



EL DORADO HILLS FIRE DEPARTMENT
1050 WILSON BLVD
EL DORADO HILLS, CA 95762
(916) 933-6623

BANK OF AMERICA
11-35/1210

29066

9/4/2025

PAY TO THE
ORDER OF Kuzyk Law, LLP

\$ **1,751,279.67

One Million Seven Hundred Fifty-One Thousand Two Hundred Seventy-Nine and 67/100***** DOLLARS

Kuzyk Law, LLP
Attn: Elizabeth Hamby
1700 W. Avenue K, Suite 101
Lancaster, CA 93534

MEMO

EL DORADO HILLS FIRE DEPARTMENT

29066

Kuzyk Law, LLP					9/4/2025	
Date	Type	Reference	Original Amt.	Balance Due	Discount	Payment
8/31/2025	Bill	AttorneyFees	1,751,279.67	1,751,279.67		1,751,279.67
					Check Amount	1,751,279.67

Bank of America

1,751,279.67

EL DORADO HILLS FIRE DEPARTMENT

29066

Kuzyk Law, LLP					9/4/2025	
Date	Type	Reference	Original Amt.	Balance Due	Discount	Payment
8/31/2025	Bill	AttorneyFees	1,751,279.67	1,751,279.67		1,751,279.67
					Check Amount	1,751,279.67

Bank of America

25-1578 A 1 of 19
1,751,279.67



EL DORADO HILLS FIRE DEPARTMENT
1050 WILSON BLVD
EL DORADO HILLS, CA 95762
(916) 933-6623

BANK OF AMERICA
11-35/1210

29067

9/4/2025

PAY TO THE
ORDER OF Kuzyk Law, LLP Trust Account

\$ **35,000.00

Thirty-Five Thousand and 00/100 ***** DOLLARS

Kuzyk Law, LLP Trust Account
Attn: Elizabeth Hamby
1700 W. Avenue K, Suite 101
Lancaster, CA 93534

MEMO

EL DORADO HILLS FIRE DEPARTMENT

29067

Kuzyk Law, LLP Trust Account				9/4/2025	
Date	Type	Reference	Original Amt.	Balance Due	Discount
8/31/2025	Bill	Plaintiff Settlement	35,000.00	35,000.00	
				Check Amount	Payment
					35,000.00
					35,000.00

Bank of America

35,000.00

EL DORADO HILLS FIRE DEPARTMENT

29067

Kuzyk Law, LLP Trust Account				9/4/2025	
Date	Type	Reference	Original Amt.	Balance Due	Discount
8/31/2025	Bill	Plaintiff Settlement	35,000.00	35,000.00	
				Check Amount	Payment
					35,000.00
					35,000.00

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

AND

RELEASE IN FULL OF ALL CLAIMS AND RIGHTS

I

PARTIES

THIS SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND RELEASE IN FULL OF ALL CLAIMS AND RIGHTS (hereinafter referred to as the "Agreement") is made and entered into as of the Effective Date, as set forth herein, by and between (1) THOMAS AUSTIN and HELEN AUSTIN (hereinafter collectively referred to as "Plaintiffs") on the one hand, and (2) EL DORADO HILLS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT, a California public agency ("DISTRICT") on the other hand, (each singularly a "Party" and collectively Plaintiffs and DISTRICT are hereinafter referred to as the "Parties"), with reference to the following:

II

RECITALS

WHEREAS, on December 2, 2015, Plaintiffs filed a civil action in the El Dorado DISTRICT Superior Court, titled Thomas Austin and Helen Austin v. County of El Dorado, et al., bearing case number PC20150633 (the "Lawsuit"), making claims against various defendants, including through subsequent amendments Defendant DISTRICT, arising out of Plaintiffs' claim that the defendants in the Lawsuit failed to comply with the Mitigation Fee Act (Government Code §§ 66000 *et seq.*) and in particular the defendants' alleged failure to comply with Government Code section 66001, subd. (d)(1) by not making timely 5-year findings.

WHEREAS, on April 15, 2024, the Court issued its Ruling on Submitted Matter; i.e., the Court's Decision, in part, on the merits of the Lawsuit, finding in favor of Plaintiffs that the Defendants, including DISTRICT, did not make timely 5-year findings as required by Government Code section 66001, subd. (d)(1), which requires refunds of collected impact fees as a consequence.

