1 2 3	GRIFFITH & THORNBURGH, LLP ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS 8 EAST FIGUEROA STREET, SUITE 300 SANTA BARBARA, CA 93101-2762 TELEPHONE: 805-965-5131 TELECOPIER: 805-965-6751	
4 5	Craig Price, Bar No. 51361 <i>price@g-tlaw.com</i> Joseph M. Sholder, Bar No. 126347 sholder@g-t Attorneys for Defendant Santa Barbara Unified S	
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8	UNITED STATES D	DISTRICT COURT
9	CENTRAL DISTRIC	Γ OF CALIFORNIA
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11	FAIR EDUCATION SANTA BARBARA, INC., a 501(c)(3)	CASE NO.: 2:18-cv-10253-SVW- (PLAx)
12 13	organization, Plaintiff,	SANTA BARBARA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT'S
14	vs.	MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES IN OPPOSITION
15	SANTA BARBARA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT, a public school	TO MOTION FOR A PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION
16	SCHOOL DISTRICT, a public school district; and JUST COMMUNITIES CENTRAL COAST, INC., a 501(c)(3)	Date: January 28, 2019
17	organization,	Time: 1:30 p.m. Courtroom 10A
18	Defendants.	
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A. INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY OF ARGUMENT

Fair Education of Santa Barbara, Inc. invoked this court's jurisdiction by claiming that the Santa Barbara Unified School District's contract with Just Communities of the Central Coast, Inc. for diversity, equality, and inclusiveness training is anti-Caucasian, anti-male and anti-Christian, and that it violates Title VI of the Civil Rights Act and 42 U.S.C. § 1983. But in a plot twist worthy of a John Grisham novel, instead of seeking a preliminary injunction on those claims, FESB instead seeks an injunction on a state law claim that it could have brought in the state court: an alleged violation of California Public Contract Code § 20111, because the SBUSD-JCCC contract wasn't competitively bid. (The solution to the plot twist is simple and not worthy of Grisham. FESB hasn't sought an injunction on its civil rights claims because they fail under controlling Ninth Circuit authority. See Arce v. Douglas, 793 F.3d 968, 973-975 (9th Cir. 2015)(upholding Mexican American Studies Program despite claims it promoted "resentment toward a race or class of people."); Monteiro v. Temple Unif. Sch. Dist., 158 F.3d 1022, 1028 (9th Cir. 1998) (rejecting claim that African American student's equal protection rights were violated by having to read Huckleberry Finn, which uses a racially derogatory term 215 times.)

Plot twists aside, FESB has not met its heavy burden to obtain the extraordinary relief of a preliminary injunction on its competitive bidding claim for the following reasons.

1. FESB has no likelihood of success on the merits. California law permits a public entity to contract for services without competitive bidding if (1) the services are specialized services, and (2) the public entity itself or some other public entity cannot perform those services. *Service Employees Internat. Union v. Board of Trustees*, 47 Cal.App. 4th 1661, 1673 (1996). FESB has not cited a single California case — and SBUSD has found no cases —voiding a non-competitively-bid contract because those contracted-for services weren't special.

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- The California Attorney General has also ruled that competitive bidding isn't required for a school district to contract for a program with similar goals to JCCC's: at-risk student dropout prevention and retention programs. JCCC provides a special service under California law because it is offered by specially trained facilitators to assist SBUSD in reducing the minority-student achievement gap, and it is not offered by SBUSD or any other public entity, and is based upon the work of numerous scholars in the diversity education field.
- 2. FESB has not made a "clear showing" of irreparable harm if a preliminary injunction is denied. Even if FESB somehow suffers a monetary injury from the SBUSD-JCCC contract, "[i]t is well established ... that . . . monetary injury is not normally considered irreparable." *Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum Commission v. National Football League*, 634 F.2d 1197, 1202 (9th Cir. 1980). The irreparable-injury-bidding cases cited by FESB at page 26 of its brief involve disappointed bidders. FESB does not allege it would have bid on this contract.
- 3. The balance of hardships tips strongly in favor of SBUSD. If SBUSD is enjoined, it will be deprived of a program that has reduced the achievement gap between Latino and other students. FESB only suffers the "psychological consequence presumably produced by observation of conduct with which one disagrees" *Valley Forge Christian College v. Americans United for Separation of Church and State, Inc.* 454 U.S. 464, 485 (1982), which is insufficient as a matter of law.
- 4. While the public interest favors competitive bidding when it is required, it also favors academic success by all students regardless of race, ethnicity, gender or religion, and SBUSD's efforts to achieve that goal will be impaired if it is preliminarily enjoined.

