



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION
SAN LUIS OBISPO UNIT
635 North Santa Rosa Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93405
VENTURA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT
165 Durley Avenue
Camarillo, CA 93010

INVESTIGATION REPORT

CASE NUMBER: 17CAVNC103156

CASE NAME: THOMAS

DATE: December 4, 2017

INCIDENT TYPE: Wildland Fire

INCIDENT INVESTIGATORS: Christine SAQUI, Fire Investigator – VCFD

Aimin ALTON, Firefighter (PM) - VCFD
Dennis BYRNES, Fire Captain – CAL FIRE
Gregg DELAROSA, Senior Deputy – VCISO
Jace CHAPIN, Battalion Chief – CAL FIRE
Ryan MILLER, Firefighter – VCFD
Steven DEAN, Fire Investigator – USFS
Tom CRASS, Fire Captain-Specialist – CAL FIRE
Patrick KELLEY, Fire Captain – VCFD

Alex LOMVARDIAS, Special Agent – USFS
Brian KINSLEY, Firefighter – VCFD
Jay SNODGRASS, Fire Captain Investigator - SBCOFD
Jon BERGH, Fire Investigator – VCFD
Ken RUSSELL, Fire Captain-Specialist – CAL FIRE
Marshall HATCH, Fire Investigator – VCFD
Shannan HARRIS, Fire Captain-Specialist – CAL FIRE

1 **1 – VIOLATIONS:**

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3 **Penal Code § 192**

4 Manslaughter is the unlawful killing of a human being without malice. It is of
5 three kinds:

6 (b) Involuntary—in the commission of an unlawful act, not amounting to a felony;
7 or in the commission of a lawful act which might produce death, in an unlawful
8 manner, or without due caution and circumspection. This subdivision shall not
9 apply to acts committed in the driving of a vehicle.

10

11 **Penal Code § 452**

12 A person is guilty of unlawfully causing a fire when he recklessly sets fire to or
13 burns or causes to be burned, any structure, forest land or property.

14 (a) Unlawfully causing a fire that causes great bodily injury is a felony punishable
15 by imprisonment in the state prison for two, four or six years, or by imprisonment
16 in the county jail for not more than one year, or by a fine, or by both such
17 imprisonment and fine.

18 (b) Unlawfully causing a fire that causes an inhabited structure or inhabited
19 property to burn is a felony punishable by imprisonment in the state prison for
20 two, three or four years, or by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than
21 one year, or by a fine, or by both such imprisonment and fine.

22 (c) Unlawfully causing a fire of a structure or forest land is a felony punishable by
23 imprisonment in the state prison for 16 months, two or three years, or by
24 imprisonment in the county jail for not more than six months, or by a fine, or by
25 both such imprisonment and fine.

26 (d) Unlawfully causing a fire of property is a misdemeanor. For purposes of this
27 paragraph, unlawfully causing a fire of property does not include one burning or
28 causing to be burned his own personal property unless there is injury to another
29 person or to another person's structure, forest land or property.

30

1 **Health & Safety Code § 13001**

2 Every person is guilty of a misdemeanor who, through careless or negligent
3 action, throws or places any lighted cigarette, cigar, ashes, or other flaming or
4 glowing substance, or any substance or thing which may cause a fire, in any place
5 where it may directly or indirectly start a fire, or who uses or operates a welding
6 torch, tar pot or any other device which may cause a fire, who does not clear the
7 inflammable material surrounding the operation or take such other reasonable
8 precautions necessary to insure against the starting and spreading of fire.

9

10 **Public Resources Code § 4421**

11 A person shall not set fire or cause fire to be set to any forest, brush, or other
12 flammable material which is on any land that is not his own, or under his legal
13 control, without the permission of the owner, lessee, or agent of the owner or lessee
14 of the land.

15

16 **General Order 95, 31.1: Design, Construction and Maintenance**

17 Electrical supply and communication systems shall be of suitable design and
18 construction for their intended use, regard being given to the conditions under which
19 they are to be operated, and shall be maintained in a condition which will enable the
20 furnishing of safe, proper and adequate service.

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1 **2 – SUMMARY:**

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3 On Monday, December 4, 2017, at approximately 6:23 PM, a phone report of a
4 wildland fire was called into the Ventura County Fire Department (VCFD) Fire
5 Station 20. Fire Captain Tony SALAS took the phone call. While on the phone,
6 Station 20 was toned out for a wildland fire in the area of 1681 Dickenson Drive.
7 While enroute in VCFD Engine 20 (E20) SALAS and crew observed a wildland fire
8 in Anlauf Canyon. This is in the same geographical area as the phone-in report
9 received at VCFD Station 20 regarding a wildland fire near Thomas Aquinas
10 College. E20 arrived on scene, confirmed the wildland fire, reported to dispatch the
11 fire was approximately 50 acres and requested a second alarm. The fire was
12 located in a canyon above Steckel Park. SALAS observed strong winds in the area
13 and the fire racing down canyon toward Highway 150. E20 was unable to engage in
14 fire suppression due to extreme fire conditions. SALAS assumed command of the
15 fire and directed incoming resources into the fire. At approximately 7:30 PM, VCFD
16 dispatched a reported wildland fire in the area of Koenigstein Road and Highway
17 150, this fire was determined by investigators to be a separate fire (*identified as the*
18 *KOENIGSTEIN fire*) not associated with the THOMAS fire.

19 The THOMAS fire continued to burn out of control. On Tuesday, December 5,
20 2017, at approximately 1:00 AM, the THOMAS and KOENIGSTEIN fires merged
21 into one and both fires were referred to as the THOMAS fire. Collectively, the
22 THOMAS fire and the KOENIGSTEIN fire consumed 281,893 acres of mixed
23 wildland and 1343 structures destroyed/damaged. One civilian fatality and one fire
24 fighter fatality occurred as a result of these two fires. The fire was fully controlled on
25 Wednesday, January 10, 2018.

26 The assigned fire investigation team (*IT*) determined the THOMAS fire occurred
27 when energized power lines came into contact (phase to phase) with each other
28 between two power poles, emitting molten aluminum particles onto the surrounding
29 dry vegetation. The IT documented, photographed and collected sections and parts
30 associated with the involved power lines. The power lines and equipment

1 responsible for the THOMAS fire where owned and operated by Southern California
2 Edison (SCE).

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1 **3 – SUSPECT:**

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3 S-1 Southern California Edison (SCE)

4 Corporate Headquarters

5 9200 Oakdale Avenue, 9th Floor

6 Los Angeles, CA 91311

7 Phone: (888) 848-4754

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9 Process Service Agent - SCE

10 Cristina LIMON

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1 **4 – VICTIMS & WITNESSES:**

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3 **VICTIMS:**

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5 V-1 Virginia PASOLA
6 Civilian

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10 *For further information pertaining to PASOLA contact Ventura County Medical*
11 *Examiner's Office at (805) 641-4400 (reference report #1501-17).*

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13 V-2 Cory IVERSON
14 Fire Apparatus Engineer – CAL FIRE

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18 *For further information pertaining to IVERSON contact Ventura County Medical*
19 *Examiner's Office at (805) 641-4400 (reference report #1539-17).*

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21 **Other Victims:**

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23 For a complete list of properties which sustained damage or burned structures
24 during the THOMAS and/or KOENINGSTEIN fires (see attachment #4). This list
25 may or may not include damaged land and other miscellaneous burned
26 properties.

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1 **WITNESSES:**

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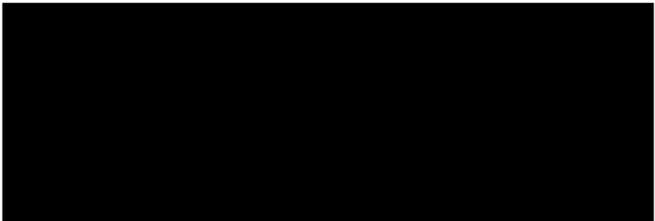
3 W-1 David DOLLAR

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8 *Fire originated on his property, can testify to seeing fire surrounding his property,*
9 *and sustained damage to vegetation, barn and other property. DOLLAR recalled*
10 *the power was interrupted approximately 15 minutes prior to receiving a phone*
11 *call from his son Chris DOLLAR, notifying him of the fire. DOLLAR was on his*
12 *property with two employees from Carbon California approximately two hours*
13 *prior to the fire. Also DOLLAR'S vehicle was inspected by the investigation team*
14 *(see attachment #5).*

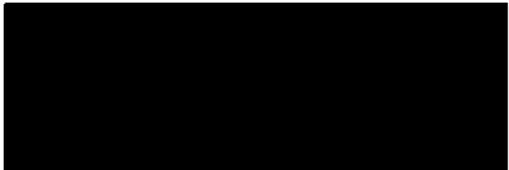
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16 W-2 Chris DOLLAR

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20 *C. DOLLAR can testify to receiving a phone call from Juan GAMEZ Jr. and*
21 *telling C. DOLLAR there was a fire behind his parents' house, Chris was also*
22 *present when DOLLAR was interviewed (see attachment #5).*

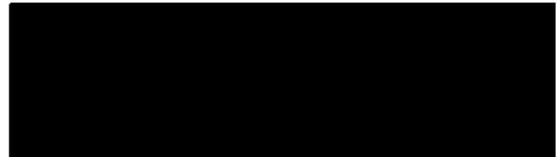
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24 W-3 Matt DOLLAR

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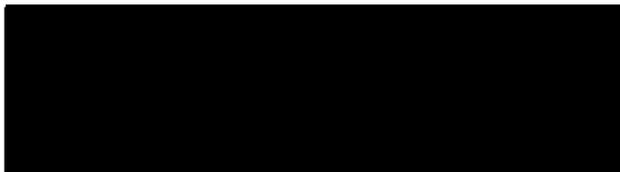


28 *M. DOLLAR is the son of DOLLAR and can testify to being present when*
29 *DOLLAR was interviewed (see attachment #5).*

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1 W-4 Dori Thompson CLARKE

2 Owner of THOMPCO

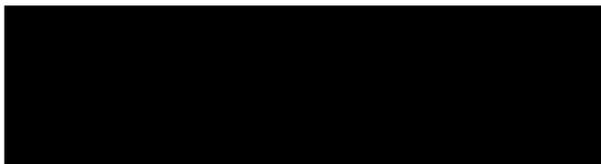


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6 *Can testify to sending three of her employees up to the Timber Oil Lease*
7 *(Carbon California) the day the THOMAS fire occurred. CLARKE provided*
8 *documentation of what her employees did and time they arrived and left on the*
9 *oil lease (see attachment #6).*

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11 W-5 Alberto NUNEZ

12 THOMPCO Employee

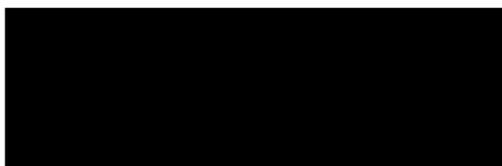


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16 *NUNEZ can testify to working for THOMPCO and was with Jesus VALENZUELA*
17 *and John TAIT working at the Timber Oil Lease (Carbon California) the day of*
18 *the fire and arrived at the lease at approximately 7:30 AM, and left at*
19 *approximately 3:00 PM (see attachment #6).*

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21 W-6 John TAIT

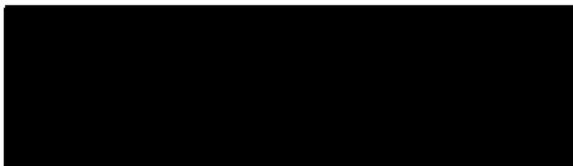
22 THOMPCO Employee



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26 *TAIT can testify to working for THOMPCO and was with Jesus VALENZUELA*
27 *and NUNEZ working at the Timber Oil Lease (Carbon California) the day of the*
28 *fire and arrived at the lease at approximately 7:30 AM, and left at approximately*
29 *3:00 PM (see attachment #6).*

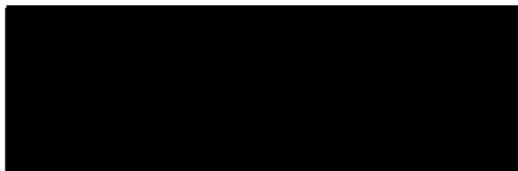
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1 W- 7 Jesus VALENZUELA
2 THOMPCO Employee



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6 VALENZUELA was working for THOMPCO and was with NUNEZ and TAIT
7 working at the Timber Oil Lease (Carbon California) the day of the fire.
8 VALENZUELA arrived at the lease at approximately 7:30 AM, and left at
9 approximately 3:00 PM. The THOMPCO vehicle VALENZUELA was utilizing the
10 day of the THOMAS fire, was inspected by the investigation team (see
11 attachment #6).

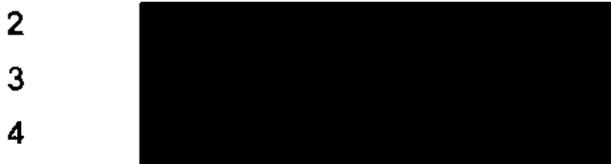
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13 W-8 Richard RUDMAN



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17 Can testify to maintaining the radio towers in Anlauf Canyon. RUDMAN was on
18 the property the afternoon prior to the fire starting. RUDMAN experienced strong
19 winds at the radio tower prior to the start of the THOMAS fire. RUDMAN
20 provided the DATA logs of power outages the day of the THOMAS fire to the IT
21 (see attachment #7).

