IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

Supreme Court Case No. 78256 District Court Case No. CV 39348

Tonopah Solar Energy, LLC, *Petitioner* Electronically Filed Mar 06 2019 02:52 p.m. Elizabeth A. Brown Clerk of Supreme Court

v.

The Fifth Judicial District Court, State of Nevada, Nye County, and the Honorable Steven P. Elliott, Senior Judge, *Respondent*

and

Brahma Group, Inc., Real Party in Interest.

PETITIONER'S APPENDIX VOLUME 8

D. LEE ROBERTS, JR., ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 8877 COLBY L. BALKENBUSH, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 13066 RYAN T. GORMLEY, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 13494 WEINBERG, WHEELER, HUDGINS, GUNN & DIAL, LLC 6385 South Rainbow Blvd., Suite 400 Las Vegas, Nevada 89118 (702) 938-3838 <u>lroberts@wwhgd.com</u> <u>cbalkenbush@wwhgd.com</u>

> Attorneys for Petitioner Tonopah Solar Energy, LLC

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	Exhibit 4 – Notice of First Amended and Restated Lien	PA000048	1
	Exhibit 5 – Notice of Second Amended and Restated Lien	PA000058	1
	Exhibit 6 – Notice of Voluntary Dismissal Without Prejudice	PA000068	1
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NA	Docket for the Nye County special proceeding	PA000886	8
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Page 32 1 want to go there and pull it out. You know, it's not 2 all a straight line process that I understand right 3 away.

4 And I would assume that even though, you know, I don't compare my intellect to the ability of 5 the people at the table here, I'm sure that you 6 probably do that too, that, you know, we're going to 7 go down this line and see if there's something there, 8 9 and ultimately you find that might actually work against you if you did it, or it doesn't really 10 11 amount to anything and you want to pull it out.

12 Well, isn't that the case here? You know, 13 like, what you're arguing, well, if you reach a dead 14 end, as I understand your argument, that you 15 shouldn't be allowed to bill even though that was work that went, you know, toward, you know, getting 16 17 the best possible work product to the court. So is that -- am I correct in understanding what you're 18 19 telling me or am I not?

20 MR. ROBERTS: No, your Honor. I do believe 21 that, yeah, the court is right, we reach dead ends, 22 we do work on arguments ultimately we don't make. 23 But all that wrapped up together, we believe that 24 even including that type of exigent circumstance and 25 overlapping work and running down dead ends to give

1	Page 33 the court the best work product possible, that
2	206 hours on a single motion is still somewhat
3	unreasonable. And the court's applying a
4	reasonableness standard. And I would certainly
5	understand if you didn't reduce it by the full amount
6	we're requesting, but I do believe that the full
7	amount would be unreasonable for the court to grant.
8	THE COURT: All right. Thank you,
9	Mr. Roberts.
10	MR. ROBERTS: Thank you.
11	THE COURT: And then, Mr. Zimbelman?
12	MR. ZIMBELMAN: I just have two small
13	points, if I may.
14	THE COURT: Okay.
15	MR. ZIMBELMAN: One, on the order of
16	reassignment, I mean, my partner had a copy of the
17	order, and Mr. Roberts is correct that the order
18	states that the defendant then requested the matter
19	be heard before the senior judge, but before that it
20	says, and this is more in keeping with my own
21	recollection of events, "Both parties were present at
22	the hearing and indicated to the court that senior
23	judge Steven Elliott has familiarity with the parties
24	and the facts due to his involvement in a previous
25	case." All right, and we had that discussion, and it

Page 34 1 was my recollection that the parties agreed that that 2 would be an appropriate reassignment and to bring the 3 case to your Honor who has familiarity and it's a 4 good place to be. Frankly, Judge Lane, he was relieved to be able to pass the case on to you. 5 6 So on that, you know, yeah, do we ask? Ι But my recollection it was a joint request. 7 quess. In any event, my bigger point is this: Mr. Roberts 8 9 sort of made this argument about a standard of care 10 analysis that equals reasonableness, and I think that 11 that's an inappropriate analogy. You can be barely 12 adequate and not violate the standard of care, right? 13 Attorneys do moderately poor work all the time that doesn't meet the standard of care argument in a 14 15 malpractice case. But engaging in not malpractice is not the same thing as doing excellent work, all 16 right? And that's what we're asking for. 17 That's what we feel that we did, and that's what we feel is 18 19 an appropriate award. Thank you. 20 THE COURT: All right. Thank you very much. 21 Well, you know, I certainly want to give 2.2 Tonopah Solar its, you know, due credit for

23 challenging, you know, what does seem like a pretty 24 high bill for something that's not a week long trial 25 or something where you would expect a very large

Page 35 1 bill. But on the other hand I can understand that 2 for the Brahma Group, it certainly didn't want to 3 lose, you know, the -- basically I guess you call it 4 the security interest that it would have in its 5 almost \$13 million claim.

6 And, you know, they hired, you know, topnotch attorneys, just as Tonopah Solar, you know, 7 8 and you guys are, you know, the best of the best. 9 You're right up there with the best attorneys in the 10 state, without doubt. And one expects that, you 11 know, the work product is a little more than what you 12 usually see in your typical case, which was kind of 13 family law, personal injury, you know, some criminal casework, you know, just the routine work. 14 This is a 15 higher level and you had a lot more at stake, and the 16 clients expect, you know, the brain power of a couple really topnotch firms to do it. 17

I was in a case where I believe it was the firm Gordon Silver was involved, and they had a couple of attorneys there that were beyond the 425 level, but, you know, they had a statewide, if not regional or national reputation, and they can charge a lot.

And I don't have any problem with the three partners billing, you know, at 375 to 425. Mr. Cox,

1	Page 36 the associate, at 350, you know, it's asserted that
2	he's almost at the level of a partner and he has
3	worked there, you know, a number of years. And I'm
4	not so sure that, you know, he's not like, you know,
5	entry level guy. You know, he's well beyond that. I
6	don't think that those fees are unjust, given, you
7	know, who these people are and, you know, a
8	substantial firm here in a big city.
9	Going through the factors that I would need
10	to look at in the Brunzell factors, you need to look
11	at the advocate's qualities, including ability,
12	training, education, experience, professional
13	standing, and skill. There is no doubt that when you
14	look at Mr. Peel, you know, he's very well
15	experienced in, you know, understands these
16	construction liens as well as anybody in the state,
17	and, you know, the firm would undoubtedly, you know,
18	be topnotch in all these areas.
19	The character of the work, the difficulty,
20	intricacy, importance. We've gone over the
21	importance to the client. This is, you know, upwards
22	of a \$13 million claim. You know, this isn't, you
23	know, fighting over \$30,000 as we often do in court.
24	You know, there's a lot at stake, and it was, you
25	know, very difficult for me to figure it out, and,

1	Page 37 you know, I had the benefit of all your briefing too,
2	you know, to guide me to a just and appropriate
3	decision I suppose, but it was very hard for me to do
4	it. You know, it's not subject matter that I would
5	work, or any typical judge would work on on a normal
6	basis. So I did find that it was very difficult and,
7	you know, many different things that had to be
8	attacked.
9	And the next one is the work performed,
10	including the skill, time, and attention given to the
11	work. And obviously a lot time and attention was
12	given to this work. And the result was that the
13	attorneys for the Brahma Group ultimately became
14	persuasive, in my opinion. My superiors might have a
15	different opinion, that's always the possibility
16	here, but it looked good to me.
17	So in the end I guess I, you know, don't
18	really have a big problem with the 206.9 hours which
19	I think is what was requested of the billing, you
20	know, that many hours coming up to \$78,417.34. You
21	know, while it is a lot of money, a lot work went
22	into this, a lot of time.
23	And even though maybe you'd come to court
24	with Judge Lane and you have a continuance, that's
25	pretty normal too in the course of litigation, you

1	Page 38 know, very common. I often felt like, you know,
2	we're running a snowplow, you know, and cases that
3	get continued are the snow that's in front of this
4	plow and you're trying to get it out of there, but
5	sometimes it keeps building up and up and you can't
6	get the case going for good reason, but still it
7	happens that you can't always be fully prepared and
8	have a hearing as timely as we'd like.
9	Anyway, I feel that under the Brunzell
10	factors, the time and the dollars attributed to that
11	time are appropriate, so I am going to grant the
12	Brahma Group's motion for attorney's fees and costs.
13	And I'm wondering, you know, you're talking about the
14	amount of money for presenting the attorney's fees
15	and costs and coming here today to have the hearing
16	on it, and I think I basically need to have another,
17	you know, amount of money that, you know, something
18	in writing more than, well, I think it's going to be
19	7,000
20	MR. ZIMBELMAN: That's fair.
21	THE COURT: but you don't really know
22	that yet. So I don't want to have another hearing on
23	that, but you'll have to submit something in writing.
24	MR. ZIMBELMAN: Well, perhaps the court
25	would make an award up through the I guess up

1	Page 39 through the amount that we submitted initially, and I
2	would be prepared to prepare a supplemental
3	declaration, run it by Mr. Reports. Maybe we can
4	even agree on the amount on those dollars.
5	THE COURT: Is that acceptable?
6	MR. ROBERTS: Yes, reserving our objection
7	to the ruling, I believe we can, in light of your
8	ruling today, reach a stipulation as to the amount of
9	additional fees which should be awarded.
10	THE COURT: Okay. We'll just do that.
11	Then why don't we take a recess before we
12	pick up something else.
13	MR. ZIMBELMAN: So is the court awarding
14	then the dollar amount that we put in the motion
15	plus
16	THE COURT: I accept that, yes. I think
17	it's justified based on all the Brunzell factors.
18	MR. ZIMBELMAN: Okay. So if I prepare the
19	order, it would say something like, "I'm going to
20	grant the fees requested in that dollar amount plus
21	additional sums to be submitted to the court or
22	agreed upon by the parties"?
23	THE COURT: Yes. And maybe by the time you
24	draft that order, you'll have the
25	MR. ZIMBELMAN: Hopefully we can agree.

Page 40 1 Yeah. Thank you, your Honor. 2 THE COURT: Okay. Court will stand in 3 recess. 4 (A recess was taken.) THE COURT: You may be seated. 5 If I understand this correctly, the next matter would be 6 Tonopah Solar Energy's motion to strike, to dismiss 7 8 and/or to stay. So, Mr. Roberts, maybe you could 9 explain what's going on with this one. MR. ROBERTS: I'll do my best, your Honor. 10 11 I think maybe the easiest way to attack this is to 12 first try to simplify the procedural posture of the 13 case to the relevant factors to our motion. And it. is a complicated procedural history, as we just 14 discussed in the last motion. 15 The court recalled that there was a 16 complaint filed in Nye County to foreclose on the 17 lien. And in the last hearing counsel for Brahma 18 mentioned that there is a mandatory mediation clause 19 20 where the parties are supposed to mediate before 21 legal action can be filed, and that's why the case 2.2 was dismissed. And that's certainly true, but it's 23 also true that the lien statute says that you cannot 24 move to foreclose, you cannot file an action to 25 foreclose on your lien until 30 day after you file

Page 41 1 it. And that first action was filed within that 2 30-day period and was improper on that grounds too. 3 So upon our demand they did dismiss that first 4 action.

