Lead Case No. 24-10545 (CN)

(Jointly Administered)

**DECLARATION OF DAVID A.** TAYLOR IN SUPPORT OF APPLICATION OF DEBTORS FOR ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EMPLOYMENT OF KELLER BENVENUTTI KIM LLP AS GENERAL BANKRUPTCY COUNSEL TO THE DEBTORS

[No Hearing Requested]

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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' 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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I, David A. Taylor, hereby declare pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 as follows:

- I am an attorney licensed to practice in the State of California and admitted to practice before this Court. I am a partner of the firm Keller Benvenutti Kim LLP ("KBK" or the "Firm"), proposed general bankruptcy counsel to LeFever Mattson, a California corporation, and certain of its affiliates that are debtors and debtors in possession (collectively, the "Debtors") in the above-captioned chapter 11 cases (the "Chapter 11 Cases").
- 2. I submit this declaration in support of the Application of Debtors for Order Authorizing the Employment of Keller Benvenutti Kim LLP as General Bankruptcy Counsel to the Debtors (the "Application").<sup>2</sup>
- 3. The facts set forth in this declaration are personally known to me, and, if called as a witness, I could and would competently testify thereto.
- 4. The Debtors have retained KBK as their general bankruptcy counsel in these Chapter 11 Cases, subject to approval of the Court. KBK is a law firm practicing in the areas of bankruptcy and restructuring with a thorough understanding of local practices and precedent. The attorneys at KBK have served as counsel to debtors, creditors, and creditors' committees before this Court and others throughout the nation and expect to be familiar with and/or able to represent the Debtors competently in virtually all aspects that may arise in these Chapter 11 Cases.
- 5. KBK will charge for its legal services on an hourly basis in accordance with the ordinary and customary hourly rates in effect as of January 1, 2024, as revised from time to time. KBK's hourly fees are comparable to those charged by attorneys of similar experience for engagements of scope and complexity similar to these Chapter 11 Cases. KBK will also seek reimbursement of actual and necessary out-of-pocket expenses in accordance with regular KBK policies. KBK's disbursement policies pass through all out-of-pocket expenses at actual cost, or at estimated actual cost when the actual cost is difficult to determine. These expenses include photocopying, express or overnight delivery charges, facsimiles, toll calls, overtime meals,

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Capitalized terms used but not otherwise defined herein shall have the meanings given to such terms in the Application.

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computerized research, deliveries, court costs, transcript fees, travel, clerk fees, certain secretarial and other overtime expenses, and other expenses.

6. The attorneys and legal professionals that I anticipate will or may work on this matter, and their current hourly rates, are as follows:

Tobias S. Keller (Partner): \$1000

David A. Taylor (Partner): \$800

Thomas B. Rupp (Senior Counsel): \$600

Gabrielle L. Albert (Associate): \$650

Alice Giang (Associate): \$425

Colin Mitsuoka (Paralegal Trainee): \$200 Priscila Chen Hsu (Paralegal Trainee): \$150

The above-listed rates are the normal billing rates charged by KBK for each respective attorney in both bankruptcy and non-bankruptcy matters.

- 7. KBK will maintain detailed, contemporaneous time records in six-minute intervals and apply to the Court for payment of compensation and reimbursement of expenses in accordance with applicable provisions of the Bankruptcy Code, the Bankruptcy Rules, the Local Bankruptcy Rules, the Local Guidelines, and any additional procedures that may be established by the Court in these Chapter 11 Cases. KBK has agreed to accept as compensation and reimbursement such sums as may be allowed by the Court. KBK understands that interim and final fee awards are subject to approval by this Court.
- 8. KBK compiled a list of the key parties in interest in these Cases, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit A.
- 9. To check and clear potential conflicts of interest in this case, as well as to identify all "connections" (as such term is used in Bankruptcy Rule 2014) to the Debtors, their creditors, other parties in interest, their respective attorneys and accountants, the United States Trustee for the Northern District of California (the "U.S. Trustee"), any person employed in the office of the U.S. Trustee, the attorneys at KBK each reviewed **Exhibit A** to determine whether they have or had any relationships with any entity represented thereon.