WHEREAS Defendant DISTRICT denies the material allegations against it in the Lawsuit and claims that it is not liable to Plaintiffs and is not required to make refunds of impact fees collected on its behalf.

WHEREAS the Court in the Lawsuit issued its final decision on April 7, 2025, and DISTRICT has filed a Protective Notice of Appeal as to that order.

WHEREAS the Parties hereto desire to settle their respective rights and liabilities arising out of or in connection with the above-entitled action and the underlying facts in connection with the Lawsuit in order to avoid the substantial expense, uncertainty, and inconvenience of further litigation. In order to effectuate such a settlement, the Parties have agreed to equitably resolve the Lawsuit in accordance with this Agreement.

III

TERMS OF AGREEMENT

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing Recitals, which are incorporated herein by this reference, and the terms and provisions contained herein, the Parties hereto agree as follows:

1. Consideration. Defendant DISTRICT agrees to pay the total sum of Five Million Two Hundred Fifty-Three Thousand Eight Hundred Thirty-Nine

Dollars and no cents (\$5,253,839) as the total settlement amount herein to be paid as follows:

(a) DISTRICT agrees to direct defendant COUNTY OF EL DORADO

("COUNTY") to issue refunds from DISTRICT'S impact fee fund

account the sum of Three Million Four Hundred Sixty-Seven Thousand

Five Hundred Fifty-Nine Dollars and Thirty-Three cents

(\$3,467,559.33)

to the current record owner or owners of the lots or units, as identified on the last equalized assessment roll, for the subject impact fee fund, development project or projects on a prorated basis who paid impact fees for said fund during the time period of December 2, 2014, through December 13, 2016. COUNTY may refund the collected impact fees during that time period by direct payment, by providing a temporary suspension of fees, or by any other reasonable means, pursuant to Government Code section 66001, subd. (e) ("the Refund"). DISTRICT shall use its best reasonable efforts to effect the Refund as agreed above. DISTRICT will direct COUNTY to, within sixty (60) days of the Effective Date, determine the method of Refund as authorized by Government Code section 66001, subd. (e). The Refund shall be on a pro-rata basis as to all qualifying payees. Thereafter, DISTRICT shall use its best reasonable efforts to have COUNTY complete the Refund within seven (7) months from its determination of the method of Refund.

QB 8/31/25 *HW*

(b) DISTRICT agrees to pay attorneys' fees and costs in the sum of One Million Seven Hundred Fifty-One Thousand Two Hundred Seventy-Nine Dollars and Sixty-Seven Cents (\$1,751,279.67) to Plaintiffs' attorneys within 30 days of the Effective Date of this Agreement payable as follows: "Kuzyk Law, LLP" which check is to be delivered to Kuzyk Law, LLP, Attn: Elizabeth Hamby, 1700 W. Avenue K, Suite 101, Lancaster, CA 93534, unless the Parties mutually agree to alternative payment procedures such as the wiring of the subject funds; and

QB 8/31/25 *HW*

(c) DISTRICT agrees to pay to Plaintiffs the sum of Thirty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$35,000) payable to "Kuzyk Law, LLP Trust Account" to be delivered to Kuzyk Law, LLP concurrently with the check as stated in the preceding subsection (b) unless the Parties mutually agree to alternative payment procedures.

(d) If the payments stated above in subsections (b) and (c) are not received by July 31, 2025, then commencing August 1st, interest will accrue on the unpaid amounts at the rate of seven percent (7%) per annum until payment is received by the offices of Kuzyk Law, LLP.

(e) To effectuate payment, Plaintiffs agree to provide the DISTRICT with applicable W-9 forms upon request.

2. Notice of Settlement and Requests for Dismissal.

Plaintiffs agree to execute, file, and serve a Notice of Settlement forthwith upon approval of this Agreement by the DISTRICT's Board at their next regularly scheduled

meeting after June 30, 2025, and notification to Plaintiffs' counsel of the approval in writing (via email);

Plaintiffs' counsel shall execute and file with the Court a Request for Dismissal of the Lawsuit with prejudice within fifteen (15) days of DISTRICT's completion of payment of the refund amount as stated in Section 1.(a), hereinabove, and so long as the DISTRICT has also timely complied with Section 1.(b) and 1.(c), hereinabove; and

DISTRICT will request dismissal of its appeal in this matter on or before July 18, 2025.