5 So at the time that we filed our motion to expunge, there was no legal proceeding. There was no 6 7 civil action into which we could file our motion to expunge under NRS 108. And as they pointed out, we 8 9 agree that if there is a complaint initiating a legal 10 action to foreclose, you can bring a statutory motion 11 to expunde in that proceeding, and that's expressly 12 allowed by the statute. But there's nothing in the statute that says you can bring a complaint, a civil 13 action in a special proceeding to expunge a lien 14 15 under NRS 108, which is the flip side, which is what they've done here. 16

17 Going back to the procedural posture. We filed the motion to expunge, which the court just 18 19 ruled upon, and the court's granted fees. It's our 20 position that that special action which was initiated 21 by filing a motion, terminates this proceeding as 22 soon as the court rules on the motion to expunge and 23 deals with the attorney's fees. So upon signing the 24 order for attorney's fees, your job will be done and 25 this special proceedings will be terminated and

Page 42 1 there's nothing else that can be done in this special 2 proceeding.

3 So after we file the motion to expunge here, 4 as the property's located here, Brahma filed a They did not file it in Nye 5 complain against us. County. They did not attempt to file it in this 6 They initiated it by filing a complaint, 7 court. 8 which is the appropriate way to initiate a civil action in Nevada. We removed that complaint to 9 federal court based on diversity. The federal court 10 11 has not remanded that case. They've not filed a 12 motion to remand that case. Instead, without leave 13 of court, we're not arguing they needed it, but without leave of court they dismissed the contract 14 causes of action in federal court leaving only an 15 unjust enrichment claim, and then they refiled those 16 17 contract causes of action in this special proceeding, not by initiating a complaint but by something called 18 19 a countercomplaint.

20 So that leaves us with several arguments 21 that we want to present here today. And the first 22 one is a motion to dismiss, and we believe that may 23 be the simplest way to deal with this because there 24 is very clear Nevada precedent that what they have 25 done in order to avoid federal court jurisdiction

Page 43 over their claims is procedurally simply not allowed under both the Nevada rules of Civil Procedure and binding Nevada precedent, precedent that's binding on this court.

And I would draw the court's attention to 5 Smith V Eighth Judicial District Court, 113 Nev. 6 7 1343, 950 P.2d 280, a 1997 supreme court case. Now, in that case the lawyer filed a cross-claim, and the 8 title of the pleading said "cross-claim." And the 9 supreme court found that that cross-claim should have 10 11 been dismissed by the trial court because it was not 12 a proper pleading.

13 Now, under the Nevada rules, you can assert a cross-claim in a pleading, but a cross-claim is not 14 a pleading. And the supreme court cited to NRCP 7A 15 which states, There shall be a complaint and an 16 answer, a reply to a counterclaim denominated as 17 such, an answer to cross-claim, if the answer 18 contains a cross-claim, a third-party complaint, if a 19 20 person who is not an original party is summoned under 21 the provisions of Rule 14, and a third-party answer 22 if a third-party complaint is served. And then the 23 court, the supreme court emphasized by putting in italics the following portion of Rule 7A, "No other 24 25 pleading shall be allowed, except that a court may

1	Page 44 order a reply to an answer or a third-party answer."
2	So explaining this, the court, citing the
3	Black's Law dictionary says, "A claim is not a
4	pleading, a demand as of one's own or as one's right.
5	Such a demand to be legally recognizable must be
6	asserted in a pleading. Counterclaims and
7	cross-claims are types of claims, not types of
8	pleadings." So in that case the cross-claim was
9	struck.
10	How does that apply to this case? Under
11	Rule 3, a civil action is commenced by filing a
12	complaint with the court. That's how you commence a
13	civil action. No complaint has been filed in this
14	special proceeding, and it is not a civil action
15	because it was not initiated by the filing of a
16	complaint. The document through which they asserted
17	their claims is denominated a countercomplaint.
18	Well, if you look at the list I just read you under
19	NRCP 75A, a countercomplaint is not one of the
20	pleadings allowed by Nevada law. There is no such
21	animal.
22	And under Smith they've instructed trial
23	courts when you have rogue pleadings that are filed,
24	pleadings that are not authorized by the rules of
25	civil procedure, the appropriate thing to do is to

1 strike them. So that is what we contend this court 2 should do, it should strike the countercomplaint as a 3 rogue pleading not allowed by the rules of civil 4 procedure, and that's the end of our motion, the 5 court does not have to deal with any other issue here 6 today.

But let's assume what they argue, it's a 7 notice pleading state and we're being too strict. 8 9 Well, your Honor, that same type of argument was addressed in Smith. And what Smith said is that 10 11 pleadings are liberally construed under the notice 12 pleading standard. That doesn't mean that you can 13 file something that is not an allowed pleading. You can't liberally construe something that's not a 14 15 pleading allowed by the rules.

16 The argument under NRS 108, you know, the expressio est unius I think was the old Latin they 17 used to teach us, but when the legislature said you 18 can file a special -- you can file a motion to 19 20 expunge in a civil action that's already been 21 initiated, and they don't say you can file a motion 22 to foreclose in a special action, when you say one 23 and not the other, the court can infer an intent to 24 exclude it. And NRS 108 would have had to expressly 25 allow this because otherwise this type of pleading is

1	Page 46
	not allowed by the rules of civil procedure.
2	So why try to file it in this action? Why
3	try to file it as a countercomplaint rather than a
4	complaint? Because had it been filed as a complaint,
5	we could have simply removed once again to federal
6	court, and they were trying to prevent that. Which
7	leads us to our second argument, which I believe is
8	just as strong, even though the court does not have
9	to reach it, and that is that they chose to file
10	these contract causes of action in a separate
11	proceeding in Clark County. We believe they chose to
12	do that because the contract sets venue in Clark
13	County.
14	Now, whether that's permissive or simply a
15	consent to jurisdiction doesn't matter. They read

the contract and they filed that action in Clark 16 County after this lien hearing, after this motion to 17 expunge had been filed and was still pending here 18 before this court, they filed a separate complaint on 19 20 the contract in Clark County in accordance with the 21 venue provisions of the contract. It was that 22 separate complaint that they chose to file as a separate proceeding which we removed to federal 23 24 court.

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And under the case law, the very strong case

Page 47 1 law we've cited, once we've removed that proceeding, 2 and Judge Gonzalez was assigned to the Eighth 3 Judicial District, once we removed that to federal 4 court, the federal court had jurisdiction over those claims and they can voluntarily dismiss those claims 5 if they want to, that's their right, but what the 6 case law says is the entire courts of the state of 7 Nevada lose jurisdiction over those claims once 8 9 they're removed to federal court because the court, federal court now has jurisdiction. So this court 10 11 does not have jurisdiction over the claims set forth 12 in the countercomplaint because they are 13 substantially the same claims which we removed to federal court. And the federal court now has 14 15 jurisdiction, and the only way they can get those claims back to state court is to file a motion for 16 remand, which they did not do. 17

So this court has absolutely no jurisdiction 18 19 to proceed with the claims set forth in the 20 countercomplaint. Exclusive jurisdiction lies with 21 Judge Boulware up in the federal court. And, your 22 Honor, we have moved to stay this case under the arguments that the federal court has jurisdiction and 23 should not allow their jurisdiction to be subverted 24 25 and avoided through this procedural practice which

1 they have chosen here. 2 And that leads us to our final argument. Ιf 3 the court is not satisfied that it's a roque pleading 4 and should be stricken, if the court is not yet convinced that the federal court has taken 5 jurisdiction and wants to and will keep it, then the 6 court can simply stay and see what the federal court 7 does, because Brahma has filed a motion to stay 8 9 discovery in that proceeding, and we believe that the federal court is going to proceed, because the court 10 11 has given a hint. 12 We compete -- we submitted competing 13 scheduling orders. Under the Brahma scheduling order in federal court, discovery would not begin, and 14 15 under ours it would begin. And the court has signed our scheduling order authorizing discovery to 16 proceed, and we believe that is an indication that 17 18 the court is going to proceed with it. 19 And Judge Boulware himself has adjudicated 20 mechanic lien actions, although the federal court has 21 jurisdiction and can adjudicate a lien action 2.2 anywhere in the state of Georgia (sic). If you remember the divisions are informal, so the federal 23 24 courts, whether northern or southern division, have

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jurisdiction of the entire state, but I would point

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Page 48

Page 49 1 out --2 MR. PEEL: Nevada. 3 MR. ROBERTS: Excuse me. What did I say? 4 MR. PEEL: Georgia. You know, I've been out of 5 MR. ROBERTS: 6 Georgia -- I've been out of Georgia for 19 years, 7 your Honor, and I --8 MR. ZIMBELMAN: It's a novel argument. I was like, well, I'm in the 9 MR. DOMINA: wrong court and I don't know Georgia law. 10 11 MR. ROBERTS: But I was just there over the 12 weekend. I went to a nice Christmas party. 13 THE COURT: Mr. Roberts, I think you're 14 saying it, but just so I understand it, and if I 15 understand it wrong let me know, but when a case is removed to the federal court under the diversity of 16 jurisdiction, because I think the deal is that 17 18 Tonopah Solar Energy is a Delaware corporation, and 19 the Brahma Group is a Nevada corporation, so you have the diversity and they might take it, but they might 20 21 not. 2.2 Can't -- I mean, you said the judge is 23 hinting that he'll take it, but diversity cases, 24 while, you know, you have the right to, you know, 25 kind of get some sort of a stay or, you know,

1	Page 50 whatever is removed probably has to be stayed, but
2	the court often kicks those things out. Isn't that
3	what can ultimately happen is they said we don't
4	think this is, you know, should be heard by us. You
5	know, the state court is the better forum and you're
6	out. They don't just have to take it, right.

7 MR. ROBERTS: I believe they do, your Honor. And I'm glad you asked for clarification, because 8 Brahma's initiated this action in Clark County. We 9 removed to federal court. The only way to get those 10 11 cases out of federal court is to remand them to state 12 court. That's the only way that the state court can 13 be reinvested with jurisdiction to hear those claims, and they haven't even moved to remand. 14

So I believe that while the -- I suppose the 15 federal court could choose not to proceed with 16 17 claims, they can't proceed anywhere else because jurisdiction is divested. This court has not 18 jurisdiction to even consider claims that have been 19 20 properly removed to federal court. And it would 21 completely gut the whole purpose of removal, right? 22 As you know, removal is automatic. It doesn't have 23 to be removed on by any judge. As soon as you file 24 the pleading, it's up there until the court remands 25 it or dismisses it.

