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KELLER BENVENUTTI KIM LLP 1 TOBIAS S. KELLER (Cal. Bar No. 151445) (tkeller@kbkllp.com) 2 DAVID A. TAYLOR (Cal. Bar No. 247433) (dtaylor@kbkllp.com) 3 THOMAS B. RUPP (Cal. Bar No. 278041) (trupp@kbkllp.com) 4 425 Market Street, 26th Floor San Francisco, California 94105 5 Telephone: (415) 496-6723 Facsimile: (650) 636-9251 6 Proposed Attorneys for the Debtors and 7 Debtors in Possession 8 UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT 9 10 11 12 In re: 13 LEFEVER MATTSON, a California 14 corporation, et al., 1 15 Debtors. 16 17 18 19 20 21

NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA SANTA ROSA DIVISION

Lead Case No. - (CN)

(Joint Administration Requested)

Chapter 11

MOTION OF DEBTORS FOR INTERIM AND FINAL ORDERS **AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF CERTAIN PREPETITION TAXES** AND ASSESSMENTS AND GRANTING RELATED RELIEF

Date: TBD Time: TBD

Place: United States Bankruptcy Court

1300 Clay Street, Courtroom 215

Oakland, CA 94612

Case 24-10545 Doc# 15 Filed: 09/13/24 Entered: 09/13/

The last four digits of LeFever Mattson's tax identification number are 7537. Due to the large number of debtor entities in these Chapter 11 Cases, a complete list of the Debtors and the last four digits of their federal tax identification numbers is not provided herein. A complete list of such information may be obtained on the website of the Debtors' proposed claims and noticing agent at https://veritaglobal.net/LM. The address for service on the Debtors is 6359 Auburn Blvd., Suite B, Citrus Heights, CA 95621.

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LeFever Mattson, a California corporation ("LeFever Mattson"), and certain of its affiliates that are debtors and debtors in possession (the "Debtors") in the above-captioned chapter 11 cases (the "Chapter 11 Cases"), hereby move (the "Motion") this Court pursuant to sections 105(a), 363(b), and 507(a) of title 11 of the United States Code (the "Bankruptcy Code") and Rules 6003 and 6004 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the "Bankruptcy Rules") for the entry of interim and final orders, in substantially the forms attached hereto as Exhibit A and Exhibit B, respectively, authorizing, but not directing, the Debtors to pay prepetition taxes, assessments, fees, and other charges in the ordinary course of business, including any such taxes, assessments, fees, and charges subsequently determined upon audit, or otherwise, to be owed (collectively, the "Taxes and Assessments"), and granting related relief.

The Debtors also request that the Court authorize, but not direct, banks and other financial institutions (collectively, the "Banks") to receive, process, honor, and pay all checks presented for payment and electronic payment requests relating to the foregoing to the extent the Debtors have sufficient funds standing to their credit with such institutions, whether such checks were presented or electronic requests were submitted before or after the Petition Date (as defined below), and that all such financial institutions be authorized to rely on the Debtors' designation of any particular check or electronic payment request as appropriate pursuant to this Motion without any duty of further inquiry and without liability for following the Debtors' instructions.

The facts and circumstances supporting this Motion are set forth in the Declaration of Bradley D. Sharp in Support of Chapter 11 Petitions and First Day Motions (the "Sharp Declaration"), filed contemporaneously herewith and incorporated by reference herein. Capitalized terms used but not defined herein have the meanings given to them in the Sharp Declaration.

MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

I. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

This Court has jurisdiction to consider this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334, the Order Referring Bankruptcy Cases and Proceedings to Bankruptcy Judges, General Order 24

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(N.D. Cal.), and Rule 5011-1(a) of the Bankruptcy Local Rules. This is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b). Venue is proper before this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409.

II. **BACKGROUND**

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General Background Α.