3. Plaintiffs' Release.

Except for the executory provisions of this Agreement set forth in Section 1 hereinabove, or as specifically excluded herein, Plaintiffs for themselves both individually and collectively, their agents, representatives, heirs, successors and assigns, do hereby release and discharge DISTRICT and its respective officers, directors, board members, administrators, attorneys, contractors, agents and employees, both past and present (collectively "DISTRICT Released Parties"), of and from any and all claims relating to or arising out of or asserted in the Lawsuit including, without limitation, any and all actions, causes of action, obligations, costs, expenses, damages, losses, claims, liens, liabilities, attorney's fees, and demands of whatsoever nature, relating to impact fees as alleged in the Lawsuit, all of which are hereinafter called the "Released Claims."

The Parties specifically agree and understand that Plaintiffs' releases herein do not include the release of any other party in the Lawsuit, including without limitation, the El Dorado Hills Community Services District ("CSD") and the County of El Dorado ("County").

The Released Claims include any and all claims arising out of the subject matter of the Lawsuit or which could have been alleged or sought in connection with the Lawsuit against the DISTRICT Released Parties.

Each of the Parties acknowledges and agrees that the Released Claims include all claims of every nature and kind whatsoever, whether known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected and further acknowledge that they may hereafter discover facts different from or in addition to, those which they now know, or believe to be true with respect to the Released Claims. Nevertheless, the Parties agree that the foregoing release shall be and remain effective in all respects, notwithstanding such different or additional facts, or the discovery thereof, and Plaintiffs therefore further hereby expressly waive any and all rights provided in California *Civil Code* Section 1542 which provides as follows:

"A GENERAL RELEASE DOES NOT EXTEND TO CLAIMS THAT THE CREDITOR OR RELEASING PARTY DOES NOT KNOW OR SUSPECT TO EXIST IN HIS OR HER FAVOR AT THE TIME OF EXECUTING THE RELEASE, AND THAT, IF KNOWN BY HIM OR HER, WOULD HAVE MATERIALLY AFFECTED HIS OR HER SETTLEMENT WITH THE DEBTOR OR RELEASED PARTY."

4. Representation by Counsel. The Parties hereto affirmatively represent that they have had an opportunity to be represented, and have been represented, throughout by attorneys at law of their own choosing. The Parties further represent that they have read this Agreement, understand the terms used herein, and the consequences thereof, including but not limited to the Release and the provisions of section 1542 as set forth herein. The Parties have voluntarily accepted the terms stated herein for the express purpose of making a full and final compromise and settlement of the Lawsuit by and between each of the Parties.

5. Binding on Successors. This Agreement shall inure to the benefit of and shall bind the Parties hereto and their respective representatives, heirs, executors, administrators, successors, trustees, assigns, family, partners, employers, employees, officers, directors, shareholders, agents, board members and attorneys. Again, the Parties agree that this Agreement does not inure to the benefit of or bind in any way the County or CSD. This Agreement shall become binding and effective upon ratification of the governing board of the DISTRICT, and upon full execution by one of the Board members of the DISTRICT and each of the Plaintiffs which shall be the "Effective Date." This Agreement shall be presented to the DISTRICT's Board at its next regularly scheduled meeting after June 30, 2025, and if approved, it will become effective and shall be executed by the DISTRICT within two days after said approval by its Board. If not approved at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting, then Plaintiffs shall have the right to terminate this Agreement upon three days' written notice and will request the Court to enter Judgment against the DISTRICT at the next Court hearing.

6. Further Documentation. Each of the Parties hereto shall do all acts and execute all documents necessary or convenient to effectuate the terms and provisions of this Agreement. Time is of the essence as to the provisions set forth herein.

7. Warranty of Authority. Each individual signing this Agreement on behalf of any entity, government entity or district represents and warrants that he or she has the right, power, legal capacity and authority to enter into and perform each of the obligations specified under this Agreement, and that no further approval or consent of any person, board of directors or entities is necessary for them to enter into and perform each of the obligations under this Agreement, other than the Board approval referenced in section 5,

above. DISTRICT further represents that its Board of Directors has already reviewed and approved the essential terms of this settlement with Plaintiffs.