Page 51 We filed removal. If you could simply 1 2 dismiss your claims after removal and refile them in 3 another county, well, removal wouldn't work at all in accordance with the federal scheme. 4 THE COURT: Well, I just have had experience 5 6 with, you know, the diversity, removal, having federal court kick them back out, you know. It's not 7 8 a sure thing. 9 MR. ROBERTS: And which is why we've given 10 the court the option to stay to see what the court 11 does. But right now the case that these claims were 12 originally filed in is sitting up with Judge Boulware in federal court and he hasn't chosen not to proceed, 13 and he hasn't dismissed it, and we hasn't remanded 14 15 it. 16 So if the court has any doubt, you can stay this case and see what Judge Boulware does to see if 17 that impacts your decision to see if he throws it 18 19 out, to see if he grants a motion to remand, if one 20 can still be filed. But at this point the court 21 simply cannot proceed with this action while the 2.2 removed claims are in federal court. 23 THE COURT: And you're saying that really all the claims that were initially removed to federal 24 25 court would really be, you know, stuck in that, the

Page 52 federal jurisdiction, even if they're now dismissed 1 2 by --3 MR. ROBERTS: Yes. You cannot avoid removal 4 by dismissing your claims and then re-filing again in state court. It's just we've cited three very strong 5 cases that say this would completely destroy the 6 authority or the removal, the right to remove if you 7 could simply, instead of moving to remand, dismiss 8 and refile again in state court. It makes no sense 9 that you could do that, your Honor. 10 11 THE COURT: Okay. You can proceed. 12 MR. ROBERTS: Actually, your Honor, that 13 concludes my argument. You know, we've cited case law to the court. We've cited three cases that very 14 15 strongly say that when you remove a case to federal 16 court, not only does the actual state court you removed from lose jurisdiction, but every state court 17 in the state loses jurisdiction over those removed 18 19 claims. And in response they have cited no authority 20 to the contrary. None. 21 And while we believe this is a very strong 2.2 argument, and you would be invading the province of 23 the federal court if you chose to proceed in any way with this proceeding, the court never has to get 24 25 their because under Smith versus Eighth Judicial

1	Page 53 District it's clear what you have to do. This is not
2	a pleading. There is no countercomplaint under
3	Nevada law. It's not a pleading. And the court can
4	simply dismiss it under clear Nevada precedent and
5	avoid dealing with all of this complex federal, state
6	jurisdiction morass. Thank you, your Honor.
7	THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Roberts.
8	MR. DOMINA: Good afternoon, your Honor.
9	May I approach the lecture?
10	THE COURT: Yes, certainly.
11	MR. DOMINA: Your Honor, I will apologize in
12	advance. I know that my there's a lot of moving
13	parts in this particular motion, three separate
14	motions in essence that I'm opposing, and so I know
15	that my oral argument is going to go a little bit
16	longer, so I apologize in advance, but hopefully I
17	don't go too far into the lunch hour. Is that
18	acceptable?
19	THE COURT: I'm not worried about it. We
20	are going to take a lunch break. I think we probably
21	will do that but I'm not starving here.
22	MR. DOMINA: Very good.
23	THE COURT: I'm good.
24	Please introduce yourself.
25	MR. DOMINA: Sure, your Honor. Cary Domina

Page 54 1 representing Brahma Group, Inc. And, your Honor, 2 TSE's objective currently, and it's clear as day, 3 they want to fight Brahma in federal court on 4 Brahma's contract claims where they're seeking approximately \$13 million, much of which is owed to 5 Brahma's lower tiered subcontractors and suppliers on 6 the project because they know that that's going to 7 8 take years to get through that, and in the meantime 9 they want your Honor to stay Brahma's bond claim action, foreclosure action on the bond claim here in 10 11 Nye County.

12 And the reason why they want to do that is 13 because there are certain rights that come with a 14 mechanics lien bond claim. For instance, you have 15 the right to pursue attorney's fees and costs, interest as well. You have the right to pursue a 16 17 mechanics lien or a demand for preferential trial setting, which would take their two-year timeframe, 18 19 give or take, in federal court and truncate it down 20 to about 60 days. And so these are -- this is really 21 what they want.

They don't want to be in front of your Honor. They've already had kind of an adverse ruling by your Honor on the motion to expunge, but they want to be in federal court because it is a slow process

Page 55 1 up there. It used to be that you could get things 2 done there, but it is very slow and they know that 3 and they're banking on that because every day that 4 goes by that they don't pay Brahma is money saved. They're making money on interest, they're not having 5 to pay that money out, and so that's their real 6 objective. 7 But because Brahma's claims in this action 8 and the federal action arise out of the same 9 transaction and occurrence, a single judge should 10 11 decide the entire case. We shouldn't be piecemealing 12 this, a little bit in federal court, a little in 13 state court. But the problem with that, to say that you want to have one judge decide the entire case, 14 you have to look and say, well, what courts do we 15 have? Well, this court is a court of general 16 17 jurisdiction, meaning this court can hear anything 18 for the most part that comes to it. The federal court is not. The federal court 19 20 is a court of limited jurisdiction and it can only 21 hear cases where it has, where it has specific 2.2 statutory authorization to do so. One example would 23 be diversity. But, remember, we have to have 24 diversity, complete diversity among all the parties

25 in order to be in federal court.

Page 56 Another issue would be if there's a federal question before the court. We don't have that. There's no question that -- there's no federal question or no federal issue involved in this case. So the only way that this is in front of the federal court is based on diversity jurisdiction.

7 Now, what they want to say is, well, why can't we just stay the case here. Why can't we stay 8 9 the bond claim. I already pointed out some of the problems with that. That means we lose our right to 10 11 demand a preferential trial setting, we lose our 12 attorney's fees claim. A judge there, even if we're 13 able to get a judgment in federal court, isn't going to be able to award attorney's fees and costs under a 14 15 bond claim that's over here in Nye County that's been 16 stayed, so there's a lot problems with it.

17 Mr. Domina, I'm just trying to, THE COURT: you know, understand this. But the bond claim, you 18 know, a lot was made about the bond claim, and 19 20 certainly I'm sympathetic that, you know, we should 21 be able to proceed on the bond claim, but I don't 2.2 understand if the bond claim was somehow caught up in 23 the Clark County claims that were then, you know, 24 removed to federal court, wasn't that not in Clark 25 County?

1	Page 57 MR. DOMINA: Right. Correct. It's not. It
2	was not filed. And I will, with the court's
3	indulgence, I'd like to spend a few minutes going
4	through some of the facts because opposing counsel
5	did go through some of the facts but omitted many of
6	them, and I think there's some gaps here. So I'd
7	like to spend some time to go through the facts so
8	that this court is aware completely of the procedural
9	posture of the case, why we are where we're at right
10	now. And so this is as good a time to do that as
11	any, but I kind of go back to my the line of
12	thinking that I was in just moments ago, that is this
13	is the court that should hear the entire case. Now,
14	I'm not asking you to make that decision today
15	because, frankly, I don't think you can, but I want
16	to tell you the reasons why we think it's important
17	for this court to hear the case.
18	Number one, the work of improvement was done

10 In Nye County. The Tonopah solar project is in Nye
20 County. All of the contracts that are the subject of
21 the dispute, and this includes the H & E contract
22 between Brahma and H & E, are performed in Nye
23 County. We have the liens that Brahma and H & E
24 recorded were recorded with the Nye County recorder's
25 office. The bonds that Cobra and TSE procured to

Page 58 release the liens from the project, those are 1 recorded with the Clark County recorder's office. 2 3 And also very importantly is your presence 4 on this case, your Honor. Your already have some background information about the case. A few years 5 ago you presided over the litigation that involved 6 another one of our clients. You've had extensive 7 knowledge of this case. You've already decided a 8 9 dispositive issue in this case, and so to send it up to the federal court now and have them hear 10 everything, one, it's not even feasible because you 11 12 have nondiverse parties that can't get there. Cobra 13 is a Nevada corporation. Well, so is Brahma. So you can't have nondiverse parties up there. 14 15 Interestingly H & E is a Delaware 16 corporation. Well, guess what, so is TSE. Not a nondiverse party. So there will be no way that the 17 federal court will be able to grab the entire case 18 and hear it all in federal court. And the only way 19 20 to have it in one court is to be back here in front 21 of your Honor. 2.2 THE COURT: Well, maybe I should say this: 23 That I'm very sympathetic to the position that Brahma Group has here. And, you know, to bring another 24 25 analogy out, a personal injury lawyer whose ad on TV

Page 59 was, you know, this is the way insurance companies 1 2 work: Delay, deny, don't pay. Well, I can somewhat 3 see what's going on with this, and I could kind of 4 see that Tonopah Solar is in that mode. And while, yeah, we should have all of this, 5 6 you know, here at the state court here in Nye County, everything could be, you know, handled just fine, I 7 8 would say that's the most expeditious way, but on the 9 other hand Tonopah Solar Energy has the right to, you know, take this up to federal court if they're within 10 the law. And you might look at that as delay, deny, 11 12 don't pay, but unfortunately it's not, you know, it's 13 not a question of what is the right thing to do, but what is the lawful thing to do. 14 15 So, you know, I can't just be acting because 16 this is helpful to, you know, the most expeditiously, do the cheapest way possible, that, you know, get rid 17 18 of the case in an appropriate manner, you know, the

19 other side has the right to exercise their lawful 20 rights here.

21 MR. DOMINA: Absolutely. Understood. And, 22 your Honor, again, I don't bring this out to try to 23 convince you today that, oh, you're going to somehow 24 go and bring what's in federal court back down. We 25 know that that can't happen. But we did do

Page 60 1 something. Opposing counsel made a misstatement. He 2 said the only way for the case that's currently in 3 front of the federal court to come back here is on 4 remand. And that's not technically true.

We have filed what's call a Colorado River 5 Doctrine stay in federal court. And what that does 6 is basically it asked the federal court to look at 7 8 the case and looked at -- you've got a state court 9 case that's parallel with the federal court case. 10 And if it's there on diversity only, the federal 11 court says, look, I don't really have an expertise in 12 this issue. This is construction litigation. It's 13 here on diversity only. I don't have a federal 14 question that I'm going to be resolving. And so my 15 docket is completely full. I really don't want this 16 It's going on already in a parallel fashion in case. state court. There appears to be a senior judge 17 18 who's been assigned to the case specifically for this 19 purpose. Why on earth would I burden my docket and 20 either piecemeal this case, because, again, they 21 cannot -- the federal court will never have 22 jurisdiction over our bond claim, and those are 23 claims that we're going to pursue and we have 24 specific rights under those.