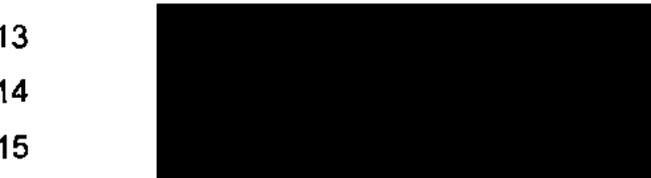
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1 W-9 Peter RIOUX



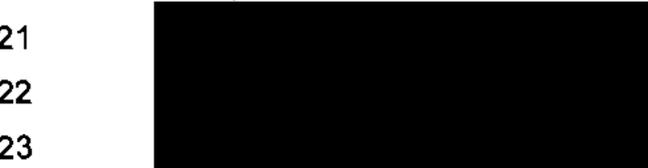
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5 *Can testify to being the Operation Supervisor at Saint Thomas Aquinas College,*
6 *and placed the fire within DOLLAR'S property in a canyon above his house*
7 *before 6:30 PM. RIOUX called VCFD Fire Station 20 prior to them being*
8 *dispatched by Ventura County Fire Communication Center and advised them of*
9 *the fire. RIOUX took pictures of the fire and provided them to the IT (see*
10 *attachment #8).*

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12 W-10 Brian DICKENSON



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16 *Can testify to calling 911 reporting the THOMAS fire. DICKENSON lives in Santa*
17 *Paula and saw the fire in the area of Anlauf Canyon. DICKENSON is one of the*
18 *first 911 reporting parties for the THOMAS fire (see attachment #49).*

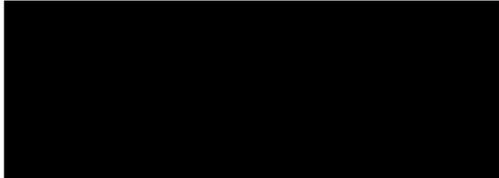
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20 W-11 Tony SALAS



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24 *SALAS can testify to receiving a phone call from Peter RIOUX reporting the fire*
25 *in the area of Anlauf Canyon. SALAS was the Fire Captain on the first arriving*
26 *VCFD Fire Engine 20, SALAS was the first Incident Commander and saw the fire*
27 *coming from DOLLAR'S property (see attachment #9).*

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1 W-12 Steve SWINDLE



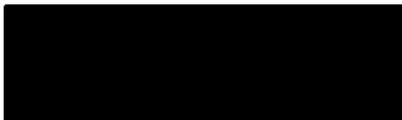
5 *SWINDLE can testify to being the Fire Apparatus Engineer on the first arriving*
6 *VCFD Engine 20 (see attachment #9).*

8 W-13 Steve BUCKLES



12 *BUCKLES can testify to being the Firefighter on first arriving VCFD Engine 20*
13 *(see attachment #9).*

15 W-14 Juan GAMEZ Sr.



18 *Can testify to seeing the fire in Anlauf Canyon and taking pictures of the fire.*
19 *GAMEZ sent a multimedia message service image to his son Juan GAMEZ Jr.*
20 *(see attachment #10).*

22 W-15 Juan GAMEZ Jr.



25 *GAMEZ Jr. can testify to receiving a phone text message picture from his father*
26 *GAMEZ of a fire near DOLLAR'S house. GAMEZ Jr. called C. DOLLAR and*
27 *advised him there was a fire near his parents' house (see attachment #10).*

1 W-16 Robert FROST

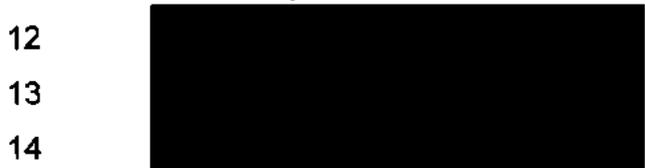


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6 *Can testify to leasing the property from DOLLAR for his cattle. FROST received*
7 *a phone call from GAMEZ stating there was a fire on DOLLAR'S property (see*
8 *attachment #11).*

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10 W-17 Mel LOVO

11 Fire Captain VCFD

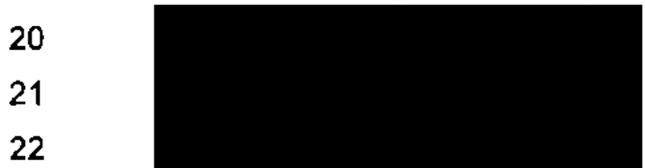


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15 *LOVO can testify to being on Copter 8, and being the first arriving helicopter.*
16 *LOVO took video upon arrival (see attachment #12).*

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18 W-18 Ken WILLIAMS

19 Ventura County Sheriff's Department



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23 *WILLIAMS can testify to being the Pilot on Copter 8 with Fire Captain LOVO*
24 *(see attachment #12).*

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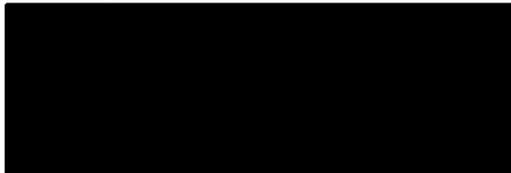
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1 W-19 Randy GILBERT
2 Firefighter, VCFD



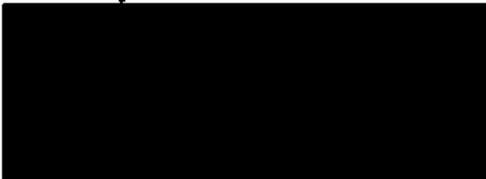
6 *GILBERT can testify to being on the second arriving helicopter (Copter 7).*

8 W-20 Leila THAYER



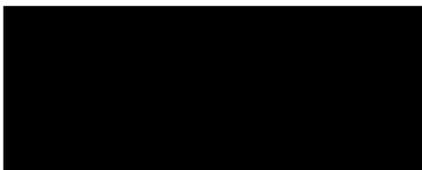
12 *Can testify to calling 911 and seeing the fire from Highway 150 near Steckel
13 Park (see attachment #13).*

15 W-21 Tammy GARCIA



19 *Can testify to driving on Highway 150 at approximately 6:30 PM, on Monday,
20 December 4, 2017. GARCIA saw the fire on the east side of Highway 150 and
21 took photos and videos (see attachment #13).*

23 W-22 Lindsey MOORE



27 *Can testify to driving on Highway 150 with her mother GARCIA at approximately
28 6:30 PM, on Monday, December 4, 2017. MOORE saw the fire on the east side
29 of Highway 150 (see attachment #13).*

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1 W-23 Martin HAGGARD

2 [REDACTED]
3 [REDACTED]
4 [REDACTED]

5 *Can testify to calling 911 and seeing the fire from Thomas Aquinas College*
6 *(see attachment #13).*

7

8 W-24 Rose LEMON

9 [REDACTED]
10 [REDACTED]
11 [REDACTED]

12 *Can testify to calling 911, smelling smoke and seeing the fire from Steckel Park*
13 *(see attachment #13).*

14

15 W-25 Jeanette RICHARD

16 [REDACTED]

17 *Can testify to calling 911 and seeing a red glow from Thomas Aquinas College*
18 *(see attachment #13).*

19

20 W-26 Bill ALLEN

21 [REDACTED]
22 [REDACTED]
23 [REDACTED]

24 *Can testify to calling 911 and seeing the fire from Highway 126*
25 *(see attachment #13).*

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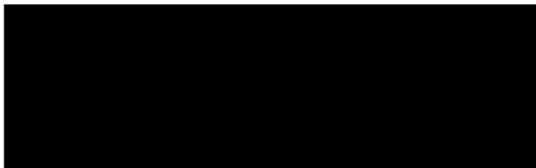
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1 W-27 Jorge MONZADA



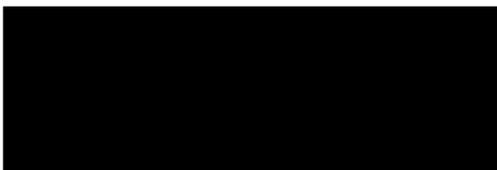
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5 *Can testify to receiving seven photos and forwarding the photos to the THOMAS*
6 *IT (see attachment #14).*

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8 W-28 Alexandra PRICE



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12 *Can testify to receiving a phone call from her friend Susan at approximately 6:30*
13 *PM, who told her about the THOMAS fire. Susan was aware of the fire from a*
14 *phone fire alert app. PRICE and her husband drove to an advantage point and*
15 *described the fire to be on DOLLAR'S property (see attachment #15).*

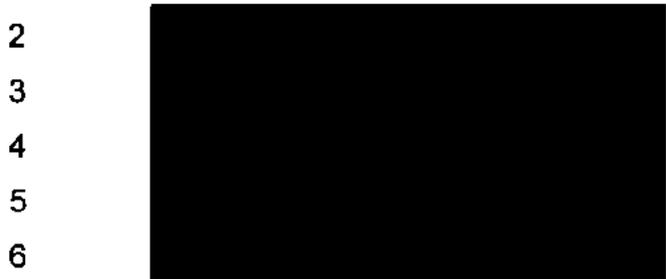
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17 W-29 Ray PRICE



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21 *Can testify to being with his wife, A. PRICE, during the start of the THOMAS fire*
22 *on DOLLAR'S property (see attachment #15).*

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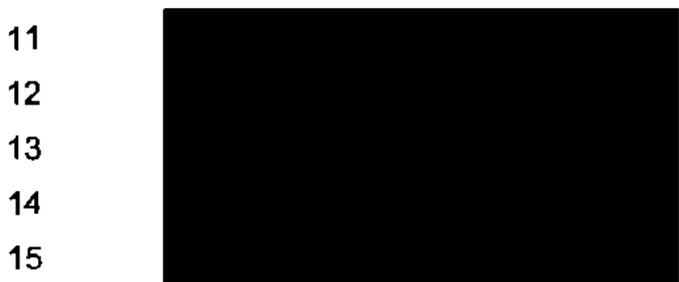
1 W-30 Tiarzha TAYLOR



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7 *Can testify to seeing and taking photographs of the THOMAS fire*
8 *(see attachment #16).*

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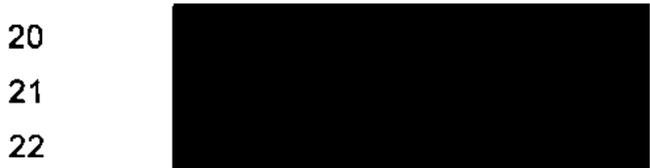
10 W-31 Earl BROCK



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16 *Can testify to observing the THOMAS fire to the south and taking photos of the*
17 *fire (see attachment #17).*

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19 W-32 Michael MCLEAN



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23 *Can testify to being the President of Saint Thomas Aquinas College, resides on*
24 *the property and was there at the time of the fire. MCLEAN received text*
25 *messages from Robert GOYETTE and RIOUX stating there was a fire one-half*
26 *mile south and east of the college (see attachment #18).*

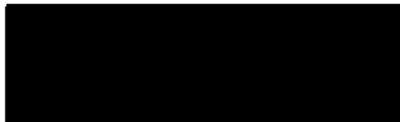
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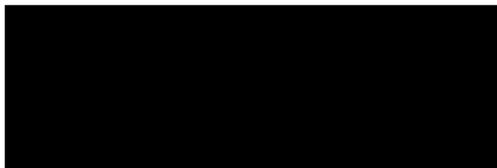
1 W-33 Clark TULBERG



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Can testify to being the Facilities Manager for Saint Thomas Aquinas College, and was on the property at the time of the fire. RIOUX called TULBERG and told him about the fire. TULBERG showed the investigation team the photos he received from RIOUX of the THOMAS fire (see attachment #19).

9 W-34 John GOYETTE



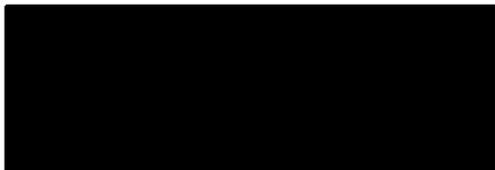
Can testify to being employed at Saint Thomas Aquinas College and was at the property at the time of the fire. His son Robert GOYETTE notified him of the fire at 6:27 PM (see attachment #20).

17 W-35 Maria GOYETTE



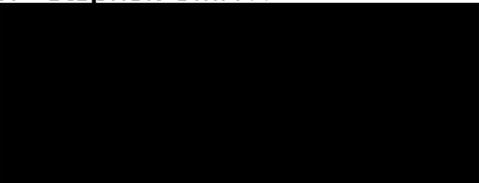
Can testify to driving south on Highway 150 and seeing a large glow in the Mountains above Steckel Park (see attachment #20).

