Richard L. Wynne (Bar No. 120349) 1 richard.wynne@hoganlovells.com Erin N. Brady (Bar No. 215038) 2 erin.brady@hoganlovells.com 3 Edward J. McNeilly (Bar No. 314588) edward.mcneilly@hoganlovells.com 4 HOGAN LOVELLS US LLP 1999 Avenue of the Stars, Suite 1400 5 Los Angeles, California 90067 Telephone: (310) 785-4600 6 Facsimile: (310) 785-4601 7 Attorneys for Debtor and Debtor in Possession 8 UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT 9 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA SANTA ROSA DIVISION 10 11 In re Case No. 24-10545 CN (Lead Case) 12 LEFEVER MATTSON, a California (Jointly Administered) 13 corporation, et al. Chapter 11 Debtors.1 14 **DEBTOR KSMP'S MOTION FOR** 15 In re ORDER FURTHER EXTENDING THE KS MATTSON PARTNERS, LP, TIME TO FILE NOTICES OF 16 REMOVAL OF RELATED Debtor. 17 **PROCEEDINGS** 18 Date: December 3, 2025 **Time:** 11:00 a.m. 19 **Place**: (In Person or Via Zoom) 20 United States Bankruptcy Court 1300 Clay Street, Courtroom 215 Oakland, 21 CA 94612 22 23 24 ¹ The last four digits of LeFever Mattson's tax identification number are 7537. The last four digits of the tax 25 identification number for KS Mattson Partners, LP ("KSMP") are 5060. KSMP's address for service is c/o Stapleton Group, 514 Via de la Valle, Solana Beach, CA 92075. The address for service on LeFever Mattson and all other 26 Debtors is 6359 Auburn Blvd., Suite B, Citrus Heights, CA 95621. 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 27 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. 28

KS Mattson Partners, LP ("<u>Debtor KSMP</u>"), debtor and debtor-in-possession in the above-captioned chapter 11 case, hereby submits this motion (the "<u>Motion</u>") pursuant to Rules 9006(b) and 9027 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the "<u>Bankruptcy Rules</u>") and Rule 9006-1 of the Bankruptcy Local Rules for the Northern District of California (the "<u>Bankruptcy Local Rules</u>") for entry of an order, in substantially the form attached hereto as <u>Exhibit A</u>, further extending time, pursuant to Clause (A) of Bankruptcy Rule 9027(a)(2), for Debtor KSMP to file notices of removal of the civil actions and proceedings (the "<u>Removal Deadline</u>") to which Debtor KSMP is party (collectively, the "<u>Civil Actions</u>") through and including March 6, 2026, without prejudice to Debtor KSMP's right to seek additional extensions of such period.

In support of this Motion, Debtor KSMP submits the *Declaration of Robbin L. Itkin in Support of Debtor's Motion for Order Further Extending the Time to File Notices of Removal of Related Proceedings* (the "Itkin Declaration"), filed contemporaneously herewith.

MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

I. <u>JURISDICTION AND VENUE</u>

The 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 (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 the Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409.

II. <u>BACKGROUND</u>

A. The Chapter 11 Case

This case arises from an alleged multiyear and multimillion-dollar fraud perpetrated by Mr. Mattson. This alleged fraud resulted in multiple prepetition litigations against Debtor KSMP, Mr. Mattson and LeFever Mattson, a California corporation (the real estate corporation jointly owned by Mr. Mattson and Tim LeFever), as well as the voluntary bankruptcy filing for the LFM Debtors. It has also resulted in the United States Department of Justice bringing criminal charges against Mr. Mattson.

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On November 22, 2024, Debtor KSMP became subject to an involuntary petition for relief under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code. On June 9, 2024 (the "Relief Date"), the Court entered the *Stipulated Order for Relief in an Involuntary Case* (Case No. 24-10715, Dkt. No. 131) and appointed Robbin L. Itkin as the Responsible Individual in this case, with effect from June 16, 2025 (the "Itkin Approval Order") (Case No. 24-10715, Dkt. No.172). No trustee or examiner has been appointed.