On the date hereof (the "Petition Date"), LeFever Mattson and the other Debtors filed voluntary petitions for relief under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code. The Debtors continue to operate their businesses and manage their properties as debtors in possession pursuant to sections 1107(a) and 1108 of the Bankruptcy Code. No trustee, examiner, or official committee of unsecured creditors has been appointed in any case of the Debtors.

В. **LeFever Mattson**

LeFever Mattson manages a large real estate portfolio. Timothy LeFever and Kenneth W. Mattson each own 50% of the equity in LeFever Mattson.

LeFever Mattson directly or indirectly controls or has ownership interests in 50 limited partnerships (collectively, the "LPs") and eight limited liability companies (collectively, the "LLCs"), almost all of which are Debtors.² LeFever Mattson invests in real estate primarily through the LLCs and the LPs. LeFever Mattson also owns a small number of properties directly. This structure has allowed LeFever Mattson to pool capital by selling limited partnership or membership interests to outside investors, while typically reserving an ownership interest for itself as general partner or managing member.

LeFever Mattson also has ownership interests in four California corporations: Debtor Home Tax Service of America, Inc., dba LeFever Mattson Property Management, which provides property management services, including to those properties owned by the LPs and the LLCs; Debtor California Investment Properties, a California corporation (a real estate brokerage), and non-debtors Pineapple Bear, a California corporation (which offers hospitality and catering

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² Two LPs have not yet filed chapter 11 petitions.

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services), and Harrow Cellars, a California corporation (which operates a winery and related businesses).

As of the Petition Date, Bradley D. Sharp has been appointed the Chief Restructuring Officer of the Debtors. Since Mr. Sharp's engagement on July 18, 2024, he has worked closely with the Debtors in their efforts to maximize enterprise value in the wake of what, in retrospect and on information and belief, was a decade or more of financial misconduct by Mr. Mattson.

C. The Debtors' Taxes and Assessments

In the ordinary course of operating their businesses, the Debtors incur a variety of Taxes and Assessments that they remit periodically to various federal, state, and local taxing, licensing, and other governmental authorities. As set forth in further detail below, the Debtors generally pay the Taxes and Assessments semi-annually or annually, as required by applicable laws. As of the Petition Date, the Debtors estimate that an aggregate amount of approximately \$219,059 in Taxes and Assessments are due and owing to the various taxing authorities (the "Taxing Authorities"), the entire amount of which relates to the prepetition period.

The Debtors operate numerous investment properties throughout Northern California and pay annual taxes to various Taxing Authorities on account of the Debtors' real property (collectively, the "Real Property Taxes"). As of the Petition Date, the Debtors owe approximately \$173,581 in Real Property Taxes, which were due as of September 30, 2024, and which will be delinquent if not paid by that date, and therefore are all due and payable within the interim period. The Debtors therefore seek to be authorized, but not directed, to pay, on both an interim and final basis, an amount not to exceed \$219,059 in prepetition Real Property Taxes. The Debtors will also pay postpetition Real Property Taxes as they come due, subject to any agreement or order with respect to cash collateral.

III. RELIEF REQUESTED

The Debtors seek authority to pay, in their discretion, the Taxes and Assessments, in order to, among other things, prevent the Taxing Authorities from taking actions that may interfere with the administration of these Chapter 11 Cases and impede the Debtors' ability to successfully sell

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properties, including, in some instances, asserting liens on the Debtors' property and imposing penalties and/or significant interest on past-due taxes.

Ample authority and cause exist to authorize the payment of the Taxes and Assessments, as requested herein, including, without limitation, that: (i) certain of the Taxes and Assessments may be entitled to priority status pursuant to section 507(a)(8) of the Bankruptcy Code or result in the imposition of liens on the Debtors' property if unpaid, and (ii) interest and penalties may accrue on certain unpaid Taxes and Assessments, even after the Petition Date. Further, the Court has authority to grant the relief requested in the Motion pursuant to section 363(b) and 105(a) of the Bankruptcy Code.