And so it really comes down to we believe

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1	Page 61 that the federal court will, in fact, entertain our
2	Colorado River motion. We didn't brief it for your
3	Honor's purpose, because of course it wasn't an issue
4	that your Honor has to decide, but I found no less
5	than four cases in the U.S. District Court of Nevada
6	where Colorado River was granted on very similar
7	facts to what we have here. And so we feel strong
8	that that's what's going to happen.
9	What they end up doing is staying the case
10	and kind of giving the opportunity for the state
11	court action to go in earnest, and you basically
12	litigate it, and once it's resolved then the federal
13	court looks to see if there's any remaining claim
14	that didn't get worked out. If so, maybe they handle
15	them, but most of the time it gets worked out and
16	that case is then terminated, dismissed or
17	what-have-you. So that's what we believe will
18	happen. And the same arguments that I made to you
19	about the reasons why it should stay here were I
20	think compelling arguments that we made in that
21	brief.
22	But let me get to the facts. These are the
23	important matters that your Honor needs to know so
24	that you know why it is we filed the Clark County

25 action and you know why it is we're in kind of the

1	Page 62 situation we're in. First of all, because TSE failed
2	to pay Brahma in full for the work that it provided,
3	it recorded its original lien on the project on
4	April 9th of 2018. I'm going to kind of omit the
5	year because everything happened in 2018. So going
6	forward I'll just cite the date, assuming that it's
7	all 2018.
8	About a week after Brahma recorded that
9	lien, it filed then a complaint to foreclose against
10	that lien in Nye County. Now, that complaint only
11	had a cause of action for foreclosure. There was no
12	other cause of action with it. And as opposing
13	counsel mentioned, immediately after that they sent a
14	demand letter to Brahma's attorneys at the time, it
15	wasn't our firm, and that was on April 19th, and the
16	letter said basically, look, you need to you need
17	to, number one, expunge your lien; and two, we want
18	you to dismiss your complaint because you have to
19	engage in mandatory mediation, and we think it's
20	improper under the mechanics lien statute. So it
21	also said if you don't do that, if you don't expunge
22	the lien, we're going to file a motion to expunge the
23	lien if you don't do it voluntarily.
24	So on April 24th, TSE was true to its word
25	and it filed its first motion to expunge in that case

Page 63 that had been initiated. But before Brahma could 1 2 receive the motion to expunge, and not wanting to engage in protracted motion practice about whether 3 4 the complaint was ripe, they decided that they would voluntarily dismiss that complaint without prejudice, 5 but they didn't discharge the lien. And so even 6 7 though TSE had officially appeared in that action by filing its motion to expunge, and that Brahma had not 8 released its lien at the time, they made the decision 9 10 to withdraw their motion to expunge out of that case 11 and, you know, the parties kind of went their way for 12 a little bit.

13 And then on May 15th, H & E, who is one of 14 Brahma's suppliers on the project and is owed money, 15 is claiming money and is actually here today, a representative is here today, and they, of course, 16 have their motion pending to intervene because they 17 too believe this is the right forum to pursue their 18 bond claim and contract claims, but on May 15th they 19 20 recorded their lien with the Nye County recorder's 21 office.

And on June 8th TSE filed a motion to expunge that lien in the case, or in an independent case they filed their motion to expunge, and that case was assigned to judge, and I hope I don't mess

1 up her name, is it Wanker? Judge Wanker. But later
2 TSE withdrew that petition. So you have these two
3 cases that are kind of dead in Nye County, they're
4 just sitting there, but, again, it's always TSE
5 trying to avail itself by filing these motions to
6 expunge.

Now, September is -- forward a bit. 7 On September 6th H & E required Cobra, who was the 8 general contractor on the project, and I think your 9 Honor will recall the litigation a few years ago 10 11 involving Cobra, but Cobra was required to procure a 12 mechanics lien release bond to release the lien, 13 H & E's lien from the project. And so on June 1st TSE then commenced this very action seeking to 14 15 expunge Brahma's lien.

Again the case was originally assigned to 16 17 Judge Lane, but on August 14th he entered an order of 18 reassignment assigning the case to your Honor because 19 the parties again presented themselves and recognized 20 that your Honor had experience and that this was 21 going to need to go to a senior judge, and they --2.2 whether it was our firm or both firms that collaborated, it was decided that the case would be 23 24 assigned to your Honor.

Now, Brahma's lien was then amended and

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Page 65 restated on several occasions and ultimately was 1 2 increased to approximately 13 million. The actual 3 number is 12,859,577, and that's by way of their 4 fourth amended lien which was recorded in Nye County. At the hearing on the motion to expunge, 5 which was held on September 12th, your Honor of 6 course denied TSE's motion to expunge Brahma's lien. 7 Now, this is where we kind of get into the 8 facts of well, why -- how did we end up in Clark 9 County. Now, based on a mistake in understanding or 10 11 belief that section 24 of the contract between Brahma 12 and TSE required Brahma to pursue its contract base 13 claims in Clark County, and after Richard Peel reached out to TSE and asked if there was a way that 14 15 they would stipulate that we could file the action in 16 one location, be it Nye County, Clark County, 17 wherever, but that there would be one judge to handle the entire case, and TSE rejected that. 18 TSE never got back to us and then ultimately said, well, our 19 20 client isn't going to agree to that, do what you want 21 to do. So based on that understanding, and Brahma's 2.2 belief that they were dealing with a mandatory forum selection clause, Brahma filed a complaint in Clark 23 24 County on July 17, 2018 in the Eighth Judicial Court 25 of Nevada.

Page 66 Shortly after that, on September 10, TSE 1 2 then removed the Clark County action to the federal 3 court based on diversity jurisdiction only, as again 4 TSE's Delaware and Brahma is a Nevada corporation. Now, it's important to note that they did not -- TSE 5 did not remove any portion of the Nye County action 6 or attempt to do anything in Nye County with respect 7 to claims being removed, and they still haven't, 8 9 being removed to the federal court. It was solely the contract claims that were asserted -- there's 10 11 three of them -- breach of contract, breach of 12 implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing, and then NRS 624, which isn't really a contract but it 13 14 has to do with the prompt pay act of Nevada. 15 So on September 17th, TSE then filed its answer and its counterclaim against Brahma in the 16 17 federal court action where it stated, or where it brought -- asserted basically counterclaims of breach 18 of contract, and it also asserted other state law 19 20 claims, such as fraudulent and negligent 21 misrepresentation. 2.2 Now, on September 21st, and as required by NRS 108.239, subsection 1, Brahma filed its complaint 23 24 to foreclose its lien here in Nye County and filed it 25 in the action that TSE had already commenced

Page 67 regarding the motion to expunge. 1 The case had 2 already been commenced. Brahma filed a foreclosure 3 action, and that's how it was titled. The initial 4 complaint was entitled Brahma Group, Inc.'s Mechanics 5 Lien Foreclosure Complaint, and it included a single foreclosure action because at that time TSE and Cobra 6 7 had not bonded around Brahma's lien. TSE and Cobra hadn't bonded around the lien. 8

9 Now, after Brahma had filed its complaint to 10 foreclose, TSE then recorded with the Nye County's 11 office, or recorder's office a mechanics lien release 12 bond, which at the time was only one and a half times 13 the amount of Brahma's original lien, but keep in mind Brahma had amended its claim, its lien, several 14 times, and so it fell short of what it needed to be, 15 which is one and a half times the fourth amended 16 lien. 17

So because that bond had been recorded, on 18 September 25th, 2018, Brahma then filed its first 19 20 amended complaint, which it admittedly inartfully 21 called a first amended countercomplaint where it then asserted its contract claims against TSE and claims 2.2 against the mechanics lien release bond that Cobra 23 24 and TSE had procured, but it did not dismiss at that 25 time its foreclosure action against the property,

Page 68 against its lien on the property because the bond was not sufficient to cover the full lien amount and so it was under-collateralized. And so they basically had two different foreclosure actions, one against the real property, or the work improvement I should say, and one against the bond.

Now, because this bond was insufficient to 7 secure Brahma's lien, Brahma then filed in this same 8 9 action before your Honor a motion excepting to the sufficiency of the bond. It's a procedure that you 10 11 can file where you require a party that has filed or 12 recorded a mechanics release bond to increase the amount or take some action to increase it to secure 13 the lien amount, and we filed that here in the state 14 15 court. And after filing that, Cobra and TSE did come up with a rider to the bond and increased the amount 16 of the bond to 19,289,366 bucks, which is now one and 17 a half times the amount of Brahma's fourth amended 18 lien. 19

Now, again after Brahma then amended its complaint in this action to add its contract claims, it then went to federal court and removed those three contract claims from the federal court action, which it could do because an answer within the timeframe to be able to amend our answer, we were able to do so

1	Page 69 freely without bringing a motion. They hadn't
2	filed they had filed an answer but you have a
3	little bit more time. The rule is a little different
4	in federal court. There's a little bit of a lapse
5	there. So we amended the complaint in federal court,
6	withdrew the three contract-based claims and filed
7	them here in our amended complaint with this district
8	court, with the Nye County court.
9	So then that takes us to September 16th, and
10	that is when Brahma, as I indicated, filed a motion
11	for stay in federal court based on the Colorado River
12	Doctrine where we're asking the federal court to
13	abstain from deciding that case because, number one,
14	it involves the same transaction and occurrences that
15	are here in this case, and in addition because this
16	court already has the familiarity necessary to
17	proceed on this case, and even ruled on a dispositive
18	motion.

19 So after we filed that, then TSE immediately 20 filed, and this is going to be important as I get to 21 the motion to dismiss part of the argument here, TSE 22 then filed with the federal court a motion for 23 injunctive relief asking the federal court to issue 24 an injunction against Brahma precluding it from 25 pursuing its three contract claims that it had

Page 70 removed from the federal court action and brought 1 2 here to the Nye County action. Neither of those two 3 motions, the motion for the Colorado River Doctrine 4 motion or the motion for injunctive relief has been set for oral argument yet. Again, based on my 5 experience with the federal court it could be several 6 months before the court gets to those two motions. 7 Then the day before -- what's interesting is 8 9 the day before the opposition to the motion for the 10 Colorado River stay was due, TSE gets a bright idea 11 and they said, you know what, we're going to serve 12 you, Brahma, with discovery requests. We're going to 13 serve you with interrogatories and requests for production of documents. 14 15 And the reason why they did that so quickly out the box, and they did this, by the way, before 16 17 the federal magistrate had even issued the scheduling order setting forth the discovery timeframe, they did 18 19 it so they could argue in opposition to the Colorado 20 River motion that that case, the federal case, was 21 further along than the Nye County case. 2.2 It's one of the factors the federal court 23 will look at when deciding whether or not to grant a

25 So they said, oh, we're going to put out these

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Colorado River motion is which case is further along.