8. Final Agreement. This Agreement supersedes all prior negotiations and understandings of any kind with respect to the subject matter hereof, and contains all of the terms and provisions of agreement between the Parties hereto with respect to the subject matter hereof. There are no oral representations, understandings, statements or stipulations of any kind or character made by any of the Parties bearing upon the effect of this Agreement to induce execution of this Agreement, or otherwise, which have not been incorporated herein.

9. Governing Law. This Agreement is made under and shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of California, excepting choice of law provisions. If any civil action is filed to enforce or interpret any of the terms or provisions of this Agreement, or otherwise, the Parties agree that the appropriate venue shall be a state court of competent jurisdiction located in El Dorado County, State of California.

10. Severability Provision. If any term or provision of this Agreement is held to be invalid or unenforceable, the remaining portions of this Agreement shall continue to be valid and will be performed, construed, and enforced to the fullest extent permitted by law. The invalid or unenforceable term shall be deemed amended and limited in accordance with the intent of the Parties, as determined from the face of the Agreement, to the extent necessary to permit the maximum enforceability or validation of the term or provision.

11. Limitations. Execution of this Agreement does not constitute evidence of

and shall not be construed to be an admission of liability and/or wrongdoing by any Party hereto. Rather, this is the settlement of a doubtful or disputed claim or claims and DISTRICT expressly denies any liability. This Agreement is entered into between the Parties hereto for the sole benefit of the individuals and entities specified or named herein and is not for the benefit of any other party, person or entity, and no other party in the Lawsuit (including the County and CSD) shall be entitled to receive, enforce or rely upon the within document or the terms of settlement described herein. This Agreement is not intended to create, or does create, any agency or third-party beneficiary status.

12. Court Retains Jurisdiction. The Parties jointly agree that the Court retain jurisdiction of this matter pursuant to *Code of Civil Procedure* section 664.6, before and after dismissal of the Lawsuit, to enforce the terms of this Agreement. It is the Parties' intention that this Agreement is made to comply with the rulings held in Wackeen v. Malis (2002) 97 Cal.App. 4th 429 and Hagan Engineering v. Mills (2004) 115 Cal.App.4th 1004, so that the Court may retain jurisdiction even after dismissal of the Lawsuit.

13. Warranty of Non-Assignment. The Parties hereto represent and warrant that they have not heretofore assigned or transferred, or purported to assign or transfer, to any person, firm, limited liability company, limited or general partnership, or corporation, whatsoever any claim, debt, liability, demand, obligation, cost, expense, action or causes of action covered by this Agreement, and each Party acknowledges and agrees that this warranty and representation is an essential and material term of this Agreement without which none of the consideration received in connection herewith would have been made or delivered. The foregoing warranty and representation shall survive the delivery of this Agreement, and each of the Parties hereto shall indemnify and

hold the others harmless from any claims, demands or actions which have been assigned or transferred, or purported to have been assigned or transferred, in violation of the foregoing representation and warranty.

14. No Other Action. Each Party, respectively, has not commenced or prosecuted and will not commence or prosecute or aid any other action or proceeding for recovery of damages or for any other form of action against any Party based upon the claims released in this Agreement except as required by applicable state or federal law. This Agreement shall constitute a judicial bar to the institution of any such action or assignment thereof, except for the breach of this Agreement.

15. Attorneys' Fees. In the event of any controversy, claim or dispute in connection with the terms or conditions of this Agreement, the prevailing Party shall be entitled to recover all costs incurred (including, but not limited to, reasonable attorneys' fees) by the prevailing party in connection therewith, whether or not suit is filed and whether or not any such suit proceeds to judgment, including attorneys' fees incurred in the enforcement of this Agreement, an arbitration award or judgment.

16. Third-Party Beneficiary Rights of Plaintiff's Counsel The Parties acknowledge and agree that counsel for Plaintiff, Kuzyk Law, LLP and Dordick Law Corporation, are intended third-party beneficiaries of this Agreement solely with respect to the obligations set forth herein for the payment of attorney's fees and costs. As such, Kuzyk Law, LLP and Dordick Law Corporation shall have the independent and direct right to enforce the payment obligations related to attorney's fees and costs as provided in this Agreement, including the right to seek relief in a court of competent jurisdiction.

17. Modification. This Agreement may be modified only by a subsequent

document in writing, signed by the Party to be charged thereunder.

18. Waiver. No waiver by any Party of any breach of any term or provision of this Agreement shall be construed to be, nor be a waiver of any preceding, concurrent, or succeeding breach of the same, or any other term or provision hereof. No waiver shall be binding unless in writing and signed by the Party to be charged or held bound.