IV. **AUTHORITY FOR RELIEF REQUESTED**

A. The Taxes and Assessments Are Priority Claims

Many, if not all, of the Taxes and Assessments are afforded priority status under section 507(a)(8) of the Bankruptcy Code. See 11 U.S.C. § 507(a)(8). These include any property tax incurred before the Petition Date and last payable without penalty after one year before the Petition Date. Obligations labeled as fees or charges may also be entitled to priority status as taxes. See LTV Steel Co., Inc. v. Shalala (In re Chateaugay Corp.), 53 F.3d 478, 498 (2d Cir. 1995). Regardless of their statutory characterization as fees or charges, many, if not all, of the Taxes and Assessments qualify for priority under section 507(a)(8) of the Bankruptcy Code.

As priority claims, Taxes and Assessments must be paid in full before any general unsecured obligations of the Debtors may be satisfied. Accordingly, the relief requested herein will only affect the timing of the payment of the Taxes and Assessments and will not prejudice the rights of general unsecured creditors or other parties in interest.

B. **Interest and Penalties May Accrue on Certain Unpaid Real Property Taxes**

Pursuant to applicable state and local law, as is common across many taxing authorities, interest and penalties may accrue for nonpayment of certain Real Property Taxes due and owing. Additionally, under applicable state and local law, obligations to pay Real Property Taxes can be secured by a lien on the subject property for which the taxes are incurred. See, e.g., Cal. Rev. & Tax Code § 2189 et seq.

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To the extent that an allowed secured claim is secured by property the value of which, after any recovery under subsection (c) of this section, is greater than the amount of such claim, there shall be allowed to the holder of such claim, interest on such claim, and any reasonable fees, costs, or charges provided for under the agreement or State statute under which such claim arose.

11 U.S.C. § 506(b). Thus, with respect to all or much of the Debtors' Real Property Taxes, interest and penalties assessed under applicable state and local law may continue to accrue even after the Petition Date. *See U.S. v. Ron Pair Enterprises, Inc.*, 489 U.S. 235, 238-49 (1989) (holding that section 506(b) entitles a creditor to receive post-petition interest on a nonconsensual oversecured claim allowed in a bankruptcy case). Because interest and penalties may accrue on certain Taxes and Assessments if they are not paid when due, paying such obligations as requested in this Motion will conserve resources and is in the best interests of the Debtors' estates and all parties in interest.

C. The Court Has Authority Pursuant to Sections 363(b) and 105(a) of the Bankruptcy Code to Grant the Relief Requested

Section 363(b) of the Bankruptcy Code provides, in relevant part, that "[t]he [debtor], after notice and a hearing, may use, sell, or lease, other than in the ordinary course of business, property of the estate" 11 U.S.C. § 363(b)(1). Under section 363 of the Bankruptcy Code, a court may authorize a debtor to pay certain prepetition claims where a sound business purpose exists for doing so. See In re Ionosphere Clubs, Inc., 98 B.R. 174, 175 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 1989). The business judgment rule is satisfied where a company's directors acted on an informed basis, in good faith, with the honest belief that the actions taken were in the best interests of the company. See, e.g., F.D.I.C. v. Castetter, 184 F.3d 1040, 1043 (9th Cir. 1999) (the business judgment rule "requires directors to perform their duties in good faith and as an ordinarily prudent person in a like circumstance would"). "Where the debtor articulates a reasonable basis for its business decisions (as distinct from a decision made arbitrarily or capriciously), courts will generally not entertain objections to the debtor's conduct." Comm. of Asbestos-Related Litigants v. Johns-Manville Corp. (In re Johns-Manville Corp.), 60 B.R. 612, 616 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 1986). Courts construing California law have consistently declined to interfere with corporate decisions absent a showing of bad faith, self-interest, or gross negligence, and have upheld a board's

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decisions as long as such decisions were made in good faith. Scouler & Co., LLC v. Schwartz, No. 11-cv-06377 NC, 2012 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 62252, at *8-10 (N.D. Cal. Apr. 23, 2012); Berg & Berg Enterprises, LLC v. Boyle, 178 Cal. App. 4th 1020, 1046 (2009).