1 W-36 Robert GOYETTE



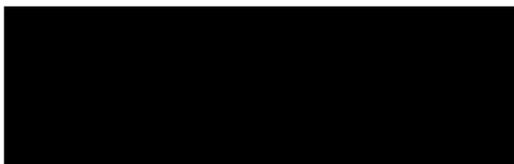
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5 *Can testify to being a student at Saint Thomas Aquinas College and was*
6 *standing near his dormitory, looked south and saw the fire at approximately 6:27*
7 *PM, GOYOTTE alerted his father, J. GOYETTE about the fire (see attachment*
8 *#20).*

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10 W-37 Stephen SMITH



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14 *Can testify to seeing smoke and then fire coming over ridge from the direction of*
15 *Anlauf Canyon (see attachment #21).*

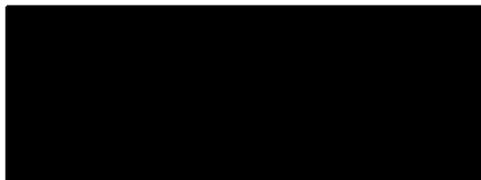
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17 W-38 Patricia MOREHART



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21 *Can testify to receiving a phone call from her neighbor notifying her of the fire.*
22 *MOREHART observed the fire coming towards her house from Anlauf*
23 *Canyon area, called M. MOREHART telling him to return home because of the*
24 *fire (see attachment #22).*

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1 W-39 Martin MOREHART



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5 *Can testify to leaving his house at approximately 6:20 PM, and receiving a phone*
6 *call from P. MOREHART at approximately 6:40 PM, telling him to return because*
7 *of a large fire (see attachment #22).*

8
9 W-40 Paul HERNANDEZ



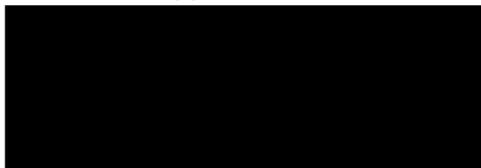
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12 *HERNANDEZ can testify to seeing the fire in the hills above Steckel Park.*
13 *HERNANDEZ believed the fire was near the DOLLAR'S house and observed no*
14 *fire in the direction of flare stack (see attachment #23).*

15
16 W-41 Noel HERNANDEZ



17
18
19 *Can testify to receiving a phone call from his son P. HERNANDEZ, notifying him*
20 *of the fire, and seeing the fire near DOLLAR'S house (see attachment #23).*

21
22 W-42 Nicholas BROUWER



23
24
25
26 *BROUWER can testify to standing by his son Jason BROUWER'S gate at*
27 *[redacted] Santa Paula. BROUWER left his sons house on Monday,*
28 *December 4, 2017, at approximately 5:15 PM, and did not see any fire (see*
29 *attachment #24).*

30

1 W-43 Jason BROUWER



2

3

4 *J. BROUWER and N. BROUWER were standing at his gate on Monday,*
5 *December 4, 2017, at approximately 5:15 PM, and did not see any fire (see*
6 *attachment #24).*

7

8 W-44 Troy HENDERSON



9

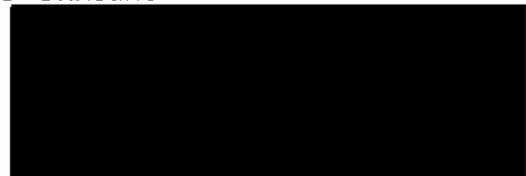
10

11

12 *Can testify to seeing smoke and then fire from his deck with friend Char*
13 *WARINNER, and can remember the flare stack was not lit at the time of the fire.*
14 *HENDERSON is the first 911 reporting party for the THOMAS fire (see*
15 *attachments #25 and #49).*

16

17 W-45 Christine LAW



18

19

20

21 *LAW'S home is located at the west entrance of DOLLAR'S property. LAW can*
22 *testify to initially observing the fire coming out of the canyon above DOLLAR'S*
23 *house and over the ridge towards her home (see attachment #26).*

24

25

26

27

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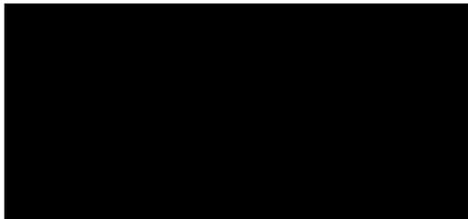
30

1 W-46 Charles LAW



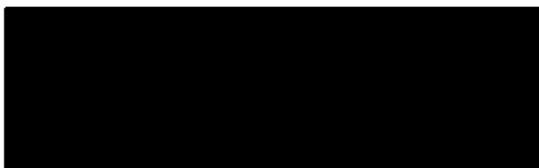
2
3
4
5 *LAW'S residence is located at the west entrance of DOLLAR'S property. Mr.*
6 *LAW can testify to his wife seeing the fire from their kitchen. Initially Mr. LAW*
7 *observed the fire coming out of the area around DOLLAR'S house and over the*
8 *ridge towards his home (see attachment #26).*

9
10 W-47 Frank SCHREINER



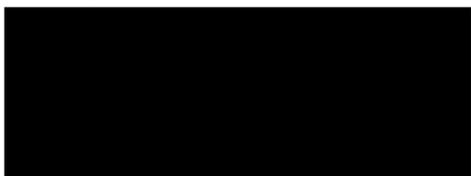
11
12
13
14
15 *SCHREINER is the General Manager of the Ventura Ranch KOA, east of Steckel*
16 *Park. SCHREINER can testify he was not at the KOA at the time of the fire (see*
17 *attachment #27).*

18
19 W-48 RAMANDA (This is his full legal name)



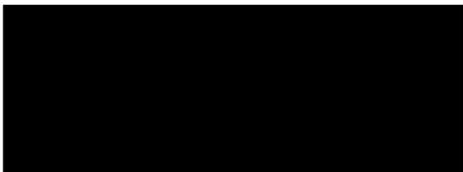
20
21
22
23 *RAMANDA can testify to observing the fire when it approached the KOA*
24 *Campground. RAMANDA was told about the fire from an unknown party who*
25 *knocked on his RV door, RAMANDA was at Birch space #33 (see attachment*
26 *#27).*

1 W-49 Terry BELL



2
3
4
5 *BELL is an off-duty Santa Paula Fire Apparatus Engineer, BELL can testify he*
6 *was home with his family at the time of the fire. BELL was alerted about the fire*
7 *from a phone app. (Pulse Point), then saw the fire from his kitchen door (see*
8 *attachment #28).*

9
10 W-50 Tanner CARPENTER



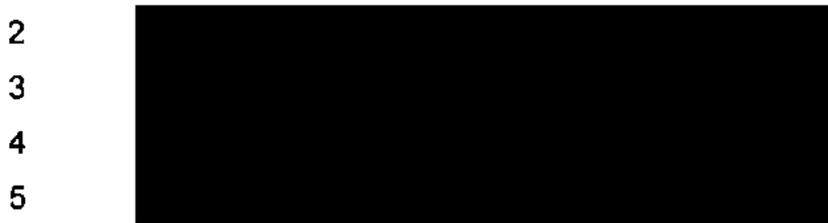
11
12
13
14 *CARPENTER resides on the DOLLAR'S property. CARPENTER was not home*
15 *at the time of the fire. CARPENTER was driving westbound on Highway 126,*
16 *observed the fire in Mud Creek Canyon from Highway 126/ Hallock Road at*
17 *approximately 6:53 PM (see attachment #29).*

18
19 W-51 Mike RIEDER



20
21
22 *Can testify to seeing smoke in a canyon below the flare stack (see attachment*
23 *#30).*

1 W-52 Mark ALVERADO



2
3
4
5
6 *Can testify to seeing the glow from the THOMAS fire from Highway 126 and*
7 *Highway 150 (see attachment #31).*

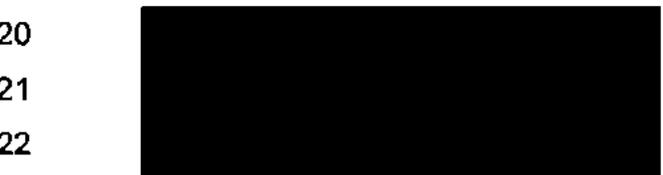
8
9 W-53 Todd HABILSTON



10
11
12
13 *HABILSTON can testify to being a partner in the company (Carbon California)*
14 *and is unaware there was a missing plastic 55-gallon barrel containing methanol.*
15 *HABILSTON called several people within Carbon and all were unaware of where*
16 *the missing barrel was (see attachment #32).*

17
18 W-54 Matthew ZEIER

19 Oil Lease Operator (Technician), CARBON California



20
21
22
23 *Can testify to being at the Timber oil lease at approximately 1:45 PM, the day of*
24 *the fire, and leaving at approximately 3:45 PM. On ZEIER'S way down the hill,*
25 *he saw DOLLAR, PRICE and FERNANDEZ also on their way down the hill.*
26 *ZEIER can testify to the activities at the Carbon California Timber Oil Lease in*
27 *Anlauf Canyon on Monday, December 4, 2017 (see attachment #32).*

28
29
30

1 W-55 Michael DEAN Jr.

2 Field Operations Supervisor, Carbon California

3 [Redacted]
4 [Redacted]
5 [Redacted]

6 *Can testify to Carbon California activities at the Timber Oil Lease/Anlauf Canyon*
7 *on Monday, December 4, 2017, and operation of Carbon flare stack (see*
8 *attachment #32).*

9

10 W-56 Scott PRICE

11 [Redacted]
12 [Redacted]
13 [Redacted]

14 *Can testify to being on DOLLAR'S property the day of the fire and leaving the*
15 *property at approximately 5:00 PM. PRICE can also testify to the condition of*
16 *the oil well units and equipment at the Timber Oil Lease Carbon California (see*
17 *attachment #32).*

18

19 W-57 Curtis FERNANDEZ

20 [Redacted]
21 [Redacted]
22 [Redacted]

23 *Can testify to being with DOLLAR and PRICE on DOLLAR'S ranch one and a*
24 *half hours prior to the THOMAS fire (see attachment #32).*

25

26

27

28

29

30

1 W-58 Kelly BROWN

2 Well Site Manager, Carbon California

3 [REDACTED]
4 [REDACTED]
5 [REDACTED]

6 *Can testify to sending three workers from THOMPCO to work on pipe within the*
7 *Timber Oil lease (Carbon California) property (see attachment #32).*

8

9 W-59 James BRADEY

10 Owner of Coastline Technologies

11 Coastline Technologies

12 [REDACTED]
13 [REDACTED]
14 [REDACTED]

15 *Can testify to not seeing the missing barrel of methanol since Monday,*
16 *November 27, 2017 (see attachment #33).*

17

18 W-60 Daniel CLARKE

19 [REDACTED]
20 [REDACTED]
21 [REDACTED]

22 *Can testify to the examination of the Carbon California Oil Facility (see*
23 *attachment #34).*

24

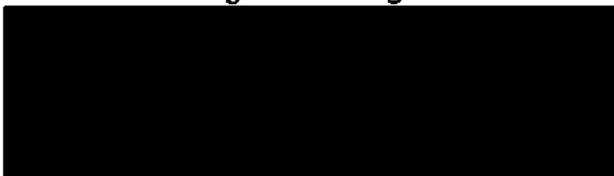
25 W-61 Nathan PAPE

26 [REDACTED]
27 [REDACTED]
28 [REDACTED]

29 *PAPE can testify to the examination of the Carbon California Oil Facility and how*
30 *the facility operates (see attachment #34).*

1 W-62 Mark STEINHILBER

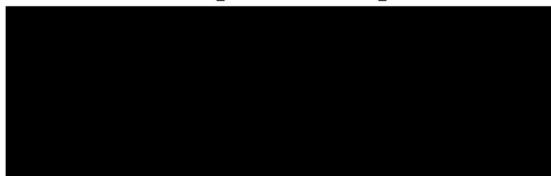
2 Department of Conservation Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources
3 Facilities Program Manager



4
5
6
7 *Can testify to conducting a visual inspecting on the Timber Oil Lease (Carbon*
8 *California), (see attachment #35).*

9
10 W-63 Bruce WEIHS

11 Department of Conservation Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources
12 Facilities Program Manager



13
14
15
16 *Can testify to speaking with SAQUI.*

17
18 W-64 Eric WEATHERBEE

19 Ventura County APCD



20
21
22
23 *Can testify to providing documents pertaining to public records regarding*
24 *Carbon California Facility (see attachment #36).*

25
26
27
28
29
30

1 W-65 Kirby ZOLULA

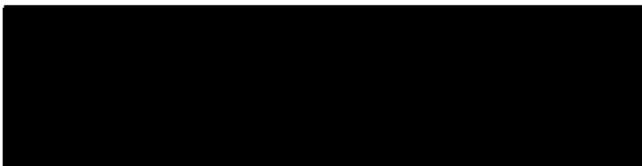
2 Ventura County APCD



3
4
5
6 *Can testify to providing documents pertaining to public records regarding*
7 *Carbon California Facility (see attachment #36).*

8
9 W-66 Dan FERCY

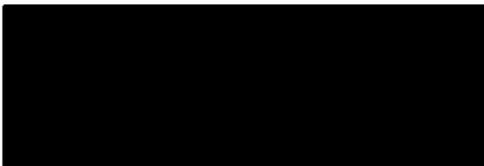
10 Ventura County APCD



11
12
13
14 *Can testify to providing documents pertaining to public records regarding*
15 *Carbon California Facility (see attachment #36).*

16
17 W-67 Michael F. EVANS

18 Owner, RIDGEWAY, Inc.



19
20
21
22 *Can testify to Ridgeway contractors had not been to the Timber Canyon Oil*
23 *Lease since mid-November (see attachment #37).*

24
25
26
27
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29
30

1 W-68 Tom HUNTER

2 COMSAT Teleport

3

4

5

6 *HUNTER can testify to being employed by COMSAT, and providing electronic*
7 *copies of teleports that recorded two separate power events. The data was*
8 *provided to the IT (see attachment #38).*

9

10 W-69 Guy WHITE

11 Director, Teleport Engineering & Operation

12

13

14

15 *Can testify to overall COMSAT operations and engineering including commercial*
16 *power supply. WHITE showed the IT and explained the power event that was*
17 *recorded on Monday, December 4, 2017, at approximately 6:17 PM (see*
18 *attachment #38).*