19. Joint Drafting of this Agreement. This Agreement has been jointly negotiated and drafted by counsel for the Parties herein. The language in this Agreement shall be construed as a whole according to its fair meaning and not strictly for or against any of the Parties.

20. No Prevailing Party. It is understood by the Parties that this Agreement, and the settlement and releases referred to herein, are not intended as, nor has the effect of, entitling any Party to prevailing party status in connection with any matter or claim covered by this Agreement. The Parties agree to waive and release any claim for costs, attorneys' fees, interest, and expenses, against any other Party except as set forth in Section 1.(b), above.

21. Entire Agreement. This Agreement is an integrated contract and constitutes the entire contract and supersedes all prior negotiations, representations, agreements or understandings between the Parties or their counsel pertaining to the subject matter of this Agreement.

22. California Public Records Act. The Parties acknowledge that the DISTRICT is subject to the California Public Records Act ("CPRA"), Government Code section 7920, et seq., and that this Agreement constitutes a public record of a type that is generally required to be disclosed upon request. Notwithstanding that this Agreement


is subject to the CPRA, the Parties agree that the wire instructions may be maintained confidentially and any account numbers or other financial information produced in redacted form.

23. Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed in counterparts and when each Party has signed and delivered at least one such counterpart, each counterpart shall be deemed an original, and all counterparts taken together will constitute one and the same Agreement, which will be binding and effective as to all Parties as of the Effective Date as defined herein. Signatures transmitted by facsimile or electronic means, including via DocuSign, shall be binding, but the Parties shall provide an original signature upon request.


IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have executed this Agreement on the date written below.

"Plaintiffs"

Date: 9.3.25


THOMAS AUSTIN,
by Sheri R. Matthews, Successor Trustee
of The Thomas Austin 2023 Revocable Trust

Date: 9.3.25


Sheri R. Matthews as Special Administrator of the
Estate of Helen Merlene Austin

-- Signatures Continued on Next Page --

"DISTRICT"

EL DORADO HILLS COUNTY WATER
DISTRICT

Date: July 14, 2025

By: Tina M. White
Vice President

APPROVED AS TO FORM ONLY:

KUZYK LAW, LLP

By: [Signature]
Reid Breitman, Esq.
Attorneys for Plaintiffs
THOMAS and HELEN AUSTIN

DORDICK LAW CORPORATION

By: [Signature]
Mark J. Leonardo, Esq.
Attorneys for Plaintiffs
THOMAS and HELEN AUSTIN

HEFNER, STARK & MAROIS, LLP

By: [Signature]
Kirk E. Giberson
Attorneys for Defendant
EL DORADO HILLS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY (Name, state bar number, and address): DONALD P. MADSEN (State Bar # 207159) Wheatley, Sopp & Madsen, LLP 2600 E. Bidwell St., Ste 150 Folsom, CA 95630		TELEPHONE AND FAX NOS.: (916) 923-9347 (916) 550-9820	FOR COURT USE ONLY
ATTORNEY FOR (Name): SHERI R. MATTHEWS, Petitioner		EL DORADO CO. SUPERIOR CT	
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF EL DORADO STREET ADDRESS: 2927 Meder Rd., Dept 9 MAILING ADDRESS: 2927 Meder Rd., Dept 9 CITY AND ZIP CODE: Cameron Park 95682 BRANCH NAME: Probate Department		FILED SEP 02 2025 BY <u>Sussberg</u> DEPUTY	
ESTATE OF (Name): HELEN MERLENE AUSTIN		DECEDENT	
EX-PARTE ORDER APPOINTING <input type="checkbox"/> Executor <input type="checkbox"/> Administrator with Will Annexed <input type="checkbox"/> Administrator <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Special Administrator <input type="checkbox"/> Order Authorizing Independent Administration of Estate <input type="checkbox"/> with full authority <input type="checkbox"/> with limited authority		CASE NUMBER: 25PR0221	
WARNING: THIS APPOINTMENT IS NOT EFFECTIVE UNTIL LETTERS HAVE ISSUED.			