The Court may also rely on its equitable powers under section 105 of the Bankruptcy Code to grant the relief requested in this Motion. Section 105(a) of the Bankruptcy Code empowers the Court to "issue any order, process, or judgment that is necessary or appropriate to carry out the provisions of this title." 11 U.S.C. § 105(a). Under section 1107(a) of the Bankruptcy Code "the debtor in possession has the same fiduciary duties and liabilities as a trustee. When the debtor is a corporation, corporate officers and directors are considered to be fiduciaries both to the corporate debtor in possession and to the creditors." In re Anchorage Nautical Tours, Inc., 145 B.R. 637, 643 (B.A.P. 9th Cir. 1992); see also In re Curry & Sorensen, Inc., 57 B.R. 824, 828 (B.A.P. 9th Cir. 1986). Numerous courts have acknowledged that payment of prepetition obligations, irrespective of statutory priorities, may be necessary to realize the objectives of the Bankruptcy Code, such as the preservation and enhancement of the value of a debtor's estate for the benefit of all creditors and other stakeholders. See, e.g., Gordon v. Hines (In re Hines), 147 F.3d 1185, 1191 (9th Cir. 1998) (applying "essentially a doctrine of necessity" to provide for the payment of the fees of a debtor's counsel in chapter 7 cases because without this right the "entire [chapter 7] system would suffer a massive breakdown"). Accordingly, the Court may authorize the Debtors to continue to make payments with respect to the Taxes and Assessments, as well as to pay any prepetition amounts with respect thereto, because such relief is necessary for the Debtors to carry out their fiduciary duties under sections 1107(a) of the Bankruptcy Code.

Furthermore, courts within this district have granted relief substantially similar to that sought herein. See, e.g., In re Shift Technologies, Inc., et al., Case No. 23-30687 (HLB) (Bankr. N.D. Cal. Nov. 9, 2023) (approving motion to pay certain prepetition taxes and assessments); In re PG&E Corporation, Case No. 19-30088 (DM) (Bankr. N.D. Cal. Jan. 31, 2019) (same); In re Los Gatos Hotel Corporation, Case No. 10-63135 (Bankr. N.D. Cal. Jan. 28, 2011) (same).

Payment of the Taxes and Assessments is an exercise of sound business judgment and necessary to facilitate generation of value in these Chapter 11 Cases. Moreover, most, if not

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substantially all, of the Taxes and Assessments constitute priority claims and, in certain instances, payment thereof will avoid the imposition of liens and the accrual of unnecessary interest and other charges.

D. The Banks Should Be Authorized to Receive, Process, Honor, and Pay Checks Issued and Transfers Requested to Pay the Taxes and Assessments

The Debtors further request that the Court authorize, but not direct, the Banks to receive, process, honor, and pay, to the extent of funds on deposit, any and all checks issued or to be issued and electronic funds transfers requested or to be requested by the Debtors relating to the Taxes and Assessments. The Debtors also seek authority, but not direction, to issue new postpetition checks or effect new postpetition electronic funds transfers in replacement of any checks or transfer requests on account of any prepetition Taxes and Assessments dishonored or rejected as a result of the Chapter 11 Cases.

V. **RESERVATION OF RIGHTS**

Nothing contained herein is intended to be or shall be construed as (i) an admission as to the validity of any claim against the Debtors, (ii) a waiver of the Debtors' or any appropriate party in interest's rights to dispute any claim, or (iii) an approval or assumption of any agreement, contract, program, policy, or lease under section 365 of the Bankruptcy Code. Likewise, if the Court grants the relief sought herein, any payment made pursuant to the Court's order is not intended to be and should not be construed as an admission to the validity of any claim or a waiver of the Debtors' rights to dispute such claim subsequently.