Page 71 1 basically bogus, or whatever you -- strategic 2 discovery requests all for the sole purpose of trying 3 to get that case jump started so they can come back 4 and make the argument to the federal court, "We need to stay in federal court, your Honor." 5 And I bring that to the court's attention 6 because they want in their brief to say that we're 7 the ones that are forum shopping. Well, we're not 8

9 the ones that are trying to run away from a federal -- or from a ruling that was adverse to us. 10 11 There's been no ruling in federal court against us. 12 We're not -- we don't care if we're in federal court 13 but we don't want to be in two cases in two courts. That's our beef. We can't be in two courts. 14 It will 15 be extremely expensive, and we know we cannot put the bond claims in the federal court so the case has to 16 be here, and that's the argument we're going to make 17 to the federal court, but they want to stay in 18 19 federal court and we went through that already.

And then, finally, based on the fact that we received these discovery requests, we filed -- Brahma filed a motion for stay of the discovery request in the federal court, and that is set for hearing on December 27th. So that's the procedural posture of the case, your Honor. I will refer back to some of

1 these dates as I tie it to the legal arguments. I
2 apologize if that was lengthy, but in short amount of
3 time there's been a lot in this case and some of
4 these are really important to hone in on some of the
5 nuances of what's going on here.

6 So I think I'd like to attack or address 7 their motion to strike first. I'm not sure what 8 order it was presented. I think it was motion to 9 dismiss first, but let's go with the motion to strike 10 and then I'm going to hit the motion to dismiss and 11 then the motion for stay.

12 With respect to the motion to strike, again 13 when Brahma first filed it in this action, it filed a foreclosure complaint. It was not styled as a 14 15 countercomplaint, it was just a simple foreclosure complaint. It took the case that had already been 16 generated and it filed within that very same 17 proceeding. It wasn't until Brahma amended the 18 19 complaint when it perhaps again inartfully called it 20 a countercomplaint. But it's really not a 21 countercomplaint. If you look at it, it's simply an 2.2 amended complaint because it acts as a standalone complaint. It has all the makings, all of the 23 24 necessary notice provisions, the claims. It was served by summons on TSE, on Cobra, and so it is an 25

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	Dece 72
1	Page 73 amended complaint. We can get away if their
2	concern is that we call it a countercomplaint, fine,
3	let's call it something else. It's a complaint.
4	And what's interesting is when you look at
5	Rule 7, if you look at it under that lens that it is
6	a complaint, and it's not a countercomplaint because
7	we're not responding, it's not in response to
8	something, we had already filed an opposition to
9	their motion to expunge, it's a standalone complaint
10	that was simply filed in the same case that they had
11	generated. And, again, it's capable of standing on
12	its own.
13	So their argument that the countercomplaint
14	is not a pleading under Rule 7A, it's really putting
15	form over substance. And it's interesting because
16	opposing counsel took us through the list of all of
17	the different types of pleadings that are identified
18	under Rule 7A, and complaint was one of them, but one
19	of the lists I didn't see, or name on the list I
20	didn't see was "amended complaint." Well, it's not
21	on the list, but nobody in their right mind would get
22	up in front of the court and say amended complaints
23	aren't pleadings. You can't do an amended complaint.
24	It's not in Rule 7A. That's essentially what they're
25	arguing here is, well, you're calling it something

Page 74 different, but we're calling it a complaint. 1 It is a 2 complaint. It's stands on its own. It's not in response to something. It was filed in the case. 3 4 Now, why did we file in the case? First of all, I should note that by filing that complaint in 5 this case, it puts the parties in the same exact 6 procedural posture as if we had filed the action 7 first, and then they came in and brought their motion 8 9 to expunde. We're in the exact same posture as we would be. You would have a complaint that was served 10 11 by service that they had to respond to and file an 12 answer. It's no different than had we done it that 13 way. And the reason why we decided to file in the 14 15 state court action was we wanted to ensure that your 16 Honor was the one who got the case. If we had just 17 filed a standalone complaint, it would have likely been sent to one of the other departments, it 18 19 wouldn't have gone to your Honor because you're not 20 getting, you know, cases unless they're assigned to 21 you, it would have gone to one of the other 2.2 departments and we would then had to have filed a motion to consolidate. 23

Now, based on the opposition that we'vereceived on every little thing that we've done with

1	Page 75 these guys, who knows if they would have stipulated
2	to that, but they may have opposed the motion to
3	consolidate as well. And so basically it was a way
4	of saying instead of filing it in a separate action,
5	let's file it in this case that's already been
6	commenced, and therefore the need to file the motion
7	to consolidate is avoided, we're not wasting
8	resources, the court's time, our client's money on
9	something of that nature.
10	THE COURT: Mr. Domina, just so I can
11	understand this, is this complaint for foreclosure
12	something different than a claim that was taken from
13	Clark County to the federal court?
14	MR. DOMINA: The foreclosure action, no,
15	your Honor. The complaint is a foreclosure action.
16	And when we amended it, we did bring the three causes
17	of action that were once in federal court, we removed
18	those and we filed same concurrent jurisdiction
19	causes of action, breach of contract claims in that
20	same complaint where the foreclosure action is
21	against the bond and the real property, the work of
22	improvement at this time.
23	THE COURT: Okay. I think I understand it.
24	Thank you.
25	MR. DOMINA: All right. And I have more

1	Page 76 on I'm going to discuss how that's not a big deal
2	when we get to the motion to dismiss. They want
3	to they're positing a rule that, first of all they
4	say they cited these three really strong cases.
5	Well, there's not a single case that they cite from
б	the Ninth Circuit. They're not Nevada cases.
7	They're random cases. Some of them are outdated,
8	66 years old. One is about a tribal Indian land.
9	They have no bearing.
10	And the reason why we didn't want to waste
11	our time addressing them is because we focused on the
12	case law in the Ninth Circuit that completely shoots
13	down their proposition that there's some kind of
14	automatic stay, if you will, or automatic bar, some
15	kind of automatic bar that precludes a district court
16	from hearing state court actions that were once in
17	federal court that had been removed.
18	Now, where they may be correct is if we had
19	filed a case back in Clark County in the action where
20	it actually had been removed from, and we tried to
21	file right back into that same case, there may be
22	some legs to what they're saying, but that's not what
23	we did here. We filed those breach of contract
24	claims in an action that had actually been filed and
25	commenced before the federal action had been

Page 77 commenced. So it's not like we're going out and 1 2 filing in the very same case that was removed. 3 When you have removal, and that court loses 4 jurisdiction, it's only with respect to the court that it was removed from, the Clark County Eighth 5 Judicial District Court. Doesn't say anything about 6 other states, or, excuse me, other counties. And 7 8 their argument that they say, oh, we've got great case law on it, no, they don't. It's case law all 9 over the country or three of them in different 10 11 jurisdictions, two of them aren't even applicable and 12 are quite older. 13 But again, once I get to the motion to 14 dismiss, you'll see that the case law really says 15 this about it. It gives us an argument that unless the federal court finds that a case was removed from 16 federal jurisdiction and put into state court for 17 fraudulent means of trying to avoid federal 18 jurisdiction, the federal court will not intervene. 19 20 The federal court will not issue an injunction and 21 has no concern with the state court proceeding on 22 parallel litigation that may have already been in federal court. 23 24 But that fraudulent analysis is important 25 for the courts to undertake, and it's what the Ninth

Page 78 Circuit requires to take place. They don't even 1 2 mention that. That's what we argued in our brief was 3 that, wait a minute, you're forgetting about this 4 whole analysis, the fraud analysis. Why on earth -if there was a black letter rule that said once you 5 6 remove a state court case, or once you remove claims in federal court and then bring them down and try to 7 file them in state court that there's an automatic 8 9 bar, then you wouldn't have this case law that we 10 have from the Ninth Circuit that says, well, no, you 11 don't do that. You look to see if there was a 12 fraudulent means of trying to avoid federal 13 jurisdiction. And I'll explain that there's no fraudulent means on our part. There is a valid basis 14 for why we did what we did when we amended first our 15 claim here to add those contract claims and then our 16 claim in federal court, Brahma's claim in federal 17 18 court.

19 So, again, I just want to make it super 20 clear for the judge, the foreclosure action, be it 21 against the work of improvement or against the surety 22 bond, was never in Clark County and was never removed 23 to federal court. It's always stayed right here in 24 Nye County. And from our perspective it can never go 25 anywhere. It has to stay here because Brahma --

You've got Cobra, a Nevada corporation, saying it's Brahma, and it's other issues there. So I wanted to make sure that was clear in the court's mind. Now, what's interesting though, your Honor, this amended complaint that we did, it accomplishes the very same goals that are set forth under NRS 108.2275, subsection 5, which says if you have it's basically the legislature's intent to put a
4 make sure that was clear in the court's mind. 5 Now, what's interesting though, your Honor, 6 this amended complaint that we did, it accomplishes 7 the very same goals that are set forth under NRS 8 108.2275, subsection 5, which says if you have 9 it's basically the legislature's intent to put a
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8 108.2275, subsection 5, which says if you have 9 it's basically the legislature's intent to put a
9 it's basically the legislature's intent to put a
10 motion to expunge and a foreclosure action in front
11 of the same judge. You don't want to have multiple
12 judges, different departments deciding issues
13 relating to the mechanics lien foreclosure action.
14 So 108.2275, subsection 5, requires that a
15 person filing a motion to expunge would file it in a
16 foreclosure action that has already been commenced.
17 And in this case there was one, but it had been
18 dismissed and so they filed their independent one,
19 and we then filed our foreclosure action within that
20 same case.
21 Now again, as I said, had Brahma filed its
22 foreclosure action first, they would have been
23 required to file into that one, which is exactly what
24 they did, if we look back at that original complaint
25 that Brahma filed. TSE ended up filing its first

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1 motion to expunge within that case. It later
2 withdrew it. That was its own decision, and it
3 decided not to use that same case when it filed its
4 second one, but nonetheless they knew that that's how
5 it worked.

So let's talk about the case law that 6 supports this proposition that our amended complaint 7 is valid, because that's really where I'm going. 8 I 9 need to make sure that your Honor understands that 10 this is just an amended complaint. Yes, at one point 11 it was inartfully styled, but it doesn't matter what 12 it was called because you look at it and say, what 13 does it do? What is it effectively doing? And I cite the H.W. Polk V Tooley (phonetic) case in our 14 15 opposition, and that was where the Nevada Supreme 16 Court took a very practical approach to a similar issue when it found that -- it denied a judgment 17 debtor's motion to dismiss a case filed by a creditor 18 wherein the creditor filed a complaint to revive a 19 20 judgment in a case where the judgement had commenced 21 that was closed.

22 So basically you had a judgment, and the 23 creditor came in and tried to -- he commenced a new 24 action within that same case that had been closed in 25 an effort to revive this judgment. The details in

Page 81 1 the case are a little sketchy. I'm not sure if it 2 had expired or what they were doing to revive it, but 3 basically the debtor was trying to say no, no, you 4 can't do that, you have to dismiss the case because 5 you filed into this wrong action and you should have 6 filed into its own separate action, which is what 7 they're arguing here.