19

20 W-70 Dean BERN

21 COMSAT Senior Electronics Technician

22

23

24

25 *Can testify to power loss, logging the event, providing detailed reports to USFS*
26 *Alex LOMVARDIAS and seeing fire approaching COMSAT Teleport (see*
27 *attachment #38).*

28

29

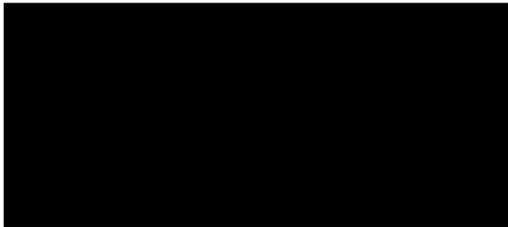
30

1 W-71 Howard WISNIEWSKI
2 COMSAT Station Engineer



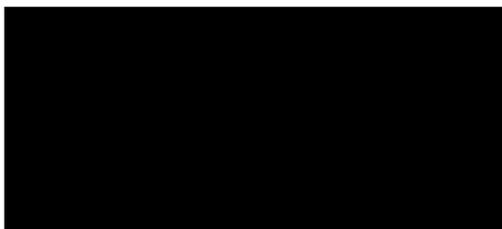
3
4
5
6 *Can testify how COMSAT logging systems works related to COMSAT.*
7 *The Power interruption and power loss electronic documentation was provided to*
8 *the IT (see attachment #38).*

9
10 W-72 Paul PIMENTEL
11 Southern California Edison Representative



12
13
14
15
16 *PIMENTEL was in the GOA when the first span of power lines was taken down*
17 *by Southern California Edison (SCE) employees.*

18
19 W- 73 Julie OLIN
20 Southern California Edison Representative



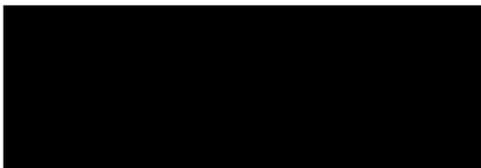
21
22
23
24
25 *OLIN was in the GOA when spans of power lines were taken down by SCE*
26 *employees (see attachment #39).*

27
28
29
30

1 W-74 Joshua Edward HUNTER
2 Southern California Edison Employee

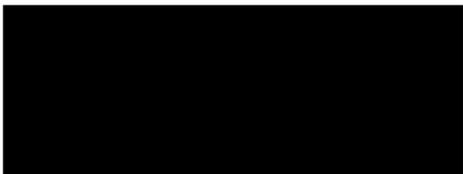


7 W-75 Rick MCCOLLUM
8 Southern California Edison Representative



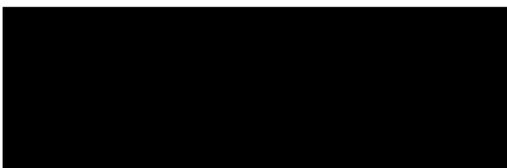
12 *MCCOLLUM was in the GOA when the second spans of power lines were taken
13 down by SCE employees (see attachment #40).*

15 W-76 Koko TOMASSIAN
16 Utilities Engineer
17 California Public Utilities Commission



21 *Can testify to inspecting SCE power equipment.*

23 W-77 Ryan ISHIKAWA
24 Utilities Engineer
25 California Public Utilities Commission



29 *Can testify to inspecting SCE power equipment.*

30

1 W-78 Christine SAQUI

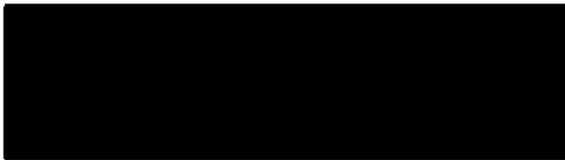
2 Fire Investigator – VCFD



6 *Can testify to being the lead fire investigator.*

8 W-79 Airmin ALTON

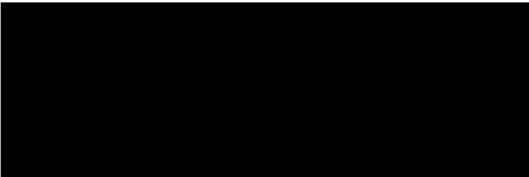
9 Firefighter – VCFD



13 *Can testify to assisting with the fire investigation, data collection and analysis.*

15 W-80 Gregg DELAROSA

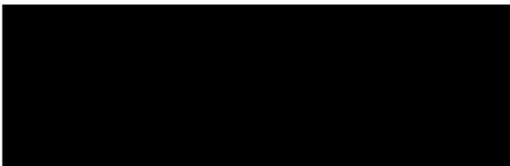
16 Deputy – VCSO



20 *Can testify to assisting with the fire investigation.*

22 W-81 Jace CHAPIN

23 Battalion Chief – CAL FIRE

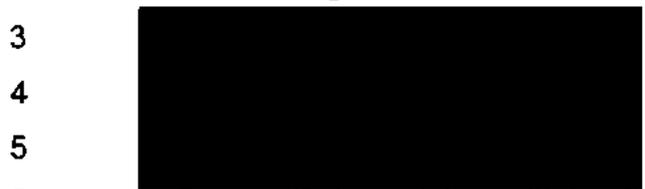


27 *Can testify to assisting with the fire investigation.*

30

1 W-82 Ryan MILLER

2 Fire Investigator – VCFD



6 *Can testify to assisting with the fire investigation.*

8 W-83 Steven DEAN

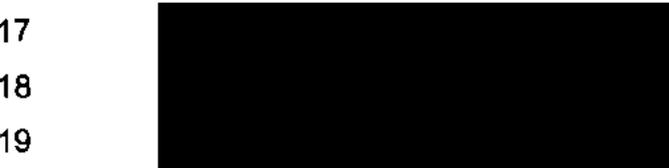
9 Fire Investigator – US Forest Service



13 *Can testify to assisting with the fire investigation.*

15 W-84 Tom CRASS

16 Fire Captain-Specialist – CAL FIRE



20 *Can testify to assisting with the fire investigation.*

22 W-85 Alex LOMVARDIAS

23 Fire Investigator – US Forest Service

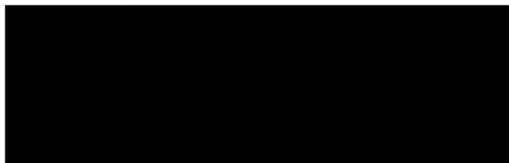


27 *Can testify to assisting with the fire investigation.*

30

1 W-86 Brian KINSLEY

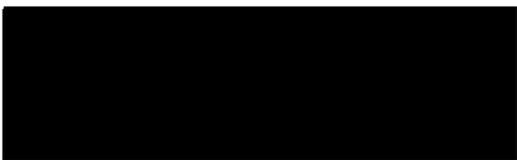
2 Fire Fighter – VCFD



6 *Can testify to assisting with the fire investigation.*

8 W-87 Jay SNODGRASS

9 Fire Captain Investigator – SBCOFD



13 *Can testify to assisting with the fire investigation and coordinated the origin and*
14 *cause investigation. SNODGRASS wrote the origin and cause (O&C) report*
15 *(see attachment #2).*

17 W-88 Jon BERGH

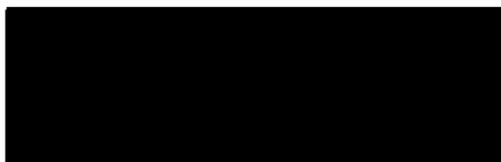
18 Fire Investigator – VCFD



22 *Can testify to assisting with the fire investigation.*

24 W-89 Kenneth RUSSELL

25 Fire Captain-Specialist – CAL FIRE

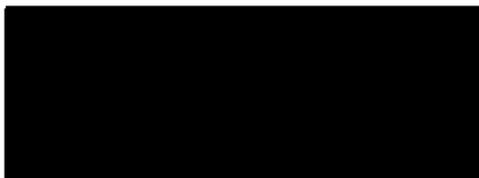


29 *Can testify to assisting with the fire investigation.*

30

1 W-90 Marshall HATCH

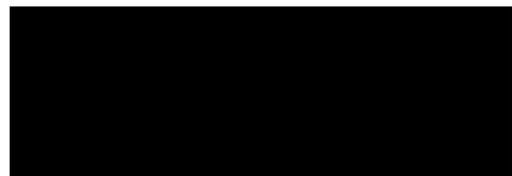
2 Fire Investigator – VCFD



6 *Can testify to assisting with the fire investigation.*

8 W-91 Shannan HARRIS

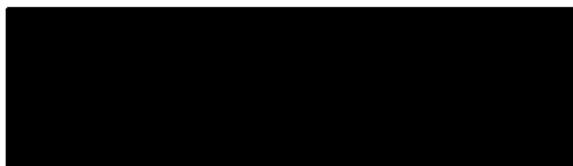
9 Fire Captain-Specialist – CAL FIRE



13 *Can testify to assisting with the fire investigation.*

15 W-92 Patrick KELLY

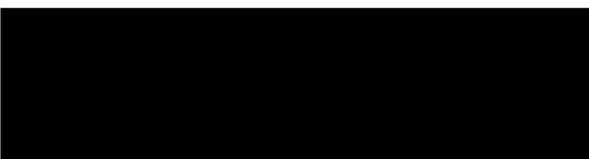
16 Fire Captain – VCFD



20 *Can testify to assisting with the fire investigation.*

22 W-93 Eric WATKINS

23 Assistant Chief – CAL FIRE



27 *Can testify to transporting evidence from the THOMAS fire to Fresno, and being
28 the liaison between the investigation team and Southern California Edison.*

1 W-94 Dennis BYRNES

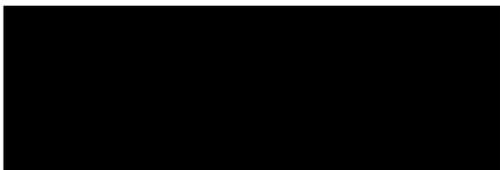
2 Fire Captain – CAL FIRE



3
4
5
6 *Can testify to assisting with the fire investigation and scene security (see*
7 *attachment #51).*

8
9 W-95 Patrick WALKER

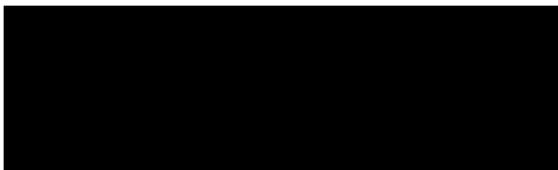
10 Fire Fighter – CAL FIRE



11
12
13
14 *Can testify to providing scene security (see attachment #51).*

15
16 W-96 Sal KUTKUT

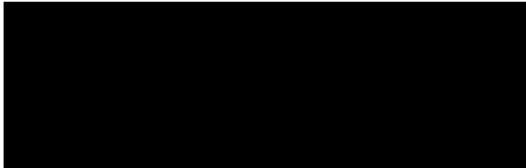
17 KT Security Service



18
19
20
21 *Can testify to providing 24 hour scene security (see attachment #51).*

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1 W-97 James "Jed" DEGRAFF
2 Technical Services Section
3 Senior Land Surveyor – CAL FIRE

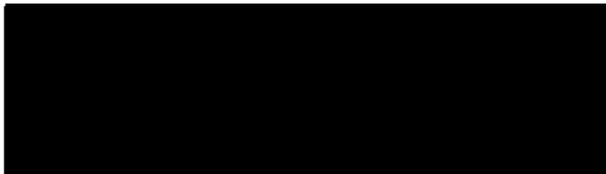


4
5
6

7 *Can testify to using LiDAR in the area identified by the IT. The LiDAR team can*
8 *explain how LiDAR functions and interpret the data collected (see attachment*
9 *#59).*

10

11 W-98 Dave KAROLY
12 Technical Services Section
13 Survey Party Chief – CAL FIRE

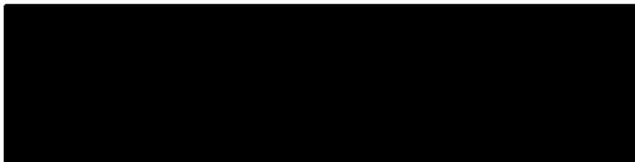


14
15
16

17 *Can testify to using LiDAR in the area identified by the IT. The LiDAR team can*
18 *explain how LiDAR functions and interpret the data collected (see attachment*
19 *#59).*

20

21 W-99 Garrett JACKSON
22 Technical Services Section
23 Transportation Surveyor – CAL FIRE



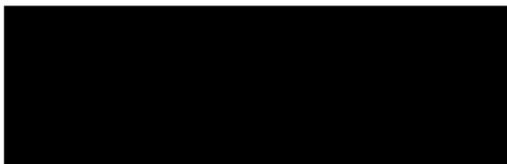
24
25
26

27 *Can testify to using LiDAR in the area identified by the IT. The LiDAR team can*
28 *explain how LiDAR functions and interpret the data collected (see attachment*
29 *#59).*

30

1 W-100 Jim NOLT

2 Electrical Engineer



3
4
5
6 *NOLT assisted with the visual inspection of the Edison Power equipment within*
7 *the THOMAS fire (see attachment #63).*

8

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1 **5 – EVIDENCE:**

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Evidence collection at the THOMAS fire began on Thursday, December 28, 2017, by Kenneth RUSSELL. Eight pieces of evidence (*E-1 thru E-8*) were collected on Thursday, December 28, 2017. A property receipt and chain of custody log was completed by the IT and SCE (Julie OLIN) for evidence (*see attachment #39*).