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B. FACTS

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1. The JCCC Program

JCCC's program is not part of SBUSD's regular curriculum. None of its materials have been adopted by SBUSD for use in regular classes. The program is completely voluntary. No one, not a teacher, a student or a parent, is compelled to attend.

JCCC's program focuses primarily on training educators, and focuses on issues of diversity, equity and inclusion. Its main purpose is to eradicate the persistent educational achievement gap among minority students. The JCCC program also has a separate student component (who can only attend with parental consent), and has sessions for parents and community members.

Participants in JCCC's program obtain skills and insights that help them to reduce the achievement gap among students of color and students from other marginalized groups without taking anything away from Caucasian students. JCCC draws upon research from a variety of fields to inform its approach and to better teach educators, students, and parents. As described in the declaration of Jarrod Schwartz, this research comes from many leading lights in diversity education, and include the Centers of Disease Control & Prevention's Division of Adolescent and School Health, Pedro Noguera and Maurianne Adams. JCCC also works with local researchers at UCSB and Westmont College.

JCCC's programs are taught by facilitators. At any one time, there are between twelve and fifteen facilitators in its primary educator training program. Most of the facilitators are former educators and have bachelor degrees, and some have advanced degrees. Before they are hired, they go through sixty hours of JCCC training or its equivalent, and go through another eight to twelve hours of specialized training for the educator program.

JCCC is based in Santa Barbara and primarily serves the tri-county area of Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo. It knows the local community, is

accountable to the local community, most its facilitators live and work locally, and most have attended or worked in the local school system. JCCC knows the culture of the Santa Barbara community and the issues which allow it to make its programs relevant to the districts and communities in which it works.

Far from being a radical, discriminatory outlier used solely by SBUSD as FESB alleges, JCCC has worked in many school districts in Santa Barbara County. JCCC has also presented its program in school districts in other states, and has presented other implicit bias training to the Santa Barbara Police Department and various Santa Barbara County agencies. Implicit bias programs using similar materials are conducted in educational and other institutions nationwide, including Oregon State University, USC, UCLA, and Scripps College.

As a result, the program enjoys a high level of support from SBUSD educators, parents, and others with whom it works:

- "I have personally attended several Just Community events . . . As a Caucasian male, that came from a Christian tradition, I felt very safe and did not feel targeted . . . [T]he group worked very hard to create an environment where difficult subjects could be discussed in a way that was comfortable for all participants." Declaration of Jon Clark, President of the James S. Bower foundation.
- "I understand that a group of people have criticized Just Communities for being divisive and anti-establishment (specifically anti-[C]aucasian, anti-male, anti-Christian). . .[A]s a Caucasian male who was brought up Christian, I saw no basis [in the program I attended] for being 'anti-' any of those things." Declaration of Douglas Fischer.
- "These Just Communities workshops have gone a long way in helping our school work on closing the achievement gap, which is

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vitally important not just to individual students, but to our community as a whole " Declaration of Kelly Savio, Dos Pueblos High School English Teacher.

- "[T]he school district aims to serve all students with equity, but we fall short. . . In order to move toward greater equity, the district engaged [JCCC] to help staff narrow learning gaps disproportionately demonstrated by our students of color. . .Just Communities is helping to recognize the unintentional consequences of 'colorblindness' . . .that affect us and our students." Declaration of Melanie Jacobson, SBUSD world history teacher for 25 years.
- "I was particularly struck by the [JCCC] facilitators' ability to create an effective learning environment for people with a range of social class statuses. . .We are incredibly fortunate to have such a valuable resource in our community" Declaration of Tania Israel, Professor and Chair, Department of Counseling, Clinical, and School Psychology, UCSB.