On September 19, 2024, LeFever Mattson and fifty-seven affiliates and subsidiaries (collectively, the "LFM Debtors", and, with Debtor KSMP, the "Debtors")—parties related to Debtor KSMP—filed voluntary petitions for relief under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code, commencing their jointly administered bankruptcy cases (the "LFM Chapter 11 Cases"). On July 29, 2025, the Court entered the Stipulated Bridge Order in Connection with the Motion to Substantively Consolidate the Bankruptcy Estates of LeFever Mattson and KS Mattson Partners, LP [Dkt. No.1887], which, among other things, jointly administers the KSMP Chapter 11 Case with the LFM Chapter 11 Cases (collectively, the "Chapter 11 Cases").

An unsecured creditors' committee was appointed in the LFM Chapter 11 Cases (the "Committee") and, on August 26, 2025, this same Committee was appointed in the KSMP Chapter 11 Case [Dkt. No. 2104].

Since the Relief Date, Debtor KSMP's Responsible Individual and professionals have not only have continued Debtor KSMP's prepetition business of operating approximately 36 commercial and residential rental properties but have also worked tirelessly to investigate its financial situation, dispose of its real property assets, negotiate a proposed plan of reorganization, resolve claims and disputes involving the Debtor's estate, and generally work toward an overall resolution that will provide for a fair and equitable distribution to Debtor KSMP's stakeholders, including the many investors whose financial lives have been upended.

B. The Pending Actions Against Debtor KSMP

The Responsible Individual is not in possession of Debtor KSMP's prepetition books and records. Through public litigation searches and conversations with Debtor KSMP's prior counsel

and litigants, the Responsible Individual understands that Debtor KSMP's is party to lawsuits pending in various California state courts and the United States District Court for the Northern District of California (the "Civil Actions"), listed as **Exhibit A** to the Itkin Declaration, and which are listed in the schedules of assets and liabilities and statements of financial affairs for Debtor KSMP (the "Schedules and Statements") [Dkt. Nos. 1980-1981]. In most of these actions, Debtor KSMP is the defendant, and the claims against Debtor KSMP are stayed pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 362(a).

Given the lack of books and records, it is possible that Debtor KSMP could be subject to lawsuits not yet identified, and thus not included on **Exhibit A** to the Itkin Declaration or listed on the Schedules and Statements.

C. The Previous Extension of the Removal Deadline

On August 1, 2025, Debtor KSMP filed its first motion to extend the time to file notices of the removal of civil actions and proceedings through December 8, 2025 (the "<u>First Request</u>") [Dkt. No. 1972]. On August 26, 2025, the Court granted the First Request without prejudice to Debtor KSMP's right to seek additional extensions [Dkt. No. 2098].

D. The Need to Further Extend the Removal Deadline

Since the Court granted the First Request, the Responsible Individual has continued to confront critical tasks to preserve the estate and maximize value for unsecured creditors, including:

- 1. **Continuing to secure and assess assets** operating Debtor KSMP's properties, identifying tenants and collecting rents, securing and maintaining properties, identifying and communicating with co-owners, selecting property managers, and addressing issues arising in and from pending criminal proceedings.
- 2. **Preparing the estate for monetization** identifying secured lenders and their collateral, identifying and engaging brokers, marketing the property portfolio, engaging with potential buyers, negotiating purchase agreements (including 2 agreements currently in escrow), and obtaining approval of standardized sale procedures for the sale of real property assets.

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- 3. **Ensuring operational viability** obtaining liquidity through a debtor-in-possession financing facility and use of prepetition cash collateral and meeting Debtor KSMP's many ongoing reporting obligations (such as monthly operating reports, and reporting to the DIP lender).
- 4. **Identifying creditor claims** setting a bar date, reviewing and analyzing proofs of claim filed by creditors and investors and conducting diligence on the immense volume of supporting evidence provided by such claimants.
- 5. **Negotiating a plan** investigating and analyzing the appropriateness of substantive consolidation of the KSMP and LFM Debtors' estates, negotiating and filing (with the LFM Debtors and the Committee as joint plan proponents) a disclosure statement, chapter 11 plan of liquidation, and related procedures, and advancing proceedings to confirm that plan.
- 6. **Negotiating settlements** investigating secured lender claims and potential claims and defenses involving the same, mediating disputes and finalizing a settlement agreement with Socotra Capital that will generate millions of dollars in value for the estates through sales of Socotra collateral and a negotiated sharing formula, and negotiating potential settlements with other secured lenders and other claimants.