On Friday, January 5, 2018, the IT arrived at an upper area above the fire origin area to continue the investigation and collected evidence (*E-9 thru E-13*). A property receipt and chain of custody log was completed by the IT and SCE (Rick MCCOLLUM) for evidence (*see attachment #40*).

The evidence collected on Thursday, December 28, 2017, and on Friday, January 5, 2018, was tagged by both SCE and the IT with independent tracking tags and tracking numbers. All evidence (*E-1 thru E-13*) was secured and transported in a locked/unmarked CAL FIRE vehicle by Eric WATKINS. A chain of custody was completed by the IT team and WATKINS. All evidence collected on the THOMAS fire was transferred to the CAL FIRE evidence locker at Southern Region Headquarters, 1234 East Shaw Avenue, Fresno, California 93710. Evidence (*E-1 thru E-8*) was placed in the evidence locker on Tuesday, January 2, 2018, (*see attachment #41*). Evidence (*E-9 thru E-13*) was placed into the evidence locker on Saturday, January 6, 2018, (*see attachment #42*).

PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Item #1 – (*E-1*) Section of #4 ACSR powerline spanning from Pole #1025341E, #1202085E, #3002114E, by rectifier. Section was not in contact with the ground in the Specific Origin Area (SOA). Section was from the center phase and marked with WHITE tape and tracking tags. Wire was collected by RUSSELL, logged, and property receipt given to SCE OLIN.

1 Item #2 – (E-2) Section of #4 ACSR powerline spanning from Pole #1025341E,
2 #1202085E, #3002114E, by rectifier. Section was not in contact with the ground in
3 the SOA. Section was from the west phase and marked with RED tape. Wire was
4 collected by RUSSELL, logged, and property receipt given to SCE OLIN.

5
6 Item #3 – (E-3) Section of #4 ACSR powerline spanning from Pole #1025341E,
7 #1202085E, #3002114E, by rectifier. Section was not in contact with the ground in
8 the SOA. Section was from the east phase and marked with BLUE tape. Wire was
9 collected by RUSSELL, logged, and property receipt given to SCE OLIN.

10
11 Item #4 – (E-4) Section of #4 ACSR powerline spanning from Pole #1025341E,
12 #1023542E. Section was not in contact with the ground. Section was from the
13 center phase and marked with WHITE tape and tracking tags. Wire was collected
14 by RUSSELL, logged, and property receipt given to SCE OLIN.

15
16 Item #5 – (E-5) Section of #4 ACSR powerline spanning from Pole #1025341E,
17 #1023542E. Section was not in contact with the ground. Section was from the east
18 phase and marked with BLUE tape and tracking tags. Wire was collected by
19 RUSSELL, logged, and property receipt given to SCE OLIN.

20
21 Item #6 – (E-6) Section of #4 ACSR powerline spanning from Pole #1025340E,
22 #1023541E. Section was not in contact with the ground. Section was from the west
23 phase and marked with RED tape and tracking tags. Wire was collected by
24 RUSSELL, logged, and property receipt given to SCE OLIN.

25
26 Item #7 – (E-7) End of jumper wire from with Item #4 associated with Pole
27 #1025341E. Collected by RUSSELL, logged, and a property receipt given to SCE
28 OLIN.

29
30

1 Item #8 – (E-8) Eight parallel groove connectors possibly associated with Item #6.
2 Parts relating to E-8 were recovered by the IT from SCE employees after realizing
3 the items had been removed without authorization from the IT, in violation of the
4 MOU (see attachment #54). Collected by RUSSELL, logged, and a property receipt
5 given to SCE OLIN.

6
7 Item #9 – (E-9) Section of #4 ACSR powerline spanning from Pole #1041915E,
8 #1041913E. Section was in contact with the ground. Section was from the south
9 phase and marked with RED tape and tracking tags. E-9 was approximately 300
10 feet long. Wire was collected by BYRNES, logged, and property receipt given to
11 SCE MCCOLLUM.

12
13 Item #10 – (E-10) Section of #4 ACSR powerline spanning from Pole #1041915E,
14 #1041913E. Section was not in contact with the ground. Section was from the south
15 phase and marked with RED tape and tracking tags. E-10 was approximately 10
16 feet long. Wire was collected by BYRNES, logged, and property receipt given to
17 SCE MCCOLLUM.

18
19 Item #11 – (E-11) Section of #4 ACSR powerline spanning from Pole #1041915E,
20 #1041913E. Section was in contact with the ground. Section was from the center
21 phase and marked with WHITE tape and tracking tags. E-11 was approximately
22 290 feet long. Wire was collected by BYRNES, logged, and property receipt given
23 to SCE MCCOLLUM.

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25 Item #12 – (E-12) Section of #4 ACSR powerline spanning from Pole #1041915E,
26 #1041913E. Section was not in contact with the ground. Section was from the
27 center phase and marked with WHITE tape and tracking tags. E-10 was
28 approximately 10 feet long. Wire was collected by BYRNES, logged, and property
29 receipt given to SCE MCCOLLUM.

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1 Item #13 – (E-13) Section of #4 ACSR powerline spanning from Pole #1041915E,
2 #1041913E. Section was not in contact with the ground. Section was from the north
3 phase and marked with BLUE tape and tracking tags. E-13 was approximately 300
4 feet long. Wire was collected by BYRNES, logged, and property receipt given to
5 SCE MCCOLLUM.

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7 PHOTOGRAPHS and VIDEOS *(Civilians and Fire Emergency Personnel)*

8

9 Chris DOLLAR Video *(see attachment #5)*

10 Peter RIOUX Photos *(see attachment #6)*

11 Richard RUDMAN Photos *(see attachment #7)*

12 Juan GAMEZ Sr. Photos *(see attachment #10)*

13 Mel LOVO Photos and Videos *(see attachment #12)*

14 Tammy GARCIA Photos and Videos *(see attachment #13)*

15 Jorge MONZADA Photos *(see attachment #14)*

16 Tiarzha TAYLOR Photos *(see attachment #16)*

17 Earl BROCK Photos *(see attachment #17)*

18 Troy HERNDERSON Photos *(see attachment #25)*

19

20 All audio recordings associated with the THOMAS fire investigation *(see attachment*
21 *#89).*

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23 WRITTEN WITNESS STATMENT *(Civilians)*

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25 Earl BROCK *(see attachment #17)*

26 Matthew ZEIER *(see attachment #32)*

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- 1 PHOTOGRAPHS and VIDEOS (*Investigation Team*)
- 2
- 3 HATCH Photos and Video's (*see attachment #32 and #90*)
- 4 DELAROSA Photos and Video's (*see attachment #91*)
- 5 KINSLEY Photos (*see attachment 92*)
- 6 KELLY Photos and Video's (*see attachment #32 and #93*)
- 7 SAQUI Photos and Video's (*see attachment #35 and #94*)
- 8 ALTON Photos and Video's (*see attachment #95*)
- 9 CHAPIN Photos (*see attachment #96*)
- 10 BERGH Photos (*see attachment #97*)
- 11 RUSSELL Photos (*see attachment #98*)
- 12 HARRIS Photos (*see attachment #99*)
- 13 SNODGRASS Photos and Videos (*see attachment #100*)

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1 **6 – CONDITIONS:**

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3 The origin of the THOMAS fire was near the address of 16840 Anlauf Canyon
4 Road, Santa Paula, California 93060. The origin was approximately one half mile
5 back in the canyon on a cattle ranch. The origin was on a southwest slope
6 Lat/Long: (N 34 25.516/W 119 03.289, elevation 1,766 feet). The origin was near
7 the top of a small ridge top. The mouth of the canyon ends at Highway 150. The
8 vegetation at the origin was a mixture of grass and brush. The forecasted weather
9 for Ventura County on Monday, December 4, 2017, predicted extreme fire danger
10 and potentially the strongest, longest duration Santa Ana wind event of the season.
11 A red flag warning was in effect with anticipated wind gusts of up to 80 miles per
12 hour.

13 Weather information for Monday, December 4, 2017, was obtained from three
14 different remote automated weather station (RAWS) located near the communities
15 of Piru, El Rio and Ojai in the County of Ventura, California. The Piru RAWS is
16 approximately 14 miles east of the THOMAS fire origin at an elevation of 636 feet.
17 The El Rio RAWS is approximately 12 miles south of the THOMAS fire origin at an
18 elevation of 131 feet. The Ojai RAWS is approximately 10 miles northeast of the
19 THOMAS fire origin at an elevation of 774 feet.

20 All three RAWS record weather hourly. The start time of the THOMAS fire was at
21 approximately 6:20 PM. Additionally, a lightning map was obtained with no recorded
22 lightning activity from Friday, December 1, 2017, through the start of the THOMAS
23 fire (*see attachment #43 through #45*).

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1 Piru RAWS
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3 Date: Monday, December 4, 2017
4 Time: 6:00 PM
5 Temperature: 59 degrees Fahrenheit
6 Dew Point: 8 degrees Fahrenheit
7 Relative Humidity: 13 percent
8 Wind Speed: 17 to 27 miles per hour
9 Wind Direction: From the northeast
10 Elevation 636 feet
11 Latitude/Longitude 34.40426 / -118.80991
12

13 El Rio RAWS

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15 Date: Monday, December 4, 2017
16 Time: 6:00 PM
17 Temperature: 62 degrees Fahrenheit
18 Dew Point: 7 degrees Fahrenheit
19 Relative Humidity: 11 percent
20 Wind Speed: 17 to 30 miles per hour
21 Wind Direction: From the northeast
22 Elevation 131 feet
23 Latitude/Longitude 34.25238 / -119.14318
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1 Ojai RAWS

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3 Date: Monday, December 4, 2017

4 Time: 6:00 PM

5 Temperature: 59 degrees Fahrenheit

6 Dew Point: 3 degrees Fahrenheit

7 Relative Humidity: 10 percent

8 Wind Speed: 4 to 9 miles per hour

9 Wind Direction: From the southeast

10 Elevation 774 feet

11 Latitude/Longitude 34.44804 / -119.23131

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1 **7 – EQUIPMENT:**

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3 The equipment associated with the cause of the THOMAS fire is owned and
4 operated by Southern California Edison (SCE). The fire originated within the GOA
5 established by the THOMAS fire IT. Power lines were determined to be the cause
6 of the THOMAS fire. The power lines were inspected between several poles (*see*
7 *attachment #46*). Within the GOA, the IT observed several areas where SCE
8 equipment failed. The power lines were inspected within the GOA and determined
9 by the IT to have had phase to phase contact on several spans of power lines.

10 Data collected from COMSAT showed a power interruption associated with SCE
11 equipment on Monday, December 4, 2017, at approximately 6:17 PM. COMSAT
12 data was corroborated by several pieces of video imagery obtained by the IT
13 throughout the course of the THOMAS fire investigation (*see attachment #3 and*
14 *#38*).

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1 **8 – PROPERTY:**

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3 The GOA of the THOMAS fire is located on property identified by Ventura
4 County Assessor Parcel Numbers (APN). The GOA encompasses two different
5 parcels, APN 400 090 025 and 400 060 065 (*see attachment #47*).

6 The GOA is on private property located at [REDACTED] Santa
7 Paula, California 93060. The area within the identified APN numbers has several
8 easement rights on an unmaintained paved road running through DOLLAR'S
9 property. There are three ways to access DOLLAR'S property, through Anlauf
10 Canyon Road, SENECA properties and up through Timber Canyon Road. All areas
11 identified to access DOLLAR'S property is controlled by locked gates and barbed
12 wire fences.

13 The Ventura County Assessor's Office lists the properties as 240 acres and
14 133.77 acre parcels. The property is owned by David and Susan DOLLAR. The
15 property owner's address is recorded as [REDACTED] Santa Paula,
16 California 93060.

17 The THOMAS fire burned downslope in alignment with the wind threatening the
18 cities of Santa Paula, Ventura and Ojai. The general area around the THOMAS fire
19 is urban interface surrounded by mixed wildland.

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1 **9 – NARRATIVE:**

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3 On Monday, December 4, 2017, at approximately 6:25 PM, I was dispatched as
4 a Wildland Fire Investigator by the Ventura County Fire Department (VCFD) Fire
5 Communications Center (FCC) to a wildland fire (*later identified as the THOMAS*
6 *fire*) located at [REDACTED] Santa Paula, CA, 93060. Multiple
7 reports from witnesses identified the fire in the hills northeast of Santa Paula. VCFD
8 Engine 20, located in Upper Ojai, informed FCC they received phone calls from
9 locals of a brush fire near the college and attached themselves to the original
10 dispatch.

11 FCC originally dispatched units to 1681 Dickenson Drive, Santa Paula, CA. This
12 was the address of an initial reporting party. While responding to the incident, FCC
13 dispatched units to [REDACTED] FCC advised responding units that
14 occupants at the residence reported their home was threatened by flames, later this
15 location was identified as David DOLLAR'S residence (*see attachment #48 through*
16 *#50*).

17 I arrived at the Incident Command Post (ICP) located at Mill Park, 736 Santa
18 Paula Ojai Road, at approximately 7:24 PM. I observed the fire growing quickly and
19 spotting across Santa Paula Ojai Road (Highway 150). The incident required
20 multiple fire crews from neighboring cities and county fire departments. Ventura
21 County Sheriff's Office (VCSO) deputies, Santa Paula Police officers, and California
22 Highway Patrol officers were also in the area assigned to mandatory evacuations.
23 No emergency personnel were able to access 16840 Anlauf Canyon Road due to
24 fire conditions.

