency will continue to incur  
21           ongoing groundwater remediation expenses at Site B, and the Site B parcels will not be  
22           transferred to the City for future development in accordance with the LRPMP. Since the Site B  
23           parcels are currently an asset of the Successor Agency, the recurring expenses associated with  
24           treating contaminated groundwater that continues to migrate onto Site B will remain an  
25           obligation of the Successor Agency and the process of redeveloping the Site B parcels and  
26           putting them back into productive use for the benefit of the taxing entities will be further  
27           delayed.

28           64.     To the south of Site B is the Bay Street development, often referred to as South  
29           Bayfront Site A or Site A, comprising approximately 300,000 square feet of retail/restaurant/  
30           theatre space, 350 housing units (rental and ownership), a hotel and structured parking. Site A  
31           was redeveloped as a result of the efforts of the RDA that initially commenced in 1994 and  
32           pursuant to the terms of a Disposition and Development Agreement dated September 23, 1999

1 (“DDA”). As between the RDA and the Site A property owner, Section 12, subsection 1 of the  
2 DDA provides that the “Agency shall be responsible for performing and paying the costs of all  
3 monitoring, remediation and other response actions for groundwater”.

4 65. The RDA and Successor Agency have conducted over 15 years of groundwater  
5 monitoring and reporting at Site A under the oversight of DTSC. Recent testing data from  
6 groundwater monitoring points on Site A located down-gradient from the Corporation Yard have  
7 revealed elevated levels of TCE, the main contaminant of concern at the Corporation Yard.  
8 Thus, to the extent contamination from the Corporation Yard impacts groundwater at Site A, the  
9 DTSC has the authority to order remedial actions to be undertaken at Site A to address hazardous  
10 materials in the groundwater, such as TCE. Under the terms of the Site A DDA, the obligation  
11 to undertake those remedial actions would fall to the Successor Agency. Accordingly, failure of  
12 the DOF to recognize the obligation of the Successor Agency to undertake remedial work at the  
13 Corporation Yard, as contemplated by the EKI PSA and required by the Settlement Agreement,  
14 allows contaminants in groundwater to migrate off-site onto Site A and thereby exacerbate  
15 existing obligations of the Successor Agency.

16 66. The migration of contaminants in groundwater from the Corporation Yard onto  
17 Site B (and Site A) is well documented. After years of investigation and assessment undertaken  
18 by EKI on behalf of the Successor Agency, DTSC, whose mission is to protect public health and  
19 the environment from toxic harm, has acknowledged that contaminants from the Corporation  
20 Yard are migrating to Site B. Rather than accept the facts as determined by DTSC, DOF has  
21 taken the erroneous position that “the Settlement Agreement does not specifically pertain to the  
22 FMW Site and the proposed remediation of the FMW Site seems to go beyond the scope of the  
23 Agency’s obligations under the Settlement Agreement”.

24 67. DOF’s position ignores the fact that at the time the Settlement Agreement was  
25 executed, Chevron and the RDA did not know that the Corporation Yard was a source of  
26 contamination to Site B. Hence, the very reason for the broad language in the Settlement  
27 Agreement obligating the RDA “to study, investigate, evaluate, and remediate the Hazardous  
28 Substances or contamination within, on, under, at, or emanating from/or migrating to or from

1 Site B". To accept DOF's interpretation would render a significant provision of the Settlement  
2 Agreement, and the central bargain struck by Chevron, meaningless.

3 68. The ongoing failure of the DOF to recognize the obligation of the Successor  
4 Agency, as set forth in the Settlement Agreement and State environmental law, to address the  
5 source of the problem at the Corporation Yard migrating onto Site B and Site A, provides time  
6 for the contaminants to spread like cancer, inflict damage further afield, and ultimately increase  
7 the cost to the Successor Agency to remediate an ever widening problem at the expense of the  
8 taxing entities.

9 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**  
10 **Petition for Writ of Mandate - Code of Civil Procedure § 1085**

11 **(May 17, 2019 Final Determination Denying Item No. 123 on ROPS 2019-2020.)**

12 69. The Successor Agency hereby re-alleges and incorporates by reference all of the  
13 above paragraphs of this Petition.