2. SBUSD's Relationship and Contracts With JCCC

SBUSD began working with JCCC in 2005 in a series of pilot programs and conferences, during which JCCC taught courses to teachers, parents and students. A 2013 program evaluation conducted by Ruyabi Srivastava and Michelle Enriquez showed that JCCC's program had made a measurable contribution to Latino Student Achievement. Exhibit 1. After that evaluation, SBUSD expanded its use of JCCC's training and the parties entered into a series of contracts beginning in the 2014-2015 school year. Exhibit 2. The current contract is for 2018-2019 and was approved by SBUSD's board on October 9, 2018. Exhibit 3. Like JCCC's contracts with all other Santa Barbara County school districts, JCCC was not asked to bid on any SBUSD contracts.

3. The Providers of Implicit Bias Training Identified by FESB

Relying upon hearsay copies of internet pages, FESB alleges that there are "scores" of implicit bias training companies that provide JCCC's achievement-gap-reduction-implicit-bias program. FESB lists only four at its Exhibits N-Q, one of which — UCSB —is a public entity. None of them offers what JCCC's program does: specialized training designed for school districts to reduce the minority student achievement gap by structurally changing the ways teachers approach their teaching. Here are the four programs FESB identifies and why they are different:

- a. Santa Barbara Pathways. SBP provides college preparedness workshops, tutoring and mentoring to students. In contrast, JCCC works primarily with educators and is focused on changing the conditions in the school system so that all students can succeed. SBUSD already works with SBP in several of its schools and it wouldn't also contract with JCCC if SBP and JCCC did the same thing.
- b. The California Teachers Association. The CTA has a very basic introductory program designed to help educators value diversity. The CTA program doesn't prepare teachers to tackle the root causes of the achievement gap, it doesn't have components for students and parents, and it doesn't include on-going coaching and support. The CTA itself has recognized that JCCC's program is different. That's why it partnered with JCCC in 2012 to provide services to improve student achievement in struggling schools, and in May 2017 to facilitate a program for immigrant students and parents.
- **c. Muse.** Muse appears to be a job search company and executive coaching firm without any connection to educational equity, diversity, inclusion, implicit bias, or work with schools and districts. Jarrod Schwartz of JCCC, who has twenty-six years of implicit bias training experience, had never before heard of them.

- d. The NewSchools. The NewSchools is a venture fund that provides investment capital to teachers and other individuals who want to design and start innovative schools. It also supports the development of diverse school leaders. But it doesn't provide anything remotely like the comprehensive educator, student, and parent training or systems-change consulting and coaching work JCCC provides.
 - 4. The Actual Providers of Services Similar to JCCC's

 There are three similar providers of educational equity training.
- **a.** Education Equity Consultants. EEC is based in St. Louis, MO and provides a program similar to JCCC's teacher training program. EEC primarily works in the Midwest.
- **b.** National Equity Project. NEP works primarily in Northern California, but also works in other parts of the country. NEP has a singular focus on racial achievement gaps and racism, whereas Just Communities also addresses issues of socio-economic class, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability, language, and other social identities.
- c. Pacific Education Group. PEG is based in San Francisco. PEG works specifically with educators and does not have student, parent or language access components like JCCC and it has no local knowledge of the Santa Barbara community.

C. ARGUMENT

1. FESB Has Not Met the Preliminary Injunction Requirements

FESB "bears the heavy burden of making a 'clear showing' that it [i]s entitled to a preliminary injunction." *Ctr. for Competitive Politics v. Harris*, 784 *F.3d 1307*, 1312 (9th Cir. 2015). That requires FESB to prove that (1) it is likely to succeed on the merits; (2) it is likely to suffer irreparable harm in the absence of preliminary relief; (3) the balance of equities tips in its favor; and (4) an ///

injunction is in the public interest. *Jackson v. City and County of San Francisco*, 746 F.3d 953, 958 (9th Cir. 2014). FESB hasn't met that burden.

a. Likelihood of Success on the Merits

FESB cannot cite, and SBUSD has not found, a single case voiding a non-competitively-bid contract because it was not a special service.¹ The reason is simple: California courts construe the special-service rule broadly and practically so that public entities can obtain important services they cannot themselves provide.

i. The California Statutes and Their Construction by California Courts.