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Case:

- 10. KBK is co-counsel for PG&E Corporation and Pacific Gas and Electric Company (together, "PG&E") in chapter 11 case nos. 19-30088 et seq. (DM) (Bankr. N.D. Cal.). PG&E is one of the primary utility providers in Northern California and provides utility services to the Debtors. PG&E has provided KBK with an advance waiver for matters of this nature, i.e., in which KBK's client is solely a customer of PG&E that receives utility services. I am aware of no actual conflict between PG&E and the Debtors.
  - 11. Wells Fargo provides business banking services for KBK.
- 12. The Firm subleases its office space from Hanson Bridgett LLP. The Firm does not share fees, files, or staff with Hanson Bridgett.
- 13. Certain attorneys at KBK have represented secured lenders identified on Exhibit A before joining KBK. None of these representations were related to these Chapter 11 Cases.
- 14. Certain attorneys at KBK have mortgages that are serviced by secured lenders identified on Exhibit A.
- 15. Other than as described in the foregoing, after diligent inquiry, I have ascertained (a) no connection, as such term is used in section 101(14)(C) of the Bankruptcy Code, as modified by section 1107(b) and Bankruptcy Rule 2014(a), between KBK and any party in interest in these Chapter 11 Cases, including with the Debtors, their creditors, the U.S. Trustee, any person employed at the office of the U.S. Trustee, or any other party with an actual or potential interest in these Chapter 11 Cases or their respective attorneys or accountants; (b) KBK is not a creditor, equity security holder, or insider of the Debtors; (c) none of KBK's attorneys is, or was within two years of the Windscape Petition Date, a director, officer, or employee of the Debtors; and (d) KBK neither holds nor represents an interest adverse to the Debtors, their estates, or any class of creditors or equity security holders by reason of any direct or indirect relationship to, connection with, or interest in the Debtors, or for any other reason. For the foregoing reasons, KBK is a "disinterested person," as defined in section 101(14) of the Bankruptcy Code.
- 16. KBK was initially retained by the Debtors on or about May 28, 2024, for the purpose of providing advice in connection with refinancing and/or restructuring strategies as well as other possible alternative strategies for dealing with the Debtors' liquidity challenges.

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17. On June 6, 2024, KBK was then retained by the Debtors for the purpose of
preparing for the filing of these Chapter 11 Cases and representing the Debtors in connection with
the filing of these Chapter 11 Cases. A copy of the engagement letter dated June 6, 2024, is
attached to the Proposed Order as <u>Exhibit 1</u> (the " <u>Engagement Letter</u> "). The Engagement Letter
supersedes any former engagement agreements between KBK and the Debtors.

- 18. The Debtors paid KBK \$599,711.97 in compensation within one year before the LeFever Mattson Petition Date. The balance remaining in KBK's trust account, for anticipated legal services to be rendered to the Debtors, is currently \$25,288.03. I am informed and believe that the source of the Debtors' retainer payments was cash on hand.
- 19. I will amend or supplement this declaration to the extent I learn that (a) any of the within representations are incorrect or (b) there is any change of circumstances relating thereto.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this tenth day of October 2024, in San Francisco, California.

> /s/ David A. Taylor David A. Taylor

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## KELLER BENVENUTTI KIM LLP

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

## Exhibit A

(Parties in Interest List)