Given these demands, the Responsible Individual has not yet conducted the analysis necessary to determine whether removal of any Civil Action would benefit the estate. That analysis is less urgent in light of the automatic stay, which has essentially halted all of the Civil Actions. Accordingly, Debtor KSMP requires and requests additional time to make an informed decision on removal.

III. RELIEF REQUESTED

Debtor KSMP requests, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1452 and Bankruptcy Rules 9006(b) and 9027, the entry of an order (i) extending the deadline by which Debtor KSMP may file notices of removal for any action under Clause (A) of Bankruptcy Rule 9027(a)(2) through and including March 6, 2026, and (ii) granting related relief.

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IV. AUTHORITY FOR RELIEF REQUESTED

Section 1452 of title 28 of the United States Code provides for the removal of actions related to bankruptcy cases and provides that "[a] party may remove any claim or cause of action in a civil action . . . to the district court for the district where such civil action is pending, if such district court has jurisdiction of such claim or cause of action under section 1334 of this title." 28 U.S.C. § 1452(a).

Bankruptcy Rule 9027 sets forth the time periods for filing notices to remove claims or causes of action and provides, in pertinent part:

If the claim or cause of action in a civil action is pending when a case under the Code is commenced, a notice of removal may be filed only within the longest of (A) 90 days after the order for relief in the case under the Code, (B) 30 days after entry of an order terminating a stay, if the claim or cause of action in a civil action has been stayed under § 362 of the Code, or (C) 30 days after a trustee qualifies in a chapter 11 reorganization case but not later than 180 days after the order for relief.

Fed. R. Bankr. P. 9027(a)(2). Under Bankruptcy Rule 9006, where the request to enlarge time is "made before the expiration of the period originally prescribed[,]" the Court may enlarge the removal period "for cause shown . . . at any time in its discretion" Fed. R. Bankr. P. 9006(b)(1).

It is well-settled that this Court is authorized to extend, for cause, the removal period under 28 U.S.C. § 1452 and Bankruptcy Rule 9027. *See Pacor, Inc. v. Higgins*, 743 F.2d 984, 996 n.17 (3d Cir. 1984), *overruled on other grounds by Things Remembered, Inc. v. Petrarca*, 516 U.S. 124 (1995) (under the Bankruptcy Rules, "it is clear that the court may grant" an "extension of the time limit for removal"); *see also Caperton v. A.T. Massey Coal Co., Inc.*, 251 B.R. 322, 325 (S.D. W. Va. 2000) (explaining that Bankruptcy Rule 9006 provides authority to enlarge time periods for removing actions under Bankruptcy Rule 9027); *Raff v. Gordon*, 58 B.R. 988, 990 (E.D. Pa. 1986) (finding that an expansion of time to file notices of removal is authorized under the Bankruptcy Rules); *In re World Fin. Servs. Ctr., Inc.*, 81 B.R. 33, 39 (Bankr. S.D. Cal. 1987)

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(providing that the United States Supreme Court intended to give bankruptcy judges the power to enlarge the filing periods under Bankruptcy Rule 9027(a) pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 9006(b)).

The further extension sought will afford Debtor KSMP a reasonable amount of time to determine whether to remove any pending Civil Actions and will help to ensure that Debtor KSMP does not forfeit valuable rights under 28 U.S.C. § 1452. The proposed extension would have a minimal, if any, effect on the schedule for the Chapter 11 Cases, nor would it prejudice the rights of Debtor KSMP's adversaries, as any party to an action that is removed may seek to have the action remanded to state court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1452(b).

Debtor KSMP further requests that any order approving this Motion be without prejudice to any position it may take regarding whether section 362 of the Bankruptcy Code applies to stay any given Civil Action pending against it.

For the reasons stated above, Debtor KSMP submits that cause exists to grant the relief requested, and that the relief requested herein is appropriate and in the best interests of their estates, creditors, and all other parties' interests.

V. <u>RESERVATION OF RIGHTS</u>

Nothing contained herein shall be construed as (i) an admission as to the validity of any claim against Debtor KSMP, (ii) a waiver of Debtor KSMP's 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.

VI. NOTICE

Notice of this Motion will be provided to (i) the United States Trustee; (ii) Serene Investment Management, LLC, the DIP Lender; and (iii) those persons who have formally appeared in these Chapter 11 Cases and requested service pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 2002. Based on the circumstances surrounding this Motion and the nature of the relief requested herein, Debtor KSMP respectfully submits that no further notice is required.