8 And the court, the supreme court held that 9 in the absence of a specific statute requiring an independent action, that the procedure followed by 10 11 the judgment creditor was not improper. And this is 12 the real part of that language that's important, they 13 said it was because the debtor was served with a summons and complaint and had notice of the action. 14 15 So the court looked at it and said, well, yeah, maybe they shouldn't have filed in that same case, but 16 we're not really bothered by it because it was a 17 complaint and they served it by summons on the other 18 19 side, and they got notice of it.

20 And that's the same argument we have here. 21 They can be all disturbed that, you know, there was 22 something different about this or it doesn't look 23 like some of the other briefing that they -- or the 24 other pleadings they've seen, but what does it look 25 like? It's a complaint. It looks exactly like any

Page 82 other complaint that you would see that was filed in 1 2 any case commencing in action. So just like the situation in Polk, again 3 4 TSE was served with our summons and complaint. It was a standalone complaint. Just like the situation 5 in Polk, there's nothing in the mechanics lien 6 statute that says that you have to file a separate 7 action. You look at the mechanics lien statute, it 8 9 doesn't say when you go to file a foreclosure, do not 10 file within a case that's been commenced by way of a 11 motion to expunde. They say, oh, it doesn't say that 12 language so, therefore, it says you can't do it. But 13 I look at the opposite. It doesn't say anything 14 about it. It doesn't say we can't. And if you look 15 at the statute, it actually infers that the 16 legislature wants these things to be held together, 17 which is why someone filing a motion to expunge must file it within a cause of action that's been 18 commenced, if it's already been commenced. 19 20 Again, we also argue in our briefing, your 21 Honor, that this isn't a novel issue. This isn't 2.2 something that we just kind of created on a whim and

24 and other construction firms in the state do on a 25 regular basis, and that is to avoid having to spend

we've done before. This is something that our firm

23

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1	money filing a motion to consolidate, getting it
2	maybe in a peremptory challenge back and forth and
3	other judges. You never know where things are going
4	to end up, and so it's a streamline process to be
5	able to file your complaint in a case that's already
6	been commenced. We actually gave an attachment in
7	the briefing of another case where we did the same
8	thing and had no problem with it.
9	Now, in opposition or to support their
10	argument that you can't file a foreclosure action in
11	a commenced mechanics lien case, they cite to a
12	treatise which is purportedly a treatise on
13	construction matters in Nevada. First I would say
14	that this is a publication that is not binding on
15	this court, and it's not even authoritative. It's
16	filed by it was drafted by a gentleman he was
17	an attorney who practices in Clark County, and his
18	name is Leon Mead. And Leon Mead is a great guy, but
19	one he's not a legal scholar. He is not a professor.
20	He's just a he's a guy like myself or Mr. Peel.
21	Yeah, we understand the mechanics lien law but we're
22	not professors and we're not trying to draft
23	briefings or draft treatises that try to convince the
24	court one way or another on an issue.
25	And, in fact, even if you look at that

Page 84 language, it's funny because it doesn't even say, and 1 2 I don't know if your Honor is familiar with what I'm 3 talking about, but this little exhibit that they 4 attached as part of their reply brief, they introduced it in their reply the first time, but it 5 doesn't even stand for the proposition that they 6 7 claim that it does. In that case Mr. Mead simply 8 says -- this is what he says, he says, "I don't believe that foreclosure suits can be filed as a 9 10 counterclaim to a petition to expunge a foreclosure 11 action." So he doesn't say that you can't file a 12 foreclosure action in a case that's been commenced with a motion to expunge, he just says you can't file 13 it as a counterclaim. Again, we didn't do a 14 15 counterclaim. It's a complaint.

16 Now, Mr. Mead goes on to say that he thinks the appropriate procedure would have been to file a 17 complaint and then to move the petitioning court to 18 consolidate that case over there with the motion to 19 20 expunge, but in essence after consolidation and after 21 a lot of work and expense, you'd be in the very same 22 procedural posture that we're in right now with TSE. 23 Now, I'm going to mention this next thing, and it's not to take a jab at Leon Mead, because I 24 25 like Leon. I'm not going to speak ill of him, but

1	Page 85 he's been wrong on several key issues in front of the
2	Nevada Supreme Court on a few different occasions.
3	And so the court shouldn't look at his treatise as
4	gospel or having some binding effect, even though
5	that's how it was cited in their brief.
6	And, in fact, in the Hardy V SNMark case,
7	which was a supreme court case decided back in 2010,
8	the supreme court specifically mentioned in a
9	footnote that it disagreed with Mr. Mead's position
10	on one of the doctrines that he espoused in that very
11	same Nevada construction manual. They said, we
12	disagree with this particular practitioner.
13	And so, again, I'm not saying that to throw
14	him under the bus or say, oh, you know, he's never
15	right, because he's a good attorney, but it wouldn't
16	be the first time that he got something wrong, and I
17	believe that he's wrong in this case as well.
18	The next argument that they make, they cite
19	the Crestline case. This is in their motion. The
20	Crestline case basically says that if you're adding a
21	motion to expunge, the district court can decide
22	three issues. They can only decide that the lien was
23	frivolous, that the lien was excessive, or that the
24	lien was neither excessive or frivolous. Those are
25	the only three issues that can happen. Well, that

1 was the holding and that's it.

And so what happened in that case was the district court had actually denied the motion to expunge and went in and increased the lien claimant's lien amount, and the supreme court came in and said, no, you can't do that. You can only follow what the statute says.

But that holding has nothing to do with what 8 we're here on today. That holding does not say you 9 cannot file a foreclosure action in a case that has 10 11 been commenced for a motion to expunge. It says at 12 the hearing you can't take any other action, and we 13 certainly have done that. We're not asking your Honor, and we didn't ask your Honor at the time of 14 the hearing to rule on some other issue or find that 15 our lien was adjudicated in full. So that is a 16 17 complete -- the case that they site has no bearing on 18 the issue here, so long as, again, the hearing is 19 limited and those three inquiries are addressed then 20 you don't have a problem.

21 So let's talk about the Smith case. The 22 Smith case is the case that TSE relies upon in its 23 motion, and you heard extensive argument about it 24 from opposing counsel. And in that case the court 25 found, and I'll agree with opposing counsel, they

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Page 87 1 found that the cross-claim that was filed by the 2 plaintiff was improper, but they did that because 3 they found that under Rule 12A it should have been --4 it should have been with an answer, which is a 5 pleading.

So you can't file a cross-claim on its own, 6 and in this case the plaintiff, or the party, had 7 filed an answer and then failed to file a cross-claim 8 with it and waited several years in fact to file its 9 cross-claim, and it didn't even serve the cross-claim 10 11 on anybody. So the court came in and said, wait a 12 minute here, you know, you're trying to file a 13 standalone, rogue document that's not a pleading. 14 Had you attached it to an answer, then you're talking 15 business. Now you've got a pleading and you can do a 16 cross-claim, but you didn't do it at the answer and your time to file the answer, your time to file that 17 18 cross-claim with the answer has come and gone, so, 19 therefore, we're going to strike that particular 20 pleading, or it's not a pleading, that particular 21 document because it wasn't a pleading, and 2.2 furthermore they didn't even serve it. 23 So unlike the cross-claim in the Smith case,

24 which again was never served on the parties and 25 required to be accompanied by the answer, i.e., the

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1 pleading and was time barred, Brahma's amended
2 complaint was timely filed, it was served, and it
3 acts as a standalone pleading in compliance with NRCP
4 7A or the complaint.

Now, finally, the last argument I think I 5 6 can make on this, your Honor, on the motion to strike is under NRCP 81A, and that's kind of this catchall 7 rule that says in the event that you are dealing with 8 a special proceeding, that the normal rules of civil 9 procedure can he kind of held in abeyance or kind of 10 11 stayed and they don't govern that specific proceeding 12 when you have instances where there may be a conflict 13 between the specific rule and/or the specific statute and a rule of civil procedure. 14

15 So that's what I'm arguing here is that under 108.2275 the legislature has shown its intent 16 17 to put motions to expunde and foreclosure actions together and, therefore, that in and of itself is 18 enough for us to be able to do what we did because 19 20 Rule 81, if there was an issue with Rule 7, which I 21 don't think there is, I think we comply with Rule 7, 22 but even if your Honor felt that we had run afoul of it, then simply put, 81 takes Rule 7 out of 23 24 application. 25 And then I guess the final word on that

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1	would be this: If the court finds that there truly
2	is an error here, and that we should not have filed
3	the amended complaint in this action, then the court
4	can simply severe the amended complaint and ask the
5	clerk of the court to assign it its own case number,
6	strip it out from the motion to expunge, give it its
7	own case number, and then immediately, within the
8	same action, consolidate it back to this case, which
9	would be the same posture we're in. And it would
10	make no sense to do it that way, but if the court
11	felt like there was some kind of technical default or
12	technical issue with the amended complaint, that's
13	one way the court could handle it.
14	I don't know if your Honor had something to
15	say. It looked like you had a question.
16	THE COURT: Well, I'm struggling with any
17	right that the Brahma Group might have to take an
18	action which has been removed to the federal court
19	and dismiss out claims from there and refile in state
20	court. That is something that doesn't sound right to
21	me. It's not within my experience to do that.
22	MR. DOMINA: And obviously I've been
23	spending my time on the motion to strike.
24	THE COURT: And I might, you know, I might
25	be inclined to favor Tonopah Solar's position on
1	

that, but maybe I can severe out the claim that you say is simply a foreclosure action which wasn't part of the Clark County claims that were removed to federal court, if I understand this right. I mean, I would distinguish certain claims within your thing that was erroneously marked as a --

7 MR. DOMINA: So, your Honor, putting aside 8 the concern it appears that you have with respect to 9 the three causes of action that were removed from 10 federal court and then brought into the complaint, 11 putting that aside, does your Honor have an issue 12 with respect to the complaint in and of itself, just 13 the procedural issue and how it relates to Rule 7A?

14 THE COURT: Well, I think I can understand 15 that, everybody agrees, and if you look at the either 16 case law or statute, I think it's in the statute, 17 that, well, you can take a motion to foreclose and 18 put in a, you know, motion to expunge within the same 19 case. And if you can do that, why can't you do it 20 the other way?

You know, if the other thing comes first, the motion to expunge, then can't you come in with a, you know, motion to foreclose and for that, and it would seem like they do go together. And I understand your position about that, and, you know,

1 if there's a way that I can do that, I probably will.
2 MR. DOMINA: Okay. So then I think that -3 that was the motion to strike part. That's what I
4 wanted the court to understand is that the complaint
5 itself is okay, it's viable, it doesn't -- there's
6 not an issue with it.