VI. REQUEST FOR IMMEDIATE RELIEF AND WAIVER OF STAY

Bankruptcy Rule 6003 provides that, to the extent relief is necessary to avoid immediate and irreparable harm, a Bankruptcy Court may issue an order granting "a motion to use, sell, lease, or otherwise incur an obligation regarding property of the estate, including a motion to pay all or part of a claim that arose before the filing of the petition" before twenty-one (21) days after filing of the petition. As described herein and in the Sharp Declaration, failure to pay Taxes and Assessments may interfere with the Debtors' reorganization efforts and will inevitably increase the scope of secured claims held by the applicable Taxing Authorities against the Debtors' estates.

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Accordingly, the Motion satisfies the requirements for immediate entry of an order granting the relief requested herein pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 6003. Similarly, the Debtors request a waiver of the notice requirements under Bankruptcy Rule 6004(a) and any stay of the order granting the relief requested herein pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 6004(h). As explained above, the relief requested herein is necessary to avoid immediate and irreparable harm to the Debtors. Accordingly, cause exists to justify the waiver of the notice requirements under Bankruptcy Rule 6004(a) and the fourteen day stay imposed by Bankruptcy Rule 6004(h), to the extent such notice requirements and stay apply.

VII. **NOTICE**

Notice of this Motion will be provided to (i) the United States Trustee; (ii) the Secured Lenders; (iii) the parties listed on the Debtors' Consolidated List of Creditors Who Have the 30 Largest Unsecured Claims and Are Not Insiders; (iv) the Banks; (v) the Taxing Authorities; and (vi) those persons who have formally appeared in these Chapter 11 Cases and requested service pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 2002. Based on the urgency of the circumstances surrounding this Motion and the nature of the relief requested herein, the Debtors respectfully submit that no further notice is required.

WHEREFORE, the Debtors respectfully request that the Court enter interim and final orders, substantially in the forms attached hereto as Exhibit A and Exhibit B, granting the relief requested herein.

KELLER BENVENUTTI KIM LLP Dated: September 12, 2024

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By: /s/ Thomas B. Rupp

Debtors in Possession

Thomas B. Rupp

Proposed Attorneys for the Debtors and

KELLER BENVENUTTI KIM LLP

425 MARKET STREET, 26TH FLOOR SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94105

Exhibit A

(Proposed Interim Order)

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Citrus Heights, CA 95621.

1	KELLER BENVENUTTI KIM LLP TOBIAS S. KELLER (Cal. Bar No. 151445)		
2	(tkeller@kbkllp.com) DAVID A. TAYLOR (Cal. Bar No. 247433)		
3			
4	(trupp@kbkllp.com) 425 Market Street, 26th Floor	'	
5	San Francisco, California 94105 Telephone: (415) 496-6723		
6	Facsimile: (650) 636-9251		
7	Proposed Attorneys for the Debtors and Debtors in Possession		
8			
9	UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT		
10	NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA		
11	SANTA ROSA DIVISION		
12		Lead Case No(CN)	
13	In re:	(Jointly Administered)	
14	LEFEVER MATTSON, a California	Chapter 11	
15	corporation, et al., 1		
16	Debtors.	[PROPOSED] INTERIM ORDER AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF	
17		CERTAIN PREPETITION TAXES AND ASSESSMENTS AND	
18		GRANTING CERTAIN RELATED RELIEF	
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25	The last four digits of LeFever Matts	son's tax identification number are 7537. Due to the	
26	large number of debtor entities in these Chapter 11 Cases, a complete list of the Debtors and the last four digits of their federal tax identification numbers is not provided herein. A complete list		
27	of such information may be obtained on the website of the Debtors' claims and noticing agent at https://veritaglobal.net/LM. The address for service on the Debtors is 6359 Auburn Blvd., Suite B,		
28	Citrus Heights, CA 95621.		