25 Numerous residences in Anlauf Canyon, Ojai Road, and Kampgrounds of
26 America (KOA) at Steckel Park required rescue or assistance from emergency
27 crews and were under mandatory evacuation. CHP closed Santa Paula Ojai
28 Road/Highway 150 to any traffic except emergency personnel and evacuees exiting.

29 A separate fire was reported on Koenigstein Road at approximately 7:30 PM,
30 located approximately 3.5 miles northwest of the THOMAS fire. Because of the

1 prevailing wind direction, location, and reports from fire crews, it was determined this
2 fire was unrelated to the THOMAS fire. This fire was later identified by investigators
3 as the KOENIGSTEIN fire (*see report 17CAVNC103338*).

4 I contacted FCC requesting the first reporting parties information, I obtained
5 Brian DICKENSON'S contact information whom I contacted at approximately 8:15
6 PM. DICKENSON was among the first reporting parties to the THOMAS fire.
7 DICKENSON told me the following in summary: DICKENSON was taking out the
8 trash when he observed a glow in the direction of Ferndale Ranch and Saint
9 Thomas Aquinas College. DICKENSON was concerned because he knew there
10 were residences in that area and called 911 at approximately 6:23 PM.
11 DICKENSON described the fire as small and a single glow.

12 The ICP was moved to Santa Paula Fire (SPFD) Station 82, located at 114 S.
13 10th Street, Santa Paula, at approximately 8:30 PM. While transitioning to the
14 second ICP location, I contacted VCFD Fire Investigator Jon BERGH. BERGH and
15 VCFD Firefighter Brian KINSLEY met me at SPFD Station 82. We attempted to
16 access the KOENIGSTEIN fire because access to the THOMAS fire GOA presented
17 several safety concerns which included extreme fire behavior, unfamiliar terrain and
18 lack of visibility.

19 We observed extreme fire behavior along Highway 150. During our
20 observations, the THOMAS fire and KOENIGSTEIN fire had not merged together.
21 At approximately 11:45 PM, while parked off the shoulder of Highway 150, I watched
22 a flank of the THOMAS fire burn back along a west facing slope just west of Anlauf
23 Canyon. Several electrical power poles and tree limbs along Highway 150 broke
24 and were blocking the road as the fire burned through the area.

25 We waited for the fire to burn through the KOENIGSTEIN neighborhood prior to
26 entering. The fire increased in intensity and visibility was encumbered as a result of
27 the smoke and flames. Because of this, it was not possible to enter the
28 KOENIGSTEIN neighborhood. Since the power lines fell across the lower section of
29 Highway 150, we drove westbound and through upper Ojai to exit. By this time, the
30 fire had already burned through upper Ojai and crossed Highway 150.

1 On Tuesday, December 5, 2017, I arrived at the Ventura County Fairgrounds at
2 approximately 7:00 AM. The fairground was the new location of the ICP. I met with
3 BERGH and KINSLEY, we attended the morning briefing. I met with CAL FIRE
4 Chief John MOODY, he informed me a fire investigation team from their department
5 would be assigned to me. Soon after, I received a phone call from CAL FIRE
6 Assistant Chief Eric WATKINS who informed me that two investigators, CAL FIRE
7 Battalion Chief Jace CHAPIN and CAL FIRE Fire Captain-Specialist Shannan
8 HARRIS would be arriving later in the day.

9 At approximately 8:30 AM, I met with Senior Deputy Gregg DELAROSA, VCSO.
10 DELAROSA was assigned to assist me in the investigation.

11 On Tuesday, December 5, 2017, at approximately 9:00 AM, I spoke with James
12 SNODGRASS, fire investigator for Santa Barbara County Fire Department (SBFD). I
13 requested his assistance for the investigation. SNODGRASS informed me he would
14 be enroute and arrive by late morning.

15 At approximately 12:30 PM, VCFD Fire Investigator Marshall HATCH,
16 DELAROSA, and I met SNODGRASS along an east perimeter road at Saint
17 Thomas Aquinas College. Saint Thomas Aquinas is located at 10000 Santa Paula
18 Ojai Road. From the college, we entered through a fenced area to access Ferndale
19 Ranch. Traveling through numerous unmarked dirt roads and locked ranch gates,
20 we reached an access gate to Anlauf Canyon (*later determined to be part of David*
21 *DOLLAR'S property*).

22 We reached an area within the mountains southeast of the college that
23 contained oil well equipment. Near one of the peaks, I observed compressor
24 equipment and a flare stack off Anlauf Canyon Road. A sign near this pad read
25 "Timber Canyon Lease, Carbon California Company, LLC, In case of emergency
26 call: [REDACTED]" The fire had already burned through this area.

27 The flare stack was not burning off excess gases at the time. I observed a fire
28 next to compressor equipment, approximately two feet wide by four feet high, it was
29 contained to an area within the compressor site and burning continually. The fire
30 was emanating directly from a ground level grate which appeared to be a type of

1 catch basin. I did not observe any obvious smoke emanating from this area. The
2 flames did not appear to be spreading or enlarging. I did not observe any fire
3 damage, such as char or melting, to the surrounding equipment.

4 We continued past the compressor site and drove approximately 1500 yards
5 east. We reached the location of a radio tower. I observed the east flank of the fire
6 burning downhill below and east of the radio tower. The wind was blowing from the
7 east at approximately 15 – 20 miles an hour. We drove in an easterly direction out
8 of Anlauf Canyon Road, passed through a locked ranch gate, and through Timber
9 Canyon Road until we reached Highway 126.

10 We returned to the ICP and met WATKINS, CHAPIN, and HARRIS. We briefed
11 them to the particulars associated with the THOMAS fire's potential origin. We
12 explained the terrain, surroundings, and the difficult access due to the locked ranch
13 gates and closure at Highway 150.

14 It was decided to assign BERGH, CHAPIN, CAL FIRE Fire Captain-Specialist
15 Kenneth RUSSELL, and VCFD Firefighter Ryan Miller to the KOENIGSTEIN fire
16 investigation and assign HARRIS and CAL FIRE Fire Captain-Specialist Tom
17 CRASS to the THOMAS fire investigation. I planned on meeting HARRIS, CRASS,
18 and SNODGRASS at the 76 Gas Station located off Highway 126 and Hallock
19 Road, in Santa Paula, the following morning at approximately 8:00 AM.

20 On Wednesday, December 6, 2017, I arrived at the ICP at approximately 7:00
21 AM. I spoke with Amy FANZO, a California Resources Corporation (CRC)
22 representative and oil lease contact, to inquire about CARBON CA COMPANY
23 (CCC) and a contact person. She gave me a contact name and phone number of
24 Todd HABLSTON. DELAROSA met me at the ICP and followed me to the 76 gas
25 station in Santa Paula to meet with HARRIS, CRASS, and SNODGRASS.

26 At approximately 8:00 AM, it was decided that SNODGRASS would be
27 responsible for writing the origin and cause (O&C) report for the THOMAS fire (see
28 *attachment #2*).

29 At approximately 9:00 AM, we traveled back to Anlauf Canyon through Highway
30 126 and Timber Canyon Road. We observed the heel of the fire near the radio

1 tower the evening prior had now burned back to the bottom of the hill. The fire was
2 burning through the orchards of a ranch on the lower half of Timber Canyon Road.

3 Once we accessed the oil lease, we stopped at an open dirt lot, near the CLARK
4 tank battery. I contacted HABLISTON, who explained he was located in Colorado
5 and he would make notifications to someone local from the CCC office to meet us.
6 HABLISTON was aware that Scott PRICE and David DOLLAR were in Anlauf
7 Canyon the day of the fire. HABLISTON told me they were viewing existing gas
8 pipe lines for potential purchase from DOLLAR.

9 At approximately 11:00 AM, PRICE met us at the CLARK tank battery. PRICE
10 made access to the oil lease off Highway 150. A downed power pole across a lower
11 oil lease access road caused PRICE to walk to our location. PRICE informed us he
12 turned off valves at a nearby compressor site on his way to our location. The
13 compressor site was later identified as the site where we observed fire actively
14 burning under the grates on Tuesday, December 5, 2017.

15 While interviewing PRICE (*see attachment #32*), HATCH and KINSLEY drove
16 through the CCC site. They drove to a compressor site and observed active fire
17 near the equipment and took video (*see attachment #90*). This was the same
18 compressor site that DELAROSA, SNODGRASS, and I observed on Tuesday,
19 December 5, 2017.

20 I drove down Anlauf Canyon to a residence and met David DOLLAR and his two
21 sons, Matt and Christopher DOLLAR. DOLLAR identified himself as the property
22 owner and was tending to his cattle and residence. DOLLAR and his wife, Susan
23 DOLLAR, were displaced the evening of the fire (*see attachment #5*).

24 At approximately 2:45 PM, I met with VCFD Fire Captain Tony SALAS, Engineer
25 Steve SWINDLE, and Firefighter Steve BUCKLES. We met on Highway 150/Ojai
26 Road, near East Sulphur Mountain Road. We stood on the shoulder of the road
27 while SALAS described what he observed that evening. SALAS pointed towards
28 Anlauf Canyon and DOLLAR's residence and stated as they drove south on
29 Highway 150, he initially observed flames within Anlauf Canyon. SALAS described
30 the fire as "well established" (*see attachment #9*).

1 HARRIS, SNODGRASS, CRASS, DELAROSA, and I established our
2 Investigation Team (IT) for the THOMAS fire. United States Forest Service Fire
3 Investigator (USFS) Steve DEAN, HATCH, KINSLEY, VCFD Fire Captain Patrick
4 KELLEY and CAL FIRE Fire Captain Dennis BYRNES joined the IT.

5 Due to the totality and complexity of the THOMAS fire, the IT decided to focus
6 our team member efforts in Origin and Cause (O&C) and Intelligence/Interview
7 (INTEL). The IT debriefed daily information collected with regard to O&C and
8 INTEL.

9 The THOMAS fire scene was secured by BYRNES, CAL FIRE Firefighter II
10 Patrick WALKER and KT Security Services. They shared the responsibilities of
11 scene security (*see attachment #51*).

12 On Thursday, December 7, 2017, the IT began reviewing the list of Reporting
13 Parties (RP) to 911 and initiated contact (*see attachment #52*). The IT requested
14 VCFD GIS and Mapping Services to produce aerial maps of the area of the
15 THOMAS fire.

16 The IT interviewed multiple witnesses throughout the investigation. Some
17 witnesses took photographs with their cell phones and were voluntarily escorted
18 back to the area where they first saw fire. The maps were used to help witnesses
19 identify the location where they witnessed the fire or took photographs/videos. The
20 IT had them point to where they observed the fire, while the IT took daytime
21 comparison photographs.

22 On Friday, December 8, 2017, I requested FCC produce a list of THOMAS fire
23 RP's in order to organize and plainly see a list of RP's. FCC Supervisor Michael
24 DICKERSON worked on preparing a spread sheet of the RP's. The IT obtained
25 video footage via email from VCSO Office of Emergency Services (OES). The video
26 footage is taken from a camera located at an OES facility on Torrey Peak (*see*
27 *attachment #3*).

28 The IT traveled to the KOA, located east of Steckel Park and southwest of Anlauf
29 Canyon. We spoke to Frank SCHREINER, KOA General Manager, and RAMANDA,
30 the onsite manager. SCHREINER was not at the KOA at the time of the fire, but

1 RAMANDA was. RAMANDA took us to space #33, where he was the evening of the
2 fire (see *attachment #27*).

3 We then met with Alexandra PRICE at the east end of KOENIGSTEIN Road
4 (see *attachment #15*).

5 Additional interviews conducted on this day also included Richard RUDMAN (see
6 *attachment #7*), Tanner CARPENTER (see *attachment #29*), and John, Robert, and
7 Maria GOYETTE (see *attachment #20*).

8 On Friday, December 8, 2017, USFS Special Agent Alex LOMVARDIAS arrived
9 to assist in the investigation. LOMVARDIAS was briefed on the previous week's
10 findings and sequence of events. The IT interviewed COMSAT employees and
11 collected any relevant information that their equipment recorded in relation to the
12 THOMAS fire (see *attachment #38*).

13 We received the RP list from JR TENBROOK, CAD Manager at FCC. The list
14 contained the first 309 RP's to the THOMAS fire. The list of callers were in
15 chronological order, with available contact information and location of their call.
16 Because the fire became well established within the canyon relatively early, a
17 decision was made to contact the first 20 callers on the list. That would capture the
18 first 16 minutes of the fire being witnessed. The goal was to obtain pertinent
19 information/data associated with these callers (see *attachment #52*).

20 On Saturday, December 9, 2017, the IT traveled to Saint Thomas Aquinas
21 College and met with Peter RIOUX, a faculty member of Saint Thomas Aquinas
22 College. RIOUX was an RP to the THOMAS fire and had called VCFD Fire Station
23 20 prior to them receiving the initial dispatch from FCC (see *attachment #8*). Later
24 that day we met with VCFD Fire Captain Mel LOVO at the Santa Paula Airport.
25 LOVO was Copter Manager on Copter 7 the evening of the THOMAS fire (see
26 *attachment #25*). At approximately 6:00 PM, I spoke with Fire Engineer Terry BELL
27 at Santa Paula Fire Station 81. BELL lives on Mupu Road at the bottom of Anlauf
28 Canyon Road (see *attachment #28*).