California has two statutes providing exceptions to the general rule requiring competitive bidding by public entities. Public Contract Code § 20111(d) says that bidding is not required for contracts for, among other things "professional services or advice." Government Code § 53060 exempts from competitive bidding "special services and advice in financial, economic, accounting, engineering, legal, or administrative matters if such persons are specially trained and experienced and competent to perform the special services required." See *Cobb v. Pasadena City Bd. of Ed.*, 134 Cal.App.2d 93, 96 (1955)(section 53060 "removes all question of the necessity of advertising for bids for 'special services' by a person specially trained and experienced and competent to perform the special services required.")

There are no cases construing the term "professional services or advice" in Public Contract Code § 20111(d). But there is a well-developed body of case law addressing exceptions to the competitive bidding rules. For the last 99 years,²

¹ In the only case where a non-competitively bid contract has been voided, the services were indeed special services — legal services — but, at that time, they were available from the county counsel. See *Jaynes v. Stockton*, 193 Cal.App.2d 47, 53-54 (1961).

² The first reported decision is *Miller v. Boyle*, 43 Cal.App.39 (1919), which held that a school district didn't have to competitively bid an architect's contract.

both before and after the enactment of § 53060 in 1951, California courts have held that competitive bidding is not required "where the nature of the subject of the contract is such that competitive proposals would be unavailing or would not produce an advantage, and the advertisement for competitive bid would thus be undesirable, impractical, or impossible." See *Graydon v. Pasadena Redevelopment Agency*, 104 Cal.App.3d 631, 635-636 (1980)(citing cases). To implement this rule, California courts require that "[c]ompetitive bidding provisions must be read in the light of the reason for their enactment, or they will be applied where they were not intended to operate and thus deny municipalities authority to deal with problems in a sensible, practical way." *Domar Electric, Inc. v. City of Los Angeles*, 9 Cal.4th 161, 173 (2010) (internal quotations omitted).³

ii. The Special Services Test

The test for whether a contract is for "special services" and need not be competitively bid depends on "the nature of the services; the necessary qualifications required of a person furnishing the services; and the availability of the service from public sources." *Service Employees Internat. Union v. Board of Trustees*, 47 Cal.App.4th 1661, 1673 (1996)(internal quotations omitted). It does not, as FESB argues at page 22 of its brief, depend on whether the contractor has a special license, registration or certification.

Under that test, California courts have held that competitive bidding isn't required for all manner of contracts, including having a private company operate and manage a college bookstore, id. at 1673-1674; having a pharmacy administrator provide pharmacy services to HIV/AIDs patients, *Weinstein v. County of Los Angeles*, 237 Cal.App.4th 944, 967-968 (2015); and having a

³ To the extent the SBUSD-JCCC contract can be construed as a purchase by SBUSD of JCCC's materials, that purchase is also exempt from competitive bidding. See California Public Contracts Code § 20118.3.

company do research and development work regarding new and improved techniques, methods and systems for the management and control of school property and equipment. *California Sch. Employees Assn. v. Sunnyvale Elementary Sch. Dist.*, 36 Cal.App.3d 46, 60-61 (1973).

Under these same principles, the California Attorney General recently opined that a school district did not have to bid a contract for services with a private, nonprofit organization, which shared some of the same goals as the JCCC program — to provide at-risk student dropout prevention and retention programs — under a school district's "broad general authority to conduct their affairs" so long as the district did not act "in conflict with the laws and purposes for which school districts are established." 93 Ops. *Cal. Atty. Gen.* 63 (2010).

iii. JCCC's Services Are Special and Can't Be Obtained From Another Public Entity

The JCCC contract satisfies the special services test: JCCC's facilitators are "professional, highly trained and educated, experienced and extremely competent" in the field of comprehensive diversity, equity, and inclusion training for teachers, students and parents designed to reduce the achievement gap and to change the conditions in the school system. The declarations of SBUSD Superintendent Cary Matsuoka, JCCC's Jarrod Schwartz, the SBUSD teachers, and several community members establish that: (1) its facilitators are highly trained, and many of them are former teachers; (2) JCCC has presented its programs to every major Santa Barbara County school district and elsewhere; (3) it partnered with California Teachers Association to provide implicit bias training; and (4) its program incorporates the work of leading scholars in the field and is effective.

⁴ Service Employees Internat. Union v. Board of Trustees, 47 Cal.App.4th at 1673.