Now we need to talk about those three causes 7 of action that are in that complaint and how we deal 8 9 with those, and that was their argument for the motion to dismiss. Primarily they argue, again, that 10 the court lacks subject matter jurisdiction to even 11 12 hear those three cases, or these three causes of 13 action, because they were once in federal court and now are here in state court. 14

15 But, again, the court, number one, your Honor need not decide that issue today. Your Honor 16 could say, you know what, maybe I have jurisdiction, 17 maybe I don't. If the federal court believes that 18 you don't have jurisdiction, then the federal court 19 20 will grant their motion for injunction, which they 21 filed in federal court. And so there's no reason to 2.2 say, oh, I'm not going to take jurisdiction of this 23 based on what they're telling you because they've also filed in the federal court a motion for 24 25 injunction trying to stop those three causes of

Page 92 action from being heard. 1 2 So there's really no harm in saying, well, 3 let's proceed on them, and if there's no 4 jurisdiction, then there's no jurisdiction. But I think that there is jurisdiction, and, again, because 5 the only cases that they've cited, none of them are 6 within the Ninth Circuit. But the cases that I 7 wanted to call your attention to, your Honor --8 9 THE COURT: I don't want to say anything bad about my superiors at the Ninth Circuit, but, you 10 11 know, I've gone to those Erwin Chemerinsky --12 MR. DOMINA: Right. 13 THE COURT: -- lectures. He describes how the Ninth Circuit is by far the most overturned 14 15 circuit in the country. Well, fortunately this isn't 16 MR. DOMINA: just one roque case. This is a doctrine that they 17 follow in the Ninth Circuit, they follow in the Fifth 18 19 Circuit. And the two cases that we cite, one is the 20 Lou V Belzberg in the Ninth Circuit, and basically 21 that's a case that involved parallel litigation. 2.2 You had a state court case that had been 23 commenced only after a party had removed a prior 24 state court case to federal court. And what they ended up doing was the same thing that we did, they 25

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1	then took a they then went to state court and
2	filed the same exact litigation that had been removed
3	to federal court and pursued it in state court.
4	Well, at that point the party that removed it in
5	federal court filed a motion for injunction in front
6	of the district court. And the district court said,
7	well, how do we treat this? What do we do? And they
8	do recognize that in the event that you can show that
9	there's a fraud, a fraudulent purpose to avoid the
10	jurisdiction of the federal court, then you can go
11	ahead and enjoin a state court from having
12	jurisdiction over those causes of action that were
13	then that were once in federal court.
14	But if you don't find that there's fraud,
15	and this is the Lou case, this is what Lou says, Lou
16	says or what the Lou court did, it overturned a
17	district court that had actually issued the
18	injunction of the state court action. And the reason
19	why the Lou court overturned it was because they
20	found that there wasn't fraud. They said, look,
21	these are parallel cases, yes. And, yes, it looks to
22	be very similar, but we don't think they did it for a
23	fraudulent purpose. They added some new parties,
24	there's some new claims. Yes, it's parallel
25	jurisdiction but it doesn't rise to the level of
1	

Page 94 fraud. 1 2 Now, you may say, well, how have you shown 3 me that you haven't tried to avoid this fraudulently? 4 Number one, I would say this: That's the federal court's decision to make. That will be argued at the 5 time of their motion for injunction in front of the 6 federal court, and we will be putting on argument to 7 that court. So your Honor doesn't have to decide, 8 oh, I'm going to dismiss these three claims because 9 it's already up and teed up for the federal court. 10 11 And if they think something's been run afoul, they'll 12 make that determination. So that's number one. 13 But, two, we did this for a very specific Remember I indicated that when we first 14 reason. looked at that, when Brahma first looked at the 15 contract, the forum selection clause, it looked to be 16 a mandatory forum selection cause. It's not. 17 Tt's permissive. And I think TSE has even kind of 18 19 acknowledged that it is permissive. They keep 20 saying, well, even if it's not mandatory. So they've 21 kind of looked at the language. 2.2 And if you look at the case that we cite 23 with respect to that, that's on -- that's the American First Credit Union case. That case is a 24 25 Nevada Supreme Court decision and it holds that

Page 95 1 clauses in which a party agrees to submit to 2 jurisdiction are not necessarily mandatory. It says 3 absent specific language of exclusion, any agreement 4 conferring jurisdiction in one forum will not be interpreted as excluding jurisdiction elsewhere. 5 So the clause that we're talking about is section 24, 6 and it's exactly that. It is a clause that confers 7 jurisdiction but doesn't expressly exclude other 8 jurisdictions in Clark County. 9 10 So when we filed that Clark County claim, 11 basically they're only in federal court because we 12 filed the Clark County action thinking that that was 13 what was required under the contract. They would not be in -- they'd have no diversity if those claims 14 15 were not filed in Clark County because they would be 16 here and you would have Brahma linked up with, again, 17 Cobra and the others parties on the bond and they would not be able to remove it to federal court. 18 In 19 addition to the fact that they're a plaintiff in this 20 case, they wouldn't be able to do it in federal 21 court. 2.2 So the whole reason why we're in federal court was based on this issue here. But as we 23 24 started looking at it, we realized that there's

25 actually a statutory basis to be in front of Nye

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Page 96 County on the contract claims, and that is under the 1 2 mechanics lien statute. If I can quickly turn your 3 attention to NRS 108.2421, subsection 1, this is a 4 statute that entitles -- this is only applicable if you have a mechanics lien release bond in play. 5 So if you're dealing with a lien on real property, it's 6 7 not applicable.

But if you're dealing with a mechanics lien 8 release bond, as Brahma is here, under 108.2421, 9 subsection 1, Brahma's expressly authorized to bring 10 11 contract claims against TSE in the county where the 12 property is located. And this is the language. Ιt 13 says the lien claimant is entitled to bring an action against the principal and the surety on the surety 14 15 bond, and this is the important language, and the lien claimant's debtor in any court of competent 16 jurisdiction that is located within the county where 17 18 the property upon which the work and permit is 19 located.

20 Well, we know who the principal is. That's 21 Cobra. We know who the surety is. That's AHAC, 22 American Home Assurance Company. Well, who is the 23 lien claimant's debtor? That is TSE. They're the 24 debtor. So this statute gives us the right to pursue 25 a claim against all three parties in the same action

1	Page 97 in the county where the property is located.
2	Now, you may say, okay, well, you didn't.
3	Well, the problem is the forum selection clause that
4	they're trying to foist upon us, if it violates a
5	provision of the mechanics lien statutes, which in
6	this case it does, in other words that provision is
7	requiring us to file in Clark County, and this
8	statute gives us the right to file in Nye County,
9	then it violates the mechanics lien statute under
10	108.2453 that says you can't have a provision in a
11	contract that requires any lien claimant to waive or
12	release any rights under the mechanics lien statute,
13	period. This is one such right.
14	We believe that under 108.2421, subsection
15	1, we have the absolute right, had the absolute right
16	to file in Nye County against TSE, against Brahma,
1	

against everybody, even if that provision in the 17 contract was mandatory. And because they're claiming 18 that it's mandatory, and if the court found that it 19 20 was mandatory, it would then be in violation of 21 108.2453, and that statute says that any provision is 22 void and unenforceable, it's against public policy, and void and unenforceable, and so, therefore, that 23 provision could not have even been enforceable 24 25 against us, and any action that was taken, i.e., the

Page 98 filing of the Clark County case to begin with was 1 2 void because it was based on a demand that the 3 contract require us to file within Clark County, and 4 that goes against the mechanics lien statute. 5 So, again, you have this statute that provides rights that can't be waived and, therefore, 6 based on that understanding, based on that belief 7 that we do have rights to able to pursue the claims 8 9 in Clark County, or, excuse me, in Nye County, that's why we decided we would file those contract claims in 10 11 Nye County and we would take them out of federal 12 court. That's not fraud, and that's the analysis. 13 There is no case law that they can point to in Nevada 14 that says if you remove a case to federal court that all states or all counties, all courts within this 15 16 state are now deprived of jurisdiction on claims that are similar to those. 17 In fact, the case law is the very opposite. 18 19 The case law says there are instances where you can 20 have parallel litigation and the federal court will 21 not issue an injunction unless and until it has been

23 the -- in the way that the claims were asserted in 24 state court after the fact.

satisfied that they found fraud in the way that

2.2

25 So that's where we're at. There's no fraud.

1	Page 99 I'm not asking your Honor to even make that
2	determination, because you don't have to. It's a
3	determination that will be made in the federal court,
4	but at this juncture your Honor can come up with a
5	couple things. One is the complaint on its face is a
6	complaint. It satisfies all of the requirements
7	under Rule 7A. Not a problem.
8	So then we move to, well, what about those
9	causes of action that are in there that were giving
10	you a problem before? Your Honor doesn't have to
11	decide whether you have jurisdiction or not. You can
12	just deny the motion, even deny it without prejudice
13	and let's see what the federal court says. If the
14	federal court says there's no jurisdiction, then the
15	injunction will be filed and we'll have a
16	different
17	THE COURT: So are you proposing that I
18	would stay action on those claims and not simply
19	dismiss them?
20	MR. DOMINA: No, I'm not proposing that you
21	stay action on them, because here's why. Your Honor
22	is going to need to know the contract issues between
23	the parties. We're going to go forward on the
24	mechanics lien, or the lien the bond claim
25	regardless, because that can't be anywhere else but
1	

in this court. 1 2 And so we have the right to file a demand 3 for preferential trial setting, and your Honor can't 4 just say, well, here's the bond, here's the judgment. Your Honor will have to get into the issues that are 5 between the parties, the contractual issues: 6 How much do they owe us, how much do they claim they've 7 paid us, how much are they claiming in offsets. 8 9 Those are issues that are going to have to be looked at irrespective of whether those actual causes of 10 11 action for breach of contract are in the case or not. 12 So I would say the best thing to do is let's 13 go forward with those three claims as if you do have jurisdiction on them. Let's develop the discovery on 14 15 them, because it's not like it's going to be all for not and we're going to, you know, end up saying, oh, 16 well, we just wasted all our time learning what kind 17 of contract issues were there because those contract 18 19 issues are going to be relevant with respect to the 20 foreclosure action on the bond, which the court must 21 decide, must determine what the lienable value is. 2.2 And you can only do that by way of understanding the parties' agreements and offsets. So that is what 23 24 we're proposing, your Honor. 25 And as far as the stay goes, staying

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Page 101 anything, especially the bond claim that we have, 1 2 that would be in complete contrast or it would be 3 basically taking away Brahma's right to pursue its mechanics lien claim as well as its bond claim under 4 its demand for preferential trial setting. 5 So under no circumstance can we stay that. That case --6 because if you stay it, it doesn't go anywhere. 7 Ιt can't go to federal court. It has to remain here in 8 9 this court. And by staying it then we go their 10 route, the two-year process, whereas under the 11 mechanics lien statute we have an automatic right to 12 file a demand for preferential trial setting which 13 will then ask the court to clear its calendar within 60 days of filing that demand and giving us a trial 14 within that timeframe. 15