29 On Monday, December 11, 2017, the IT established two private and secured
30 classrooms at the VCFD Regional Training Center (RTC), Camarillo, as home base

1 and offices. VCFD Firefighter Paramedic Aimin ALTON joined the investigation as a
2 Technical Specialist to assist with office management, image and data analysis (see
3 *attachment #3*).

4 As requested by the IT, on Wednesday, December 13, 2017, the VCSO
5 Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Team flew an area of interest in the THOMAS
6 fire (see *attachment #91*). Simultaneously, a CAL FIRE Light Imaging, Detection
7 and Ranging (LiDAR) team was surveying the same area (see *attachments #2 and*
8 *#59*).

9 On Thursday, December 14, 2017, the IT analyzed the information from the
10 VCSO OES video camera. The video captured bright flashes of light at Anlauf
11 Canyon (see *attachment #3*).

12 I contacted the Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) to
13 inquire about CCC's facilities and asked that an engineer from their office meet with
14 the IT to do a site review at the Timber Canyon facility. Engineering Geologist Eric
15 HEATON, of DOGGR, met with the IT at the oil facility in Anlauf Canyon. HEATON
16 advised the IT, his specialty was not related to the daily operations of oil well
17 facilities, therefore he would request that a Senior Engineer with a background in oil
18 field safe practices would be better suited and would contact us.

19 At approximately 3:00 PM, I received a phone call from Bruce WEIHS, a Senior
20 Engineer and Supervisor with DOGGR. WEIHS informed me that their program
21 does not oversee the flare stack system of the oil wells. WEIHS advised me to
22 contact Air Pollution Control District (APCD).

23 On Friday, December 15, 2017, the IT did a reconnaissance flight in a helicopter
24 to view the overall fire area in Anlauf Canyon, take photographs of the oil lease site
25 around their GOA, and to look for a missing plastic drum. The drum was previously
26 located at the compressor site and had contained methanol. Its location was
27 unknown and thought to have blown down the canyon (see *attachment #100*).

28 On Monday, December 18, 2017, the IT retrieved raw video footage from Patrick
29 MAYNARD, OES.

1 On Tuesday, December 19, 2017, SCE sent their LiDAR team to the GOA to
2 survey the area of interest and their equipment. The IT requested SCE to lower
3 their power lines when they had completed their LiDAR survey.

4 At approximately 3:45 PM, the IT boarded a helicopter for a reconnaissance
5 flight over Anlauf Canyon and the CCC oil lease (*see attachment #95*).

6 On Wednesday, December 20, 2017, SCE lowered several spans of power lines.
7 The IT walked the conductors for examination purposes (*see attachment #2*).

8 On Thursday, December 21, 2017, I met Mark STEINHILBER, Facilities Program
9 Manager at DOGGR, at VCFD fire station 50 at approximately 7:40 AM. The IT
10 briefed STEINHILBER on our previous findings at the compressor site located at the
11 CCC oil facilities in Anlauf Canyon. The IT took him to the compressor site and flare
12 stack. STEINHILBER examined the site's compressors and flare stack. This
13 interview and examination was video recorded by the IT (*see attachment #35*). We
14 departed the oil lease site at approximately 2:00 PM.

15 On Friday, December 22, 2017, I contacted the Ventura County Counsel. I
16 forwarded them an example of a preservation letter for an electric company. I asked
17 they draft a similar letter and address it to SCE (*see attachment #53*).

18 On Saturday, December 23, 2017, the VCSO UAS team returned to the GOA to
19 record another area of interest. A CAL FIRE LiDAR team was also on scene to
20 survey (*see attachments #2 and #59*).

21 On Tuesday, December 26, 2017, IT gave SCE permission to send their LiDAR
22 team to the GOA to survey their equipment, while IT was present and continued to
23 secure and preserve the scene.

24 On Wednesday, December 27, 2017, SCE LiDAR team concluded their
25 examination. SCE lowered another section of power lines for the IT. The IT
26 proceeded to examine the power lines and collect evidence (*see attachments #2*
27 *and #39*).

28 At approximately 1:35 PM, I spoke to Dan FERCY, APCD. FERCY told me the
29 following, in summary: The APCD does oil field inspections that relate to equipment
30 that would have adverse effects to the air quality. Flare stacks at oil facilities are

1 considered "control devices" as they burn excess gases. One flare is operational
2 and permitted at CCC. Every year the flare stack and other equipment are
3 inspected. Written violations can be imposed upon the company if not in
4 compliance and minor violations were noted (*see attachment #36*).

5 FERCY was not familiar with the chemical, methanol, being used at the facility.
6 FERCY suggested I speak with Kerby ZOLULA, also with APCD, since ZOLULA has
7 more technical information pertaining to oil field practices.

8 FERCY continued to tell me, the oil lease belonged to CRC before it was
9 purchased by CCC. Prior to CRC, it was owned by VINTAGE PETROLEUM.

10 At approximately 3:00 PM, the IT allowed the California Public Utilities
11 Commission (CPUC) to conduct their preliminary investigation within the GOA. At
12 approximately 3:00 PM, I met with Southern California Edison (SCE) Rick
13 MCCOLLUM and Julie OLIN, both SCE Claims Investigators near the GOA.
14 MCCOLLUM confirmed the circuit identity in our GOA was named the "CASTRO
15 circuit." MCCOLLUM further stated at 6:41 PM, their substation reported a remote
16 automatic recloser alert to their system.

17 On Thursday, December 28, 2017, I spoke with Bruce WEIHS, Senior Engineer
18 with DOGGR. WEIHS informed me I may make a public records request for
19 inspection records for CCC. I placed an official request via email for notices of
20 violations and inspection records (*see attachment #35*).

21 At approximately 11:15 AM, I spoke to Eric WEATHERBEE, APCD.
22 WEATHERBEE has been inspecting oil lease facilities in the area for the past 20
23 years. WEATHERBEE confirmed CCC recently purchased the lease from CRC.
24 They acquired it less than one year ago. WEATHERBEE told me CCC is an east
25 coast based company and were not very familiar with west coast standards.
26 Therefore, they received a few minor violations initially (*see attachment #36*). Since
27 then, CCC has corrected the violations and have remained in good standing.

28 WEATHERBEE identified CCC as Permit #00939. CCC is permitted to operate
29 two pieces of combustion equipment, one of which is the "glycol reboiler" and the
30 other as the flare stack. The reboiler separates oil, gas, and water. In addition,

1 there are two engines located at the site; a "Waukesha" engine, at the EP Clark
2 facility, which acts as standby power for the vapor recovery and an Ingersoll Rand
3 engine, which is for on-going operations.

4 WEATHERBEE confirmed I may request a public records request through their
5 website. The request would include the transfer of ownership, last five years of
6 application materials and permits, and enforcement reports. On Thursday,
7 December 28, 2017, at approximately 2:00 PM, I sent an official request for the
8 above items.

9 At 2:25 PM, I spoke to Kerby ZOLULA, APCD. ZOLULA told me the following, in
10 summary: Methanol is typically injected into a natural gas line as an inhibitor. It
11 acts as "freeze protection" because there is water present in natural gas. APCD
12 does not need to permit the use of methanol, as CCC only uses a small amount of it
13 (*see attachment #36*).

14 I contacted HABLSTON, CCC Partner. I requested a representative meet us to
15 download equipment data. HABLSTON scheduled a technician from PROCTEK to
16 arrive Tuesday, January 2, 2018, at 9:00 AM.

17 On Friday, December 29, 2017, the IT went out to search for and collect
18 surveillance video that would capture any activity within the GOA. A portion of the
19 IT met with PRICE at 9:30 AM, and ZEIER at 11:45 AM, at the CCC compressor site
20 for interviews and to review the equipment (*see attachment #32*).

21 At approximately 10:00 AM, the IT made contact with personnel at 300 E.
22 Esplanade Drive, Oxnard. The building is a high-rise building, known as the tower,
23 near Highway 101.

24 At 300 E. Esplanade Drive, we met with Quentin SESSYL, Post
25 Commander/Security for Allied Universal Security Services. Topa Management
26 Company manages the building and uses Allied Universal as contracted security.
27 We were told a surveillance camera is posted on the roof of the building, next to a
28 helicopter pad, pointing towards the northeast.

29 IT reviewed the video from Monday, December 4, 2017, and time stamped at
30 approximately 6:17 PM. We observed two separate flashes that are consistent with

1 arc flashes. The flashes we observed on the video appear to be within the GOA
2 that was established for the THOMAS fire. We collected the videos on a thumb
3 drive (*see attachment #3*).

4 At approximately 3:00 PM, the IT continued to the StorHouse Storage Center
5 (SSC), located at 3201 West Fifth Street, Oxnard. This location is along the south
6 perimeter of Oxnard Airport runway. We met with Marc HERMANN and Tony
7 DUENAS, Operations Manager. Their storage facility has a high definition security
8 system installed.

9 SSC retained video from the evening of the fire which captured similar footage
10 the Esplanade tower had, but from a slightly different angle. The SSC video
11 matched the flashes seen in the previous surveillance video. The video footage was
12 collected on a thumb drive (*see attachment #3*).

13 On Tuesday, January 2, 2018, at approximately 9:40 AM, the IT met with Renzo
14 NAVARRETE, from ProcTek, and PRICE, of CCC. We traveled to the compressor
15 site in Anlauf Canyon. NAVARRETE downloaded gas meter data from the
16 equipment.

17 While at the compressor site, we re-examined the area where flames were
18 observed after the THOMAS fire traveled through there. Closer examination of the
19 enclosed grate and catch basin revealed a pipe was located under the metal mesh
20 grate. After following the pipe's flow, it was determined natural gas was flowing from
21 the compressor. After speaking to PRICE, PRICE confirmed he had closed a valve
22 that controlled the natural gas that fed the fire emitting from the grate. PRICE
23 recalled doing that on Wednesday, December 6, 2017, which was also the day of
24 our first interview with him. Once the valve was closed, the fire went out. The valve
25 that was closed came out of a "suction" intake at the first stage compressor.

26 We then went to CCC's office located at 12720 Ojai Santa Paula Road, Ojai. At
27 this location, NAVARRETE downloaded additional data from their server. Data was
28 downloaded on to a thumb drive, utilized by the IT, and printed for this report (*see*
29 *attachment #32*).

30

1 On Wednesday, January 3, 2018, after analyzing all collected video (TORREY,
2 TOPA, STORHOUSE, R&R PIPELINE, CLARK GAS) and estimated triangulations,
3 the IT determined there were two distinct separate flash locations (eastern and
4 western) approximately one and a half miles apart. These flashes occurred nearly
5 simultaneously and appeared to be on the same circuit. The IT determined these
6 were areas of interest. IT inspected both areas of interest and observed physical
7 evidence associated with the triangulated eastern flashes. The physical evidence
8 observed (power lines) was consistent with phase to phase arcing. The video and
9 physical evidence showed the THOMAS fire GOA was not in the location of the
10 eastern flashes. Physical evidence at the triangulated western flashes had already
11 been observed and collected by the IT during the O&C investigation on Thursday,
12 December 28, 2017. The IT determined physical evidence on the power lines
13 associated to the eastern flashes were connected to the same circuit as the power
14 lines associated to the western flashes (CASTRO Circuit). Based on extensive
15 analysis of video evidence, the IT determined the start of the THOMAS fire was a
16 result of the western flashes. The IT collected the physical evidence relating to the
17 eastern flashes on Friday, January 5, 2018.

18 On Wednesday, January 3, 2018, a preservation letter was drafted by the
19 Ventura County Counsel to address SCE records and equipment. I signed the
20 letter, addressed it to SCE with attention to MCCOLLUM, and had Kim BEECHAM,
21 VCFD front receptionist, mail it via FedEx at approximately 9:40 AM. Pick up was
22 scheduled for later that same day with tracking number 8028-9397-6654 (see
23 *attachment #53*).

24 Investigators were initially dispatched to the THOMAS fire on Monday, December
25 4, 2017. IT was unable to access what was later determined to be the Overall Fire
26 Area (OFA) due to fire conditions. The OFA was secured on Wednesday,
27 December 6, 2017, determined to be approximately 230 acres. Ultimately, the IT
28 narrowed the GOA to approximately 22 acres. Throughout the course of the
29 THOMAS fire investigation, the IT were able to independently corroborate the GOA
30 through O&C and Intel. The THOMAS fire GOA was released on Friday, January 5,

1 2018 (see attachments #2 and #3).

2 On Monday, January 29 and Tuesday, January 30, 2018, I returned to the
3 THOMAS fire site to view SCE crews lower and remove power line equipment (see
4 attachment #55).

5 On Tuesday, May 29 through May 31, 2018, Investigators from CAL FIRE and
6 VCFD met with Jim NOLT, Professional Engineer (PE). The IT utilized NOLT on
7 several occasions throughout the course of the Thomas fire investigation to evaluate
8 the electrical system within the OFA and GOA. We reviewed SCE data that was
9 submitted to us on April 6, 2018, NOLT created a timeline of events that occurred
10 associated with the Castro circuit on Monday, December 4, 2017.

11 On Wednesday, October 24, 2018, we received a report created by NOLT (see
12 attachment #63). The IT reviewed NOLT's report and concluded it further
13 corroborated the IT's final hypothesis.