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Party	Relation
Tim LeFever	Insider
Ken Mattson	Insider
Scott Smith	Insider
Mark Bennett	Insider
Burr, Pilger & Mayer, LLP	Debtors' Professional
Development Specialists, Inc.	Debtors' Professional
Bradley D. Sharp	Debtors' Professional
Keller Benvenutti Kim LLP	Debtors' Professional
Pivot Management Group (Seth Wellisch)	Debtors' Professional
Hanson Bridgett LLP	Debtors' Professional
Scott Smith	Debtors' Professional
	Debtors' Professional
The Law Office of Donald S. Davidson	
Kurtzman Carson Consultants, LLC dba Verita Global	Debtors' Professional
The Law Office of Frank M. Buda	Debtors' Professional
Tony Alvarez, CPA	Debtors' Professional
Harrow Cellars, a California corporation	Non-Debtor Affiliate
Pineapple Bear, a California corporation	Non-Debtor Affiliate
LeFever Mattson, a California corporation	Debtor
California Investment Properties, a California corporation	Debtor
Home Tax Service of America, Inc. dba LeFever Mattson Property Management	Debtor
Apan Partners, LLC	Debtor
Autumn Wood I, LP	Debtor
Bay Tree, LP	Debtor
Beach Pine, LP	Debtor
Bishop Pine, LP	Debtor
Black Walnut, LP	Debtor
Buck Avenue Apartments, LP	Debtor
Buckeye Tree, LP	Debtor
Bur Oak, LP	Debtor
Butcher Road Partners, LLC	Debtor
Cambria Pine, LP	Debtor
Chestnut Oak, LP	Debtor
Country Oaks I, LP	Debtor
Divi Divi Tree, L.P.	Debtor
Douglas Fir Investments, LP	Debtor
Firetree I, LP	Debtor
Firetree II, LP	Debtor
Firetree III, LP	Debtor
Foxtail Pine, LP	Debtor
Ginko Tree, LP	Debtor
Golden Tree, LP	Debtor
Hagar Properties, LP	Debtor
Heacock Park Apartments, LP	Debtor
LeFever Mattson I, LLC	Debtor
Live Oak Investments, LP	Debtor
Monterey Pine, LP	Debtor
Napa Elm, LP	Debtor
Nut Pine, LP	Debtor
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Pinecone, LP	Debtor
Pinewood Condominiums, LP	Debtor
Ponderosa Pines, LP	Debtor
Redbud Tree, LP	Debtor
Red Cedar Tree, LP	Debtor
Red Mulberry Tree, LP	Debtor
Red Oak, LP	Debtor
Red Oak Tree, LP	Debtor
Red Spruce Tree, LP	Debtor
River Birch, LP	Debtor
River Tree Partners, LP	Debtor
River View Shopping Center 1, LLC	Debtor
River View Shopping Center 2, LLC	Debtor
RT Capitol Mall, LP	Debtor
RT Golden Hills, LP	Debtor
Scotch Pine, LP	Debtor
Sequoia Investment Properties, LP	Debtor
Sienna Pointe, LLC	Debtor
Spruce Pine, LP	Debtor
Tradewinds Apartments, LP	Debtor
Vaca Villa Apartments, LP	Debtor
Valley Oak Investments, LP	Debtor
Watertree I, LP	Debtor
Willow Oak, LP	Debtor
Windscape Apartments, LLC	Debtor
Windscape Apartments I, LP	Debtor
Windscape Apartments II, LP	Debtor
Windscape Holdings, LLC	Debtor
Windtree, LP	Debtor
Yellow Poplar, LP	Debtor
K S Mattson Partners, LP	Potentially Adverse
Perris Freeway Plaza, LP	Potentially Adverse
Chief Judge Stephen L. Johnson	Bankruptcy Judge
Judge Hannah L. Blumenstiel	Bankruptcy Judge
Judge M. Elaine Hammond	Bankruptcy Judge
Judge William Lafferty	Bankruptcy Judge
Judge Dennis Montali	Bankruptcy Judge
Judge Charles Novack	Bankruptcy Judge
Ruby Bautista	Bankruptcy Court Staff
Dina Kakalia	Bankruptcy Court Staff
Ardie Ermac	Bankruptcy Court Staff
Venice Tamplin-Henderson	Bankruptcy Court Staff
Teresa Mkhitarian	Bankruptcy Court Staff
Cindy Fan	Bankruptcy Court Staff
Christina Goebelsmann	U.S. Trustee Staff
Mike Chow	U.S. Trustee Staff
lanthe V. Del Rosario	U.S. Trustee Staff
Nychelle G. Rivera	U.S. Trustee Staff
Phillip Shine	U.S. Trustee Staff
rininp sinile	U.S. HUSLEE Stall