JCCC's services aren't available from a public entity. The declarations of Superintendent Cary Matsuoka and Jarrod Schwartz, and the SBUSD teachers — who themselves went to JCCC training — establish that SBUSD doesn't hire or train personnel to provide these services. UCSB's program — the only public program identified by FESB — is not the same as JCCC's program.

iv. Competitive Bidding "Would Be Undesirable, Impractical, or Impossible."

Competitive bidding is not required where it "would be unavailing or would not produce an advantage, and the advertisement for competitive bid would thus be undesirable, impractical, or impossible." *Graydon v. Pasadena Redevelopment Agency*, 104 Cal.App.3d at 636. SBUSD forthrightly identified the three other companies that do the same work as JCCC.⁵ But the closest programs are in the Bay Area and the other is in the Midwest. None have JCCC's knowledge of the local community and record of accomplishment in Santa Barbara. And since JCCC, on average, puts on several programs per month for SBUSD, that would require these companies to commit to significant travel to work for SBUSD. For these reasons, it would be undesirable and impractical to require SBUSD to competitively bid for this program.

v. Competitive Bidding Isn't Necessary to Prevent Favoritism or Conflicts of Interest.

One of the goals of competitive bidding is to guard against favoritism and corruption. *Weinstein v. County of Los Angeles*, 237 Cal.App.4th at 949. FESB tries to shoehorn its way into this goal with a laundry list of former school board members (including Santa Barbara's current Assemblyperson, Monique Limon)

⁵ The fact that there are three other programs doesn't mean that JCCC's services aren't special because the California cases don't require that the service provider be unique to be special (lawyers and architects certainly aren't unique and their contracts aren't bid.)

and current SBUSD employees who have previously served on JCCC's board or as JCCC employees, to claim these relationships create a conflict of interest. But FESB has produced no evidence — and there is none — that any of these people have a conflict of interest under the applicable California conflict of interest statutes. These statutes would only prohibit (1) SBUSD board members who were simultaneously working for JCCC from voting on the JCCC contract, or (2) SBUSD employees who were also working for JCCC from participating or influencing the contract decision. FESB presents no evidence that happened.

Specifically, Government Code § 1090 prohibits a public employee from being "financially interested in any contract made by them in their official

Specifically, Government Code § 1090 prohibits a public employee from being "financially interested in any contract made by them in their official capacity, or by any body or board of which they are members." Government Code § 87100 (part of the Political Reform Act of 1974) says that "No public official at any level of state or local government shall make, participate in making or in any way attempt to use his official position to influence a governmental decision in which he knows or has reason to know he has a financial interest."

None of the people FESB names fall under these rules.

- The former SBUSD board members didn't participate in deciding the JCCC contract because they were "former" board members.
- FESB doesn't and can't show that board member Ismael Paredes Ulloa, who did vote for the JCCC contract, was working for JCCC when he voted.
- FESB doesn't and can't show that the SBUSD employees were also working for JCCC when the contract was approved or, if they were, that they participated in making or approving that contract.
- What FESB's so-called evidence shows is that SBUSD former and current board members and employees support the JCCC program for all the reasons stated in this brief and its declarations. Support isn't favoritism or corruption.

Finally, the contract about which FESB complains has a specific provision

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prohibiting JCCC from hiring current SBUSD employees as independent contractors. See Exhibit 3, September 25, 2018, contract at para. 6. So the illusory conflicts FESB raises about past contracts cannot occur with the current contract.

b. Irreparable Harm

Whatever harm FESB might suffer if SBUSD is not enjoined from using JCCC's program, it certainly isn't irreparable. The cases FESB cites all involve parties who were actual or prospective bidders on a public contract. FESB doesn't claim that it or its members would have bid on the JCCC contract. Nor does FESB allege it suffers a compensable monetary injury, but even if it did that isn't irreparable harm. *Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum Commission v. National Football League*, 634 F.2d at 1202.

c. Balance of the Hardships

The balance of the hardships tips strongly against FESB. Although it alleges general societal harm, at most any injury to its members is that they are paying an unquantified, but surely small, amount of tax money that gets allocated to a program with which they disagree. In contrast, if SBUSD is enjoined, it will lose the ability to employ a successful program that has helped narrow the achievement gap among minority students.