14 70. Pursuant to Health and Safety Code § 34177.3, the Successor Agency is  
15 authorized to enter into the EKI PSA (ROPS Item No. 123), in compliance with an enforceable  
16 obligation that existed prior to June 28, 2011, namely (i) the Settlement Agreement dated  
17 October 5, 2009, and (ii) obligations imposed by State environmental law (Health and Safety  
18 Code §25323.5(a)(1)) on the Successor Agency as owner of fee title to the Corporation Yard  
19 acquired in July 1999. Accordingly, the EKI PSA (ROPS Item No. 123) is a valid enforceable  
20 obligation under Health and Safety Code §§ 34171(d)(1)(E) and (F).

21 71. The DOF's arbitrary and capricious refusal to approve Item No. 123 violates the  
22 Dissolution Act and Respondent DOF's mandatory duty to interpret and implement the  
23 Dissolution Act in a legally accurate manner.

24 72. Petitioner is beneficially interested in the performance of Respondent DOF's  
25 mandatory duty, and will be materially injured if DOF's ROPS 19-20 Determination as to Item  
26 No. 123 on the ROPS 19-20 is not overturned.

27 73. There is no adequate remedy at law to protect the Successor Agency other than  
28 the issuance of the writ of mandate.


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**PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

1. A peremptory writ of mandate ordering Respondent/Defendant to approve Item No. 123 on ROPS 19-20 as an enforceable obligation in accordance with Health & Safety Code §§ 34171(d)(1) (E) and (F).
2. For costs of suit incurred herein;
3. Attorneys' fees as permitted by law; and
4. For such other further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

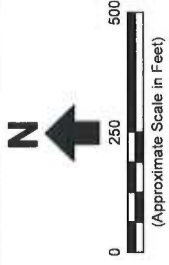
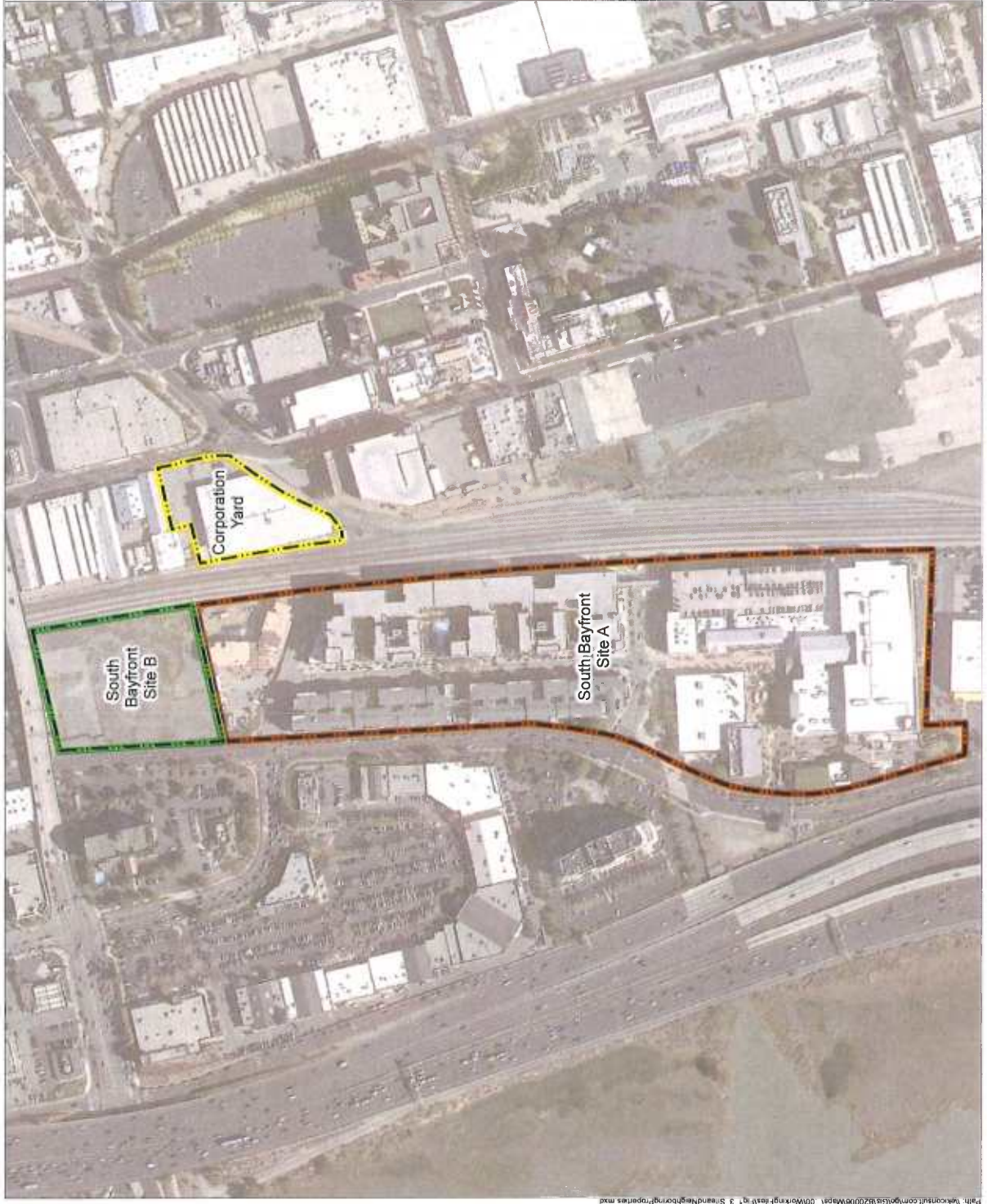
Dated: May 21, 2019