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Exhibit A (Proposed Order)

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Richard L. Wynne (Bar No. 120349) 1 richard.wynne@hoganlovells.com Erin N. Brady (Bar No. 215038) 2 erin.brady@hoganlovells.com 3 Edward J. McNeilly (Bar No. 314588) edward.mcneilly@hoganlovells.com 4 HOGAN LOVELLS US LLP 1999 Avenue of the Stars, Suite 1400 5 Los Angeles, California 90067 Telephone: (310) 785-4600 6 Facsimile: (310) 785-4601 7 Attorneys for Debtor and Debtor in Possession 8 UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT 9 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA 10 SANTA ROSA DIVISION 11 12 Case No. 24-10545 CN (Lead Case) In re 13 LEFEVER MATTSON, a California (Jointly Administered) corporation, et al. 14 Chapter 11 Debtors.¹ 15 ORDER FURTHER EXTENDING THE In re 16 TIME FOR DEBTOR KSMP TO FILE KS MATTSON PARTNERS, LP, NOTICES OF REMOVAL OF RELATED 17 **PROCEEDINGS** Debtor. 18 19 Date: December 3, 2025 **Time:** 11:00 a.m. (Pacific Time) 20 **Place**: (In Person or Via Zoom) United States Bankruptcy Court 21 1300 Clay Street, Courtroom 215 Oakland, CA 94612 22 23 24 ¹ The last four digits of LeFever Mattson's tax identification number are 7537. The last four digits of the tax 25 identification number for KS Mattson Partners, LP ("KSMP") are 5060. KSMP's address for service is c/o Stapleton Group, 514 Via de la Valle, Solana Beach, CA 92075. The address for service on LeFever Mattson and all other 26 Debtors is 6359 Auburn Blvd., Suite B, Citrus Heights, CA 95621. 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 27 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. 28

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Upon the Motion (the "Motion"), of KS Mattson Partners, LP ("Debtor KSMP") in the Chapter 11 Cases, pursuant to Rules 9006(b) and 9027 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the "Bankruptcy Rules") and Rule 9006-1 of the Bankruptcy Local Rules for the Northern District of California (the "Bankruptcy Local Rules") for an extension of time for Debtor KSMP to file notices of removal of the Civil Actions to March 6, 2026; and this Court having jurisdiction to consider the Motion and the relief requested therein pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334, the Order Referring Bankruptcy Cases and Proceedings to Bankruptcy Judges, General Order 24 (N.D. Cal.), and Rule 5011-1(a) of the Bankruptcy Local Rules; and consideration of the Motion and the requested relief being a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b); and venue being proper before this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409; and the Court having found and determined that notice of the Motion as provided to the parties listed therein is reasonable and sufficient, and it appearing that no other or further notice need be provided; and this Court having reviewed the Motion and the Itkin Declaration; and this Court having determined that the legal and factual bases set forth in the Motion establish just cause for the relief granted herein; and it appearing that the relief requested in the Motion is in the best interests of Debtor KSMP, its estate, creditors, and all parties in interest; and upon all of the proceedings had before this Court and after due deliberation and sufficient cause having been shown;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

- 1. The Motion is granted.
- 2. The last day for Debtor KSMP to file notices of removal for any civil actions and proceedings under Clause (A) of Bankruptcy Rule 9027(a)(2) is extended through and including March 6, 2026.
- 3. Debtor KSMP is authorized to take all steps necessary or appropriate to carry out this Order.

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¹ Capitalized terms not otherwise herein defined shall have the meanings given to such terms in the Motion.

4. This Order shall be without prejudice to: (1) any position Debtor KSMP may take regarding whether section 362 of the Bankruptcy Code applies to stay any litigation pending against it and (2) Debtor KSMP's ability to seek further extensions to file notices of removal under Bankruptcy Rule 9027(a).

- 5. Notwithstanding the entry of this Order, nothing herein shall create, nor is it intended to create, any rights in favor of or enhance the status of any claim held by any party.
- 6. This Court shall retain jurisdiction to hear and determine all matters arising from or related to the implementation, interpretation, or enforcement of this Order.

** END OF ORDER **

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