1. Date of hearing: September 2, 2025 Time: 8:15 AM Dept./Room: 9 Judge: Sussberg

THE COURT FINDS

2. a. All notices required by law have been given.
b. Decedent died on (date): August 4, 2025
(1) ☒ a resident of the California county named above.
(2) ☐ a nonresident of California and left an estate in the county named above.
c. Decedent died
(1) ☒ intestate
(2) ☐ testate
and decedent's will dated: _____ and each codicil dated: _____
was admitted to probate by Minute Order on (date): _____

THE COURT ORDERS

3. (Name): **SHERI R. MATTHEWS**
is appointed personal representative:
a. ☐ executor of the decedent's will
b. ☐ administrator with will annexed
c. ☐ administrator
d. ☒ special administrator
(1) ☐ with general powers
(2) ☒ with special powers as specified in Attachment 3d(2)
(3) ☐ without notice of hearing
(4) ☐ letters will expire on (date): _____
and letters shall issue on qualification.
4. a. ☐ Full authority is granted to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act.
b. ☐ Limited authority is granted to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act (there is no authority, without court supervision, to (1) sell or exchange real property or (2) grant an option to purchase real property or (3) borrow money with the loan secured by an encumbrance upon real property).
5. a. ☒ Bond is not required.
b. ☐ Bond is fixed at: \$ _____ to be furnished by an authorized surety company or as otherwise provided by law.
c. ☐ Deposits of: \$ _____ are ordered to be placed in a blocked account at (specify institution and location): _____ and receipts shall be filed. No withdrawals shall be made without a court order. ☐ Additional orders in Attachment 5c.
d. ☐ The personal representative is not authorized to take possession of money or any other property without a specific court order.
6. ☐ (Name): _____ is appointed probate referee.

Date: 9/2/25

7. Number of pages attached: 3

☒ SIGNATURE FOLLOWS LAST ATTACHMENT

JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

Gary Slossberg

Probate Code, §§ 8003, 8400

Attachment 3d(2)

1 Donald P. Madsen, Esq. (SBN 207159)
2 WHEATLEY, SOPP & MADSEN, LLP
3 2600 E. Bidwell St., Ste 150
4 Folsom, CA 95630
5 Tel: (916) 923-9347 Fax: (916) 550-9820
6 Email: Don@Madsenlaw.com

7 Attorneys for Petitioner
8 SHERI R. MATTHEWS

EL DORADO CO. SUPERIOR CT.

FILED SEP 02 2025

BY 

9 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
10 FOR THE COUNTY OF EL DORADO

11 In re the Estate of:

12 HELEN MERLENE AUSTIN.

CASE NO. 25PR0221

ORDER GRANTING EX PARTE
APPLICATION FOR ORDER
APPOINTING SPECIAL
ADMINISTRATOR

(Case assigned to Hon. Gary Slossberg,
Department 9)

Date: September 2, 2025

Time: 8:15 am

Dept: 9

Case filed: 08/12/25

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22 On September 2, 2025, at 8:15 am in Department 9 of the El Dorado County
23 Superior Court, located at 2927 Meder Road, Cameron Park, California, Petitioner SHERI
24 R. MATTHEWS, through her attorneys, brought an ex parte application for an Order
25 appointing her as Special Administrator with the limited power of executing settlement
26 agreements in the in the civil action: Tom Austin and Helen Austin v The County of El
27 Dorado, et al. Case No. PC20150633 ("Austin Action") without further court Order or
28 confirmation.

- 1 -
ORDER GRANTING EX PARTE APPLICATION FOR ORDER APPOINTING
SPECIAL ADMINISTRATOR

1 Having read and considered the application, the points and authorities and the
2 declarations filed by attorney, Mark J. Leonardo, and it having been demonstrated to the
3 Court's satisfaction that good cause has been shown, rules as follows:

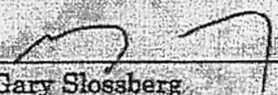
4 [1] The Court hereby appoints SHERI R. MATTHEWS as Special Administrator of
5 the Estate of HELEN MERLENE AUSTIN with limited authority to settle and execute
6 the three settlement agreements in the civil litigation pending at the time of Decedent's
7 death: Tom Austin and Helen Austin v The County of El Dorado, et al. Case No.
8 PC20150633 without further court order or court confirmation.

9 [2] No bond is required.

10 [3] This authority shall expire upon issuance of general letters or further order of
11 the Court.

12 IT IS SO ORDERED.

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14 DATED: September 2, 2025

15 
16 Hon. Gary Slossberg
17 JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
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