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Yung Nor Wong Jared Day U.S. Trustee Staff Other Unsecured Credite Other Unsecured Credite Sherman Family Living Trust dtd 3/13/00 Other Unsecured Credite Quinonez Cleaning Service Other Unsecured Credite Pacific Gas & Electric Fort Washingto Fitness - Thrive Business Development Inc. Other Unsecured Credite SunPoint Public Adjusters, Inc	or or or
Deanna Hazelton  Monley Hamlin Construction  McGowan Trustee of the Lorraine Margaret Orlich Trust dated 9/26/03  Other Unsecured Creditor Other U	or or or
Monley Hamlin Construction  McGowan Trustee of the Lorraine Margaret Orlich Trust dated 9/26/03  Other Unsecured Credite Sherman Family Living Trust dtd 3/13/00  Quinonez Cleaning Service  Pacific Gas & Electric  Fort Washingto Fitness - Thrive Business Development Inc.  Other Unsecured Credite Other Unsecured Credit	or or or
McGowan Trustee of the Lorraine Margaret Orlich Trust dated 9/26/03  Sherman Family Living Trust dtd 3/13/00  Quinonez Cleaning Service  Pacific Gas & Electric  Fort Washingto Fitness - Thrive Business Development Inc.  Other Unsecured Creditory	or or or
Sherman Family Living Trust dtd 3/13/00  Quinonez Cleaning Service  Pacific Gas & Electric  Fort Washingto Fitness - Thrive Business Development Inc.  Other Unsecured Creditor  Other Unsecured Creditor  Other Unsecured Creditor	or or or
Quinonez Cleaning Service  Pacific Gas & Electric  Fort Washingto Fitness - Thrive Business Development Inc.  Other Unsecured Creditor  Other Unsecured Creditor  Other Unsecured Creditor	or or
Pacific Gas & Electric Other Unsecured Creditor Fort Washingto Fitness - Thrive Business Development Inc. Other Unsecured Creditor Other	or
Fort Washingto Fitness - Thrive Business Development Inc.  Other Unsecured Credite	-
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IDUIT OUIL FUDIIC AUIUSICIS, IIIC	or
Citadel Environmental Services, Inc  Other Unsecured Credite	
Delfino Escamilla Portillo  Other Unsecured Credite	
Aakar Development, LLC Other Unsecured Creditor	
Eva's Esthetics, Inc.  Other Unsecured Creditor  Other Unsecured Creditor	
WeCare Services For Children  Other Unsecured Creditor  Other Unsecured Creditor	
Aung Burma, LLC  Other Unsecured Credite  DOB WINE COMPANY LLC  Other Unsecured Credite	
Sakanaya Japanese Restaurant (Jang) Other Unsecured Credit	
Bold, Polisner, Maddow, Nelson & Judson  Other Unsecured Creditor  Other Unsecured Conditions  Other Unsecured Conditions	
West Coast Salon Suites, LLC Other Unsecured Credite	
El Artesano Other Unsecured Credito	
Tom DeWitt; Pauline DeWitt  Other Unsecured Credite	
Zhong Liang Kwan, Karie Xiu Yu  Other Unsecured Credite	
Everk Hospitality Group, Inc.  Other Unsecured Credite	
The Vyxn (Everk Hospitality, Lewis Everk)  Other Unsecured Credite	
Edward Jones & Co., LP Other Unsecured Credito	
DoorDash Essentials, LLC Other Unsecured Credite	
Beer and Wine - Singh, LLC Other Unsecured Credit	
TMobile West Corporation Other Unsecured Credit	
Cal.net Other Unsecured Creditor	
Sky Sushi (Sushi Mon) Other Unsecured Credit	
Real Care Insurance Other Unsecured Creditor	-
Porter's House of Draft Other Unsecured Creditor	or
1-888-4-Abatement Inc Other Unsecured Credit	or
SMUD Other Unsecured Creditor	or
West Coast Mechanical Other Unsecured Creditor	or
VBM, Inc. Other Unsecured Creditor	or
Pear Tree Homeowner's Association Other Unsecured Credite	or
Rodan Builders, Inc. Other Unsecured Credite	or
La Kebrada Mexican Restaurant Other Unsecured Credite	or
Andrew Landgren Other Unsecured Credite	or
Jennifer M. Tong Other Unsecured Credite	or
GraniterockCompany Other Unsecured Creditor	or
The Donum Estate Other Unsecured Credito	or
Lockton Companies, LLC Other Unsecured Credito	or
Jerry Lee Other Unsecured Credito	or
Union of American Physicians and Dentists  Other Unsecured Creditor	or
Fresno County Private Security  Other Unsecured Creditor	or
C and F Company, LLC (Peachy Farms)  Other Unsecured Credito	or