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Upon consideration of the Motion of Debtors for Interim and Final Orders Authorizing Payment of Certain Prepetition Taxes and Assessments and Granting Certain Related Relief (the "Motion"),2 filed by the above-captioned debtors and debtors in possession (the "Debtors"); the Court having reviewed the Motion and the Sharp Declaration and having considered the statements of counsel and the evidence adduced with respect to the Motion at a hearing before the Court (the "Hearing"); and the Court having found that (i) the Court has jurisdiction to consider the Motion and the relief requested therein pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334, and the Order Referring Bankruptcy Cases and Proceedings to Bankruptcy Judges, General Order 24 and Rule 5011-1(a) of the Bankruptcy Local Rules for the Northern District of California; (ii) venue is proper in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409; (iii) this is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b); (iv) notice of the Motion and the Hearing was sufficient under the circumstances; and (v) good cause exists to waive the requirements imposed by Bankruptcy Rule 6003, to the extent it is applicable; and after due deliberation the Court having determined that the relief requested in the Motion is (i) in the best interests of the Debtors, their estates, and their creditors and (ii) necessary to prevent immediate and irreparable harm to the Debtors and their estate; and good and sufficient cause having been shown;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

- 1. The Motion is granted on an interim basis.
- 2. The Debtors are authorized, but not directed, pursuant to sections 105(a), 363, and 507(a) of the Bankruptcy Code, to pay the Taxes and Assessments currently due or coming due within thirty (30) days of the Petition Date, whether relating to the period prior or subsequent to the Petition Date, including any Taxes and Assessments subsequently determined on audit or otherwise; provided that the prepetition amounts authorized shall not exceed \$219,059 for prepetition Real Property Taxes, pending the final hearing on the Motion.
- 3. The Banks and financial institutions are authorized, but not directed, at the Debtors' request, to receive, process, honor, and pay, to the extent of funds on deposit, any and all checks

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Capitalized terms not otherwise defined herein shall have the meanings given to them in the Motion.

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issued or to be issued or electronic funds transfers requested or to be requested by the Debtors relating to the payment of the Taxes and Assessments as authorized herein.

- 4. The Debtors are authorized, but not directed, to issue new postpetition checks, or effect new electronic funds transfers on account of the Taxes and Assessments to replace any prepetition checks or electronic funds transfer requests that may be lost, dishonored, or rejected as a result of the commencement of the Chapter 11 Cases.
- 5. Nothing contained in the Motion or this Order is intended to be or shall be construed as (i) an admission as to the validity of any claim against the Debtors; (ii) a waiver of the Debtors' or any appropriate party in interest's rights to dispute the amount of, basis for, or validity of any claim against the Debtors; (iii) a waiver of any claims or causes of action that may exist against any creditor or interest holder; or (iv) an approval, assumption, adoption, or rejection of any agreement, contract, lease, program, or policy between the Debtors and any third party under section 365 of the Bankruptcy Code.
- 6. Notwithstanding entry of this Order, nothing herein shall create, nor is intended to create, any rights in favor of or enhance the status of any claim held by any party.
 - 7. The requirements of Bankruptcy Rule 6003(b) have been satisfied.
 - 8. The requirements of Bankruptcy Rule 6004(a) are waived.
- 9. Notwithstanding the provisions of Bankruptcy Rules 6004(h), this Order shall be immediately effective and enforceable upon its entry.
- 10. A hearing to consider the relief requested in the Motion on a final basis is set for], 2024, at [] (Pacific Time). Any objections to granting the relief requested on a final basis must be filed with the Court and served on counsel for the Debtor by [], 2024.
- 11. The Debtors are hereby authorized to take such actions and to execute such documents as may be necessary to implement the relief granted by this Order.
- 12. The Court retains exclusive jurisdiction with respect to all matters arising from or related to the implementation, interpretation, and enforcement of this Order.

** END OF ORDER **

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KELLER BENVENUTTI KIM LLP

425 MARKET STREET, 26TH FLOOR SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94105

Exhibit B

(Proposed Final Order)

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Citrus Heights, CA 95621.