⁶ See, e.g., *BINL v. U.S.*, 106 Fed.Cl. 26, 35 (2012) (noting that a plaintiff has standing as an interested party under 28 U.S.C. § 1491 "if it 'is an actual or prospective bidder and (2) possess[es] the requisite direct economic interest."); *Palantar U.S.G., Inc. v. United States*, 129 Fed.Cl. 218, 284-285 (stating that the parties agreed "that '[w]ithout a showing of harm specific to the asserted error [in the bidding process], there is no injury to redress, and no standing to sue," and noting that for a protestor who is an actual or prospective bidder, "a protestor suffers irreparable harm if it is deprived of the opportunity to compete fairly for a contract.") Significantly, a showing of irreparable harm or direct economic impact in the context of an allegation of noncompliance with public bidding laws can only be established if the plaintiff is an actual or prospective bidder. See, *HP Enterprises Services*, *LLC v. U.S.*, 104 Fed. Cl. 230, 238 (2012) (stating that "[o]nly a protestor possessing a substantial chance of winning the contract has a direct economic interest in the procurement and thereby standing before this court.").

d. Public Policy

The lengthy discussion of California public bidding law shows that California has a policy favoring competitive bidding, but only where doing so makes practical sense. That isn't the case here. California law also has a strong public policy favoring achievement by all students. That policy will be undermined if this preliminary injunction is issued.

D. CONCLUSION

FESB used its federal civil rights claims as a Trojan horse to try to get this court to grant it an injunction on a pure, state law public contracts claim over which it has but supplemental jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1367(a). Worse, FESB can't meet its heavy burden of establishing that it is entitled to an injunction. For these reasons, FESB's motion should be denied.

Dated: January 4, 2019

GRIFFITH & THORNBURGH, LLP

Attorneys for Santa Barbara Unified

 School District

Craig Price

By: /s/ Joseph M. Sholder

Joseph M. Sholder

1	PROOF OF SERVICE
2	STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
3 4	I am employed by the law firm of GRIFFITH & THORNBURGH, LLP in the county of Santa Barbara, state of California. I am over the age of 18 and not a party to the within action. My business address is 8 East Figueroa St., #300, Santa Barbara, California 93101. My email address is downs@g-tlaw.com.
5 6	On Jan. 4, 2019, I served the foregoing document described as SANTA BARBARA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT'S OPPOSITION TO MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION on the parties and/or interested persons in this action as follows:
7	[X] BY ELECTRONIC MAIL SERVICE
8	I caused the above document(s) to be electronically mailed through the ECF System of the United States District Court to the recipients as follows:
10	Attorneys for Plaintiff: eearly@earlysullivan.com; pscott@earlysullivan.com; ecfnoticing@earlysullivan.com; evillarreal@earlysullivan.com; esilverman@earlysullivan.com
11	Attorney for SBUSD: Joseph Sholder sholder@g-tlaw.com, downs@g-tlaw.com
12	[X] BY OVERNIGHT DELIVERY: I deposited such envelope in a facility regularly maintained by FedEx with delivery fees fully provided for or delivered the envelope to a
13	courier or driver of FedEx authorized to receive documents at 8 East Figueroa Street, Suite 300, Santa Barbara, California 93101-2762 with delivery fees fully provided for, to the
14	following: Judge Stephen V. Wilson-Mandatory Chamber's Copy
15 16	United States District Court, Central District of California First Street Courthouse, 350 W. 1st Street, 10 th Floor, Courtroom
17	10A Los Angeles, California 90012
18	[X] BY MAIL: The envelope was mailed with postage thereon fully prepaid. I am readily familiar with the firm's practice of collection and processing correspondence for mailing. Under that practice it would be deposited with the U.S. postal service on that same
19	day with postage thereon fully prepaid at Santa Barbara, California in the ordinary course of
20	business. I am aware that on motion of the party served, service is presumed invalid if the postal cancellation date or postage meter date is more than one day after service
21	of deposit for mailing in affidavit. <u>Defendant Just Communities Central Coast, Inc.</u> Sarah E. Piepmeier, PC
22 23	Kirkland & Ellis, LLP 555 California Street
	San Francisco, CA 94104
24 25	I declare that I am employed in the office of a member of the bar of this Court at whose direction the service was made.
26	I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the above is true and correct and that this declaration was executed on Jan. 4, 2019, at Santa Barbara,
27	California.
28	/s/_Evelyn R. Downs Evelyn R. Downs
	EVELVILK LIOWIIS