14 On Saturday, November 17, 2018, we added documents received per our
15 request from SCE dated Friday, October 26, 2018. The response letter and
16 documents from SCE are in regards to the Thomas fire investigation report are
17 pertaining to meter No. 254000-004308 and 222-931684. We still have yet to
18 receive the data requested in its entirety (see attachment #64).

19
20 **OPINIONS & CONCLUSIONS:**

21
22 The following opinions and conclusions were based on supporting
23 documentation, supplemental reports, statements made to investigators,
24 audio/video recordings, CAD reports obtained from dispatch centers, and evidence
25 found while conducting the origin and cause investigation.

26 Skies were clear with no thunderhead or cloud build-up observed. There was no
27 evidence located within the GOA consistent with lightning strikes or fire resulting
28 from a lightning strike. A lightning detection map was printed and confirmed there
29 was no recent lightning activity in the area. Based upon the weather data, I
30 eliminated a lightning caused fire (see attachment #43).

1 There are no campgrounds in the area where the GOA is located. The area is
2 not typically used for camping and did not have campfire rings, campsites, piled
3 material typically associated with a campfire, or indications of any campfires near
4 the GOA. The fire occurred on private property. DOLLAR told the IT he never has
5 fires on his property of any type. Based upon the lack of the above items, I
6 eliminated a campfire caused fire.

7 The IT did not observe or locate any cigarette butts or other smoking
8 paraphernalia within the GOA. All people who had access to the DOLLAR ranch the
9 day of the THOMAS fire were interviewed and stated they do not smoke. Based
10 upon the above facts the IT eliminated smoking as a potential cause of the fire.

11 Ventura County APCD had a burn ban in effect which prohibited debris burning.
12 There were no burn barrels, piles of trash, or signs of burn barrels being used to
13 conduct debris burning located near the GOA. Additionally, the IT did not observe
14 any of the previously mentioned items during a perimeter search of the area,
15 eliminating debris burning as a potential cause of this fire.

16 There was no evidence of items typically associated with an intentionally set fire
17 was observed/located within the GOA. The inaccessibility to the DOLLAR ranch,
18 which is controlled by locked gates and fences is not consistent with that of a person
19 who commits the crime of arson. Additionally, all persons who had access to the
20 DOLLAR ranch the day of the THOMAS fire were vetted, and if needed, alibis were
21 corroborated eliminating incendiary as a potential cause of the fire.

22 There was no indication of equipment use in the GOA prior to the IT arriving to
23 the incident. During the investigation, the IT examined the GOA and observed no
24 signs of motorized equipment recently used within the general vicinity. The IT did
25 not observe any disturbed soils, or any area where equipment had been used. The
26 GOA is not located along public roads. The nearest road is an unmaintained paved
27 road that traverses through the DOLLAR property. The only people that have
28 access to the DOLLAR property is the DOLLAR family, oil lease representatives, a
29 cattle rancher (Robert FROST) who leases a portion of the DOLLAR ranch, and a
30 radio station representative (Richard RUDMAN) who maintains an antenna on the

1 DOLLAR property. Vehicles operating on the DOLLAR ranch the day of the
2 THOMAS fire were all evaluated/inspected by the IT. The IT obtained current
3 registration and insurance information for all vehicles in question. The last vehicle
4 on the DOLLAR ranch the day of the fire was owned and operated by RUDMAN
5 who exited the lower gate toward Highway 150 approximately one hour prior to the
6 fire. There was no mention by DOLLAR of any vehicles in and or around the
7 property at the time the THOMAS fire started. Additionally, the IT saw no signs of
8 Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) use in the area. No catalytic converter particulates were
9 located within the GOA. Based upon the above facts, I eliminated equipment as a
10 potential cause of the subject fire.

11 There are no railroads or railways within Anlauf Canyon, therefore I eliminated
12 railroad equipment as a cause of the subject fire.

13 There were no toys, forts, or evidence of any activities associated with children
14 playing with fire near the GOA. The only known juveniles in the area were at the
15 KOA campground located approximately one and one half miles southwest of the
16 GOA. The DOLLAR ranch is remote and has locked gates and fencing at all access
17 points to the property. Based on the above facts playing with fire was eliminated as
18 the cause of the fire.

19 The County of Ventura has a strict ordinance not allowing the use of fireworks
20 within the County. No witnesses reported seeing, or hearing any indication of the
21 use of fireworks. The area where the fire occurred is on private property and is not
22 open to the public. Additionally, no persons who had access to the DOLLAR ranch
23 the day of the THOMAS fire observed anyone lighting fireworks or heard sounds
24 typically associated with use of fireworks. During the examination of the GOA, no
25 remnants of fireworks were located. Based upon the above facts, fireworks were
26 eliminated as a potential cause of the fire.

27 No signs of cutting, welding or grinding of metal was noted during the course of
28 the investigation. Therefore, I eliminated this as a potential cause of the fire.

29 There were no reports of anyone engaging in recreational shooting activities prior
30 to the fire. DOLLAR does have a shooting area established on his property, but

1 DOLLAR told the IT nobody has utilized the shooting area for two months. All
2 people who had access to the DOLLAR ranch were interviewed and stated they did
3 not hear or witness anyone engaged in recreational shooting. Therefore, I
4 eliminated shooting as a potential cause of the fire.

5 During the examination of the GOA, the IT did not locate any broken glass or
6 glass bottles. The fire occurred approximately one and a half hours after sundown.
7 Based upon these facts glass refraction was eliminated a caused of the fire.

8 Spontaneous combustion was excluded as a potential cause. No evidence of
9 mulch or organic material was located within the GOA that had the ability to
10 spontaneously combust. There was no evidence of mulch or organic material piles
11 hay or grass in the GOA. Spontaneous combustion was eliminated a cause of the
12 fire.

13 The Timber Canyon Lease owned and operated by CCC was located along the
14 east perimeter of the OFA. A flare stack was located within the Timber Canyon
15 lease, approximately three quarters of mile from the perimeter of the GOA. The IT
16 did not observe any indications of a malfunction in, on or immediately around the
17 flare stack. The IT obtained security video footage revealing the flare stack was not
18 actively burning at the time the THOMAS fire started (*see attachment #3*). The IT
19 did observe a fire burning within the CCC compressor site. Interviews with oil field
20 professionals and observed burn patterns indicate this fire was secondary to the
21 THOMAS fire and contained to the compressor site. The IT determined the cause
22 of the compressor site fire was a result of ember cast from the THOMAS fire that
23 ignited the natural gas. Based on the above facts, I was able to eliminate flare
24 stacks or a fire originating within the oil facility as a potential cause of the THOMAS
25 fire.

26 Due to portions of the DOLLAR ranch being utilized as cattle grazing land, the IT
27 evaluated fencing in the OFA and GOA. The IT did not locate or observe any
28 electrical fencing, and noted only barbed wire fencing on subject property.

29 Therefore I eliminated electric fences as a potential cause of the fire.
30

1 10 – ATTACHMENTS:

2

3 1 – NFIRS

4 2 – Origin and Cause

5 3 – Data Collection and Analysis

6 4 – DINS

7 5 – Witnesses 1 thru 3, D. DOLLAR, C. DOLLAR, M. DOLLAR

8 6 – Witnesses 4 thru 7, Dori CLARKE, A. NUNEZ, J. TAIT, J. VALENZUELA

9 7 – Witness 8, R. RUDMAN

10 8 – Witness 9, P. RIOUX

11 9 – Witnesses 11 thru 13, T. SALAS, S. SWINDLE, S. BUCKLES

12 10 – Witnesses 14 & 15, J. GAMEZ Sr., J. GAMEZ Jr.

13 11 – Witness 16, R. FROST

14 12 – Witnesses 17 & 18, M. LOVO, K WILLIAMS

15 13 – Witnesses 20 thru 26, L. THAYER, T. GARCIA, L. MOORE, M.

16 HAGGARD, R. LEMON, J. RICHARD, B. ALLEN

17 14 – Witness 27, J. MONZADA

18 15 – Witnesses 28 & 29, A. PRICE, R. PRICE

19 16 – Witness 30, T. TAYLOR

20 17 – Witness 31, E. BROCK

21 18 – Witness 32, M. MCLEAN

22 19 – Witness 33, C. TULBERG

23 20 – Witnesses 34 thru 36, J. GOYETTE, M. GOYETTE, R. GOYETTE

24 21 – Witness 37, S. SMITH

25 22 – Witnesses 38 & 39, P. MOREHART, M. MOREHART

26 23 – Witnesses 40 & 41, P. HERNANDEZ, N. HERNANDEZ

27 24 – Witnesses 42 & 43, N. BROUWER, J. BROUWER

28 25 – Witness 44, T. HENDERSON

29 26 – Witnesses 45 & 46, Christine LAW, Charles LAW

30 27 – Witnesses 47 & 48, F. SCHREINER, RAMANDA

- 1 28 – Witness 49, T. BELL
- 2 29 – Witness 50, T. CARPENTER
- 3 30 – Witness 51, M. RIEDER
- 4 31 – Witness 52, M. ALVERADO
- 5 32 – Witnesses 53 thru 58, T. HABILSTON, M. ZEIER, M. DEAN Jr.,
- 6 S. PRICE, C. FERNANDEZ, K. BROWN
- 7 33 – Witness 59, J. BRADEY
- 8 34 – Witnesses 60 & 61, Daniel CLARKE, N. PAPE
- 9 35 – Witness 62, M. STEINHILBER
- 10 36 – Witness 64 – 66, E. WEATHERBEE, K. ZOLULA, D. FERCY
- 11 37 – Witness 67, M. EVANS
- 12 38 – Witnesses 68 thru 71, T. HUNTER, G. WHITE, D. BERN, H.
- 13 WISNIEWSKI
- 14 39 – Witness 73, J. OLIN
- 15 40 – Witness 75, R. MCCOLLUM
- 16 41 – Chain of Custody, Thursday, December 28, 2017 (LE-76)
- 17 42 – Chain of Custody, Friday, January 5, 2018 (LE-76)
- 18 43 – Forecasted Weather (National Weather Service)
- 19 44 – Local Weather Report (RAWS)
- 20 45 – Lightning Detection Map
- 21 46 – SCE Map of Equipment in the GOA
- 22 47 – Ventura County Assessor Parcel Number
- 23 48 – VCFD Incident Detail Report and 911 Audio
- 24 49 – CHP CAD and 911 Audio
- 25 50 – VCSO Incident Detail Report and 911 Audio
- 26 51 – Scene security
- 27 52 – Reporting Parties contact list
- 28 53 – SCE preservation letter
- 29 54 – SCE/CAL FIRE MOU
- 30 55 – SAQUI Supplemental report for Monday, January 29, 2018

- 1 56 – SCE Provided Data (3 binders)
- 2 A – SCE Response Letter, April 4, 2018
- 3 B – Wakefield Substation, DNA History Plot and Data
- 4 C – CASTRO Circuit Maps
- 5 D – RAR0179 Graph and Data
- 6 E – Pole Data pages 12 – 31
- 7 F – Interruption Log Sheet for RAR1228
- 8 G – RAR1228 Graph and Data
- 9 H – RAR1228 Cycle Graphic Display
- 10 I – Maintenance records and trouble reports
- 11 J – Maintenance records, pages 709 – 710
- 12 K – Maintenance records, pages 711 – 713
- 13 L – Maintenance records, pages 714 – 747
- 14 M – Maintenance records, pages 748 – 765
- 15 N – Event data log, pages 933 – 935
- 16 O – Pole Data, pages 696 – 700
- 17 P – Meter 1684 Events/Exceptions Detail Report, pages 1242 – 1243
- 18 Q – Meter 35324 Event Data, pages 685 – 692
- 19 R – Meters 6053 and 65411 Event Data, pages 673 – 681
- 20 S – Meter 376309 Event Data, pages 682 – 684
- 21 T – 2014 Tree Service, pages 32 – 228
- 22 U – 2015 Tree Service, pages 229 – 449
- 23 V – 2016 Tree Service, pages 450 – 672
- 24 W – 2017 Compliance Trees in Collector, pages 855 – 923
- 25 X – 2017 Compliance Prescriptions in Collector, pages 733 – 854
- 26 Y – Interruption Log Sheets, pages 4 – 10
- 27 57 – Additional Information Requests to SCE and Replies, June 15, 29, 2018
- 28 58 – SCE Thomas Letter, June 15, 2018
- 29 59 – LiDAR
- 30 60 – SCE provided data, July, 13, 2018

- 1 61 – LAW All Electric meter data request (SCE)
- 2 62 – Carbon All Electric meter data request (SCE)
- 3 63 – JHNOLT Associates Project Status Memorandum
- 4 64 – SCE provided data, October 26, 2018
- 5 65 –
- 6 66 –
- 7 67 –
- 8 68 –
- 9 69 –
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- 12 72 –
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- 21 81 –
- 22 82 –
- 23 83 –
- 24 84 –
- 25 85 –
- 26 86 –
- 27 87 –
- 28 88 –
- 29 89 – Disk of Audio Interviews
- 30 90 – HATCH case Photos and Video

- 1 91 – DELAROSA Case Videos
- 2 92 – KINSLEY Case Photos
- 3 93 – KELLEY Case Photos and Videos
- 4 94 – SAQUI Case Photos
- 5 95 – ALTON Case Photos
- 6 96 – CHAPIN Case Photos
- 7 97 – BERGH Case Photos
- 8 98 – RUSSELL Case Photos
- 9 99 – HARRIS Case Photos
- 10 100 – SNODGRASS Case Photos

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