BURKE, WILLIAMS & SORENSEN, LLP




By:   
Michael G. Biddle  
J. Leah Castella  
Maxwell Blum  
Attorneys for Petitioner/Plaintiff  
SUCCESSOR AGENCY TO THE  
REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF THE  
CITY OF EMERYVILLE



# **EXHIBIT A**



**Legend**

-  Corporation Yard Property Boundary
-  South Bayfront Site B Property Boundary
-  South Bayfront Site A Property Boundary

**Notes**

- 1. All property boundaries are approximate

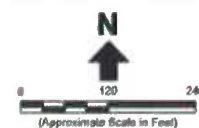
**Source**  
Google Earth Pro, Date of Imagery, October 2015.

**Erler &  
Kalinowski, Inc.**

Successor Agency Properties

Former Marchant/Whitney Site  
Emeryville, CA  
December 2018  
EKI B20006.00  
Figure 1

# **EXHIBIT B**



**Legend**  
 2 049-1318-002-002  
 3 049-1318-007-005  
 4 049-1318-007-004  
 5 049-1318-001-015  
 6 049-1318-002-002  
 7 049-1552-01  
 8 049-1318-001-011  
 9 049-1318-001-20  
 10 049-1318-001-06  
 11 049-1320-004  
 12 049-1320-003  
 13 049-1320-001  
 14 049-1321-003-02  
 15 049-1321-001-02  
 16 049-1321-001-04  
 17 049-1321-005  
 18 049-1321-004-04  
 19 049-1038-017  
 20 049-1038-018

Parcel	APN
1	049-1318-002-002
2	049-1318-001-002
3	049-1318-007-005
4	049-1318-007-004
5	049-1318-001-015
6	049-1318-002-002
7	049-1552-01
8	049-1318-001-011
9	049-1318-001-20
10	049-1318-001-06
11	049-1320-004
12	049-1320-003
13	049-1320-001
14	049-1321-003-02
15	049-1321-001-02
16	049-1321-001-04
17	049-1321-005
18	049-1321-004-04
19	049-1038-017
20	049-1038-018

**Abbreviations**  
 APN = Assessor's Parcel Number

**Notes**  
 1 All parcel boundaries are approximate

**Reference** Google Earth Pro July 2010

**Erler &  
 Kalinowski, Inc.**

Subject District Location

Emeryville Horton District  
 Emeryville, CA  
 January 2015  
 EKI 820008 01  
 Figure 1