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Golden Bear PT Partners, LLC	Other Unsecured Creditor
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Sierra Running Company (Samansky)	Other Unsecured Creditor
Bor-La Inc.	Other Unsecured Creditor
NAMI Contra Costa (National Alliance on Mental Illness Contra Costa County)	Other Unsecured Creditor
Visit Concord, a California not for profit organization	Other Unsecured Creditor
Court Appointed Special Advocates of Contra Costa County	Other Unsecured Creditor
Hop Grenade LLC	Other Unsecured Creditor
GN Veterinary Services, Inc.	Other Unsecured Creditor
Admiral Security, Inc. / AX9	Other Unsecured Creditor
Johanna Torres	Other Unsecured Creditor
Michael Nisley (Rawlins), DEBRA RAWLINS	Other Unsecured Creditor
CivicWell	Other Unsecured Creditor
Engstrom Properties	Other Unsecured Creditor
City of Fresno	Other Unsecured Creditor
Fairfield Municipal Utilities	Other Unsecured Creditor
MMS Strategies, LLC	Other Unsecured Creditor
The Strength Studio	Other Unsecured Creditor
Lana Arons, Plaintiff	Litigation Claims
Plaintiffs in Claridge et al. litigation (RICHARD ALLEN CLARIDGE, individual and	
trustee of the Joint Revocable Trust of Richard Allen Claridge Jr. & Capri Lynn	
Winser; CAPRI LYNN WINSER; individual and trustee of the Joint Revocable Trust of	
Richard Allen Claridge Jr. & Capri Lynn Winser; TODD MICHERO, an individual;	
LORI MICHERO, an individual; BROOKE SAMPLE, individual and trustee of the First	
Amendment to the Brooke Sample Separate Property Trust; SCOTT A. WALKER,	
individual and trustee of The Walker Family Living Trust; and ELIZABETH L.	
WALKER, individual and trustee of The Walker Family Living Trust)	
	Litigation Claims
Charlene Hultman, Plaintiff	Litigation Claims
Tamara D. Migliozzi, Plaintiff	Litigation Claims
Plaintiffs in <i>Tubley et al.</i> litigation (ANDREW TUBLEY and MAE UMBRIAC, husband	
and wife; ANDREW TUBLEY and MAE UMBRIAC, as Trustees of the MAE UMBRIAC	
AND ANDREW DAVID TUBLEY FAMILY TRUST U/A/D APRIL 27, 2015)	
	Litigation Claims
Plaintiffs in Wondra et al . litigation (JEANNE WONDRA, as trustee for the JAMES	
HURLEY TRUST; JEANNE WONDRA, as trustee for the IRENE B HURLEY SURVIVORS	
TRUST; PATRICIA HURLEY, as trustee for the DAVID AARON TANNENBAUM AND	
PATRICIA MARIE HURLEY LIVING TRUST; MARYANNE KELLY, an individual;	
MARYANNE KELLY, as trustee for the MARYANNE KELLY LIVING TRUST)	
	Litigation Claims
Elizabeth H. Talley, individually and as Trustee of the Michael and Elizabeth Talley	<b>3</b>
2017 Family Trust, and Michael M. Talley, individually and as Trustee of the	
Michael and Elizabeth Talley 2017 Family Trust	Litigation Claims
Colette Berge	Litigation Claims
Patrick Doe	Litigation Claims
Bank of America	Secured Creditor
Mitchel Bicandi	Secured Creditor
Frank Bragg Revocable Trust	Secured Creditor
California Bank of Commerce	Secured Creditor
Camornia Dank of Commerce	Jecureu Creditui

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Michael & Ana Cavanaugh	Secured Creditor
Chase Bank	Secured Creditor
Citizens Business Bank ("Citizens")	Secured Creditor
Comerica	Secured Creditor
Duggans Memorial Chapel	Secured Creditor
Exchange Bank	Secured Creditor
Virginia Ghilarducci Trustee	Secured Creditor
Greystone Servicing Company	Secured Creditor
Ronald and Francoise Hodges	Secured Creditor
Leland McAbbe	Secured Creditor
Mr. Cooper	Secured Creditor
Bruce Needleman, Trustee & Edna M. Hayes, Trustee	Secured Creditor
NexBank	Secured Creditor
	Secured Creditor
PHH Mortgage Services Poppy Bank	Secured Creditor
Y. Tito Sasaki & Janet L. Sasaki, Trustees	Secured Creditor
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Select Portfolio Servicing, Inc.	Secured Creditor
Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing	Secured Creditor
Socotra Capital, Inc. TriCounties Bank	Secured Creditor Secured Creditor
Umpqua Bank	Secured Creditor
Wells Fargo Bank	Secured Creditor
Susan Patricia Westerbeke, Trustee	Secured Creditor
Duggans Mission Chapel LLC	Secured Creditor
Erick Roeser, CPA	Secured Creditor
KS Mattson Partners	Secured Creditor
Placer County Tax Collector	Secured Creditor
Sonoma County Tax Collector	Secured Creditor
Suncrest Bank	Secured Creditor
Lull Family Living Revocable Trust; Richard Lull	UCC Member
Mullin Family Trust; John & Kathleen Mullin	UCC Member
Charles Edgar	UCC Member
Umbriac & Tubley Family Trust; Mae Umbriac & Andrew Tubley	UCC Member
Walter Schenk	UCC Member
Manfred K. Fischer Trust; Michaela M. Katari	UCC Member
Sevpro Vacaville	UCC Member

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