1 2	KELLER BENVENUTTI KIM LLP TOBIAS S. KELLER (Cal. Bar No. 151445) (tkeller@kbkllp.com)		
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4	425 Market Street, 26th Floor		
5 6	San Francisco, California 94105 Telephone: (415) 496-6723 Facsimile: (650) 636-9251		
7	Proposed Attorneys for the Debtors and Debtors in Possession		
8			
9	UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT		
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13	In re:	Lead Case No (CN)	
14	LEFEVER MATTSON, a California	(Jointly Administered)	
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16	Debtors.	[PROPOSED] FINAL ORDER AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF	
17		CERTAIN PREPETITION TAXES AND ASSESSMENTS AND	
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Upon consideration of the Motion of Debtors for Interim and Final Orders Authorizing Payment of Certain Prepetition Taxes and Assessments and Granting Certain Related Relief (the "Motion"), filed by the above-captioned debtors and debtors in possession (the "Debtors"); the Court having reviewed the Motion and the Sharp Declaration and having considered the statements of counsel and the evidence adduced with respect to the Motion at a hearing before the Court (the "Hearing"); and the Court having found that (i) the Court has jurisdiction to consider the Motion and the relief requested therein pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334, and the Order Referring Bankruptcy Cases and Proceedings to Bankruptcy Judges, General Order 24 and Rule 5011-1(a) of the Bankruptcy Local Rules for the Northern District of California (the "Bankruptcy Local Rules"); (ii) venue is proper in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409; (iii) this is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b); and (iv) notice of the Motion and the Hearing was sufficient under the circumstances; and after due deliberation the Court having determined that the relief requested in the Motion is in the best interests of the Debtors, their estates, and their creditors; and good and sufficient cause having been shown;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

- The Motion is granted on a final basis.
- 2. The Debtors are authorized, but not directed, pursuant to sections 105(a), 363, and 507(a) of the Bankruptcy Code, to pay the Taxes and Assessments, including any Taxes and Assessments subsequently determined on audit or otherwise; provided that the prepetition amounts authorized shall not exceed \$219,059 for prepetition Real Property Taxes.
- 3. Banks and financial institutions are authorized, but not directed, at the Debtors' request, to receive, process, honor, and pay, to the extent of funds on deposit, any and all checks issued or to be issued or electronic funds transfers requested or to be requested by the Debtors relating to the payment of the Taxes and Assessments as authorized herein.
- 4. The Debtors are authorized, but not directed, to issue new postpetition checks, or effect new electronic funds transfers on account of the Taxes and Assessments to replace any

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Capitalized terms not otherwise defined herein shall have the meanings given to them in the Motion.

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prepetition checks or electronic funds transfer requests that may be lost, dishonored, or rejected as a result of the commencement of the Chapter 11 Cases.

- 5. Nothing contained in the Motion or this Order is intended to be or shall be construed as (i) an admission as to the validity of any claim against the Debtors; (ii) a waiver of the Debtors' or any appropriate party in interest's rights to dispute the amount of, basis for, or validity of any claim against the Debtors; (iii) a waiver of any claims or causes of action that may exist against any creditor or interest holder; or (iv) an approval, assumption, adoption, or rejection of any agreement, contract, lease, program, or policy between the Debtors and any third party under section 365 of the Bankruptcy Code.
- 6. Notwithstanding entry of this Order, nothing herein intended to create, and nothing herein shall create, any rights in favor of or enhance the status of any claim held by any party.
 - 7. The requirements of Bankruptcy Rule 6004(a) are waived.
- 8. Notwithstanding the provisions of Bankruptcy Rules 6004(h), this Order shall be immediately effective and enforceable upon its entry.
- 9. The Debtors are hereby authorized to take such actions and to execute such documents as may be necessary to implement the relief granted by this Order.
- 10. The Court retains exclusive jurisdiction with respect to all matters arising from or related to the implementation, interpretation, and enforcement of this Order.

** END OF ORDER **