And that would be something, if there was 16 ever any attempt for them to thwart that or to stay 17 it, that would be something that the Nevada Supreme 18 19 Court, based on their Fontainebleau analysis, would 20 frown upon and think that now we've interfered with 21 mechanics lien rights that are sacrosanct, that are 22 entitled to -- or that all lien claimants are 23 entitled to. So with that, your Honor, do you have any specific questions for me with respect to what 24 25 may be --

Page 102 Well, when I look at what you're 1 THE COURT: 2 attempting to do on behalf of the Brahma Group, I 3 certainly wouldn't call it fraud in the ordinary 4 sense of the word, because, you know, you want to have your client get, you know, an expeditious and 5 6 economical, you might say, resolution of the case. 7 But on the other hand, you are taking 8 something that, you know, had been removed to the 9 federal court, you know, these certain claims, three 10 claims you say, and dismiss them from the action 11 there and then refile them as part of the foreclosure 12 action, that's what I'm understanding, and I don't 13 know. I mean, maybe that's called fraud under, you know, the rules of removal simply to take claims out 14 15 and refile them in order to prosecute the claims in state court rather than federal court. You know, I 16 think your motives are good, but maybe you can't do 17 that. Maybe that's called fraud under, you know, the 18 diversity case law. I don't know that at this point. 19 20 MR. DOMINA: And I understand that, which is 21 exactly why this should be an issue that's decided by 2.2 the federal court because they -- this is 23 something --24 THE COURT: Well, they would certainly know. 25 MR. DOMINA: Yeah, they filed their motion

Page 103 for injunction, and that's pending before the federal 1 2 court. And so it's not -- again, it's not something 3 this court has to -- it's not a bridge this court has 4 to cross. You can just say, look, I'm deferring any decision on the motion to dismiss those claims 5 because what if the federal court disagrees with them 6 and there is no injunction that's been issued and 7 your Honor then dismisses those cases, those causes 8 9 of action, then we're kind of -- we're not up there, 10 we're not down here and we're trying to figure out 11 what's going on.

12So I think the best solution would be hold 13 in abeyance any decision with respect to the motion to dismiss those three causes of action and let the 14 15 federal court decide what it's going to do. And if the federal court issues the injunction, then that 16 was the decision, but at least they have the case law 17 and probably the, you know, this is where those 18 19 things get filed is in the federal court. They're 20 the ones that, you know, control this. There isn't 21 case law that you'll find in Nevada that says you do 22 not automatically have jurisdiction over causes of action that have been removed from federal court to 23 24 state court. So that would be our position is let's 25 bump that one, hold that one off and let the federal

Page 104 court decide it. 1 2 THE COURT: All right. 3 MR. DOMINA: Any other questions, your 4 Honor? 5 THE COURT: Not at this point. 6 MR. DOMINA: Okay. Thank you. THE COURT: Why don't we break for lunch, 7 that's the reasonable thing to do, since it's after 8 9 12:30. I don't think we have to keep going, do we? 10 MR. ROBERTS: I'm happy to let the court 11 decide what would be most convenient for you. 12 THE COURT: Let's just take a --MR. ROBERTS: I'll probably take about 13 14 20 minutes. If you'd like to get it done now, I'm 15 happy to do that. If you'd like to break for lunch, that's fine too. 16 17 THE COURT: I think we ought to break for 18 lunch. That's probably the better thing to do. And 19 we'll try to get back in an hour, you know, about 20 1:35 then if we can possibly do that. All right. 21 Court will stand in recess. 2.2 (A lunch recess was taken.) 23 THE COURT: Good afternoon. You may be 24 seated. 25 MR. PEEL: Your Honor, if I may, Richard

Page 105 1 Peel, for the record. I did talk to Mr. Roberts, and 2 he has graciously agreed to give me just a few 3 moments to address the court before it's his turn to 4 provide his rebuttal.

THE COURT: Okay.

5

6 MR. PEEL: Mr. Roberts used an analogy, and he said that I'm like Lance Armstrong in that I am 7 the guy that let's other people do the work and then 8 9 I end up allowing them to break the wind for me so that I can end up taking the lead. I don't feel that 10 11 way in this circumstance, by any means, but I am here 12 to provide some observations that I have heard and 13 seen in sitting back here and watching what has unfolded. So I'd like to just take a brief moment 14 and address those issues. 15

I want to make it clear for the court, the 16 three claims that we've been talking about are breach 17 of contract, breach of the covenant of good faith and 18 fair dealing, and violation of NRS 624. Those are 19 20 the three claims that were pending in federal court. 21 And Mr. Roberts used the would "dismissed," and your Honor even used the word "dismissed" on occasion, but 22 23 they were removed by way of an amendment from the 24 underlying complaint when it was amended in federal 25 court, and instead those three causes of action were

brought over here.

1

2 As Mr. Domina correctly noted, the claim for 3 foreclosure of lien and the claim against the bond 4 have never been in federal court. They're not the 5 subject of the federal court, and they are properly before this court. 6 I've sat and listened to what the court's 7 concerns are, and specifically I've heard very loudly 8 9 that your Honor is concerned about proceeding on three causes of action that have yet to be ruled on 10 11 by the federal court. And so in talking to the client, what we feel like would be the best way to 12 13 approach this is to allow Brahma to go ahead and amend its underlying complaint, turn around and allow 14 for those three causes of action to be included, but 15 to dismiss the mechanics lien foreclosure action, 16 17 which is moot at this point because of the bond that's in place, allow us to revise the claim against 18 19 the bond to increase the amount that was provided by 20 way of the surety rider that Cobra issued, and then 21 to turn around and have the court stay only those 2.2 three contract-related causes of action pending the 23 federal court ruling on those three causes of action 24 at a later date. This would allow the court to go 25 forward on the bond claim that is properly before

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1	Page 107
1	this court, which it has jurisdiction to hear and to
2	adjudicate.
3	And so we think that this, in addressing
4	your concern that that would address that concern
5	such that you're able to wait and see what the
6	federal court does on the three contract claims, but
7	still allow the underlying claim against the bond to
8	proceed, which is our biggest concern because every
9	day that \$13 million does create a huge burden on my
10	client.
11	That's what I had to offer. I appreciate
12	you indulging me for a few moments. I'm very
13	grateful. And I'll turn the time over to
14	Mr. Roberts.
15	THE COURT: All right. Thank you, Mr. Peel.
16	Mr. Roberts, you may explain your client's
17	position to the best of your ability what I should do
18	then.
19	MR. ROBERTS: Thank you. And the first
20	thing, although I recognize the court mentioned
21	something and then acknowledged that it was probably
22	not relevant to your decision, I would like to
23	address the "delay, deny, don't pay" comment by the
24	court. And I certainly understand how at first blush
25	it appears that these guys are looking for money and

	- 100
1	Page 108 we're trying to avoid an adjudication on it; however,
2	I would submit to you that if the court looked a
3	little harder, that the delay deny is actually over
4	here on this side of the table where Brahma is.
5	The contract has been performed for a period
6	of time. Tonopah Solar Energy paid invoices for a
7	period of time. A management company was brought in
8	to take a look at things, and they found evidence of
9	fraud, if not intentional fraud, at least negligent
10	misrepresentations. There were problems. There were
11	impossibilities with the bills that we had received.
12	And they saw indicia that there was more there.
13	That's why Tonopah Solar Energy stopped paying
14	because they believed that not only were the invoices
15	which had been submitted suspect, but that they had
16	been induced to wrongfully pay moneys which were not
17	owed.
18	What did we do? We asked to see the backup
19	for the invoices that we paid that would prove that
20	they were owed the money and that they had performed
21	the work. They said oh, under NRS 624 you didn't
22	object within X numbers of days so, oh, doesn't
23	matter, you're not entitled to see any proof. You
24	can't get it back. Ha, ha, we tricked you. Too

25

late.

1	Page 109 We made an offer of judgment. A substantial
2	offer of judgement. They turned it down. It could
3	be us that's asking for attorney's fees at the end of
4	the day. But we also said this is our best offer
5	blind, give us the backup and we'll consider paying
6	more. Total refusal to give us documents. So, yes,
7	in federal court, once a scheduling order was issued,
8	on the first available day that we could, we
9	submitted discovery requests to them, not only to
10	determine how much they were owed, but to determine
11	how much they owed us for overpayments.
12	We have a countercomplaint in the federal
13	action seeking millions of dollars, and we're trying
14	to get discovery on that. And the court has issued a
15	scheduling order allowing that discovery to proceed.
16	They have filed a stay request in federal court
17	trying to avoid answering discovery, not only on the
18	amount that they're actually due, but on the amount
19	we've overpaid prior to today.
20	The delay and the deny is on that side of
21	the table, your Honor. This is not a situation where
22	an owner is simply saying, oh, I'm out of money, I'm
23	not going to pay, and I'm going to fight and I'm
24	going to make excuses. Tonopah Solar Energy has the
25	power. They don't need a bond. They don't need

Page 110 1 security. We have the money. We have the money in 2 escrow to pay them if they prove they are owed this 3 money. 4 So there's no subversion here. We're trying 5 to get discovery to figure out how much they're owed, 6 they're trying to avoid it. That's what's going on 7 today. 8 Forum shopping. They represented that they think we filed the removal to avoid jurisdiction with 9 you because you had denied our motion to expunge. 10 11 What they're forgetting is that we removed on 12 September 10th, 2018. This court held its hearing on 13 September 12th, 2018. So two days before we knew what you were going to do, we filed the removal. 14 15 The order of the proceedings was also 16 misquoted to your Honor this morning. The complaint 17 in Clark County was filed in July, 2018. Our notice of removal was filed 9-10-2018. And their 18 foreclosure complaint, the one that they said it just 19 20 was inartfully named, was filed September 20th. So 21 it wasn't until ten days after we removed their Clark 2.2 County action that they came back here to Nye County 23 to try to file the foreclosure complaint in this special proceeding. The forum shopping is not us, 24 25 your Honor.

1	Page 111 And now let's take a look at what they say
2	was a complaint. And we agree that the initial
3	document was labeled Brahma Group, Inc.'s Mechanics
4	Lien Foreclosure Complaint, but let's look beyond the
5	title. In this, Brahma Group is referred to as the
6	counter-claimant lien claimant. Tonopah Solar Energy
7	is the counter-defendant. In the introductory
8	paragraph in the complaint says that the
9	counter-claimant, Brahma Group counter-claimant
10	lien claimant, Brahma Group, Inc., by and through its
11	attorneys of record and for its complaint in this
12	action against the counter-defendants complains and
13	alleges as follows. So if you go beyond the title,
14	it's a countercomplaint, and it was filed in this
15	special proceeding.

So I think that does lead us back to where I 16 was this morning, and I urge the court to simply find 17 this is a roque pleading and strike it and let them 18 start over properly. And I understand, you know, as 19 20 the court was giving some feedback during Brahma's presentation that you said that you know that under 21 22 the statute that you can file a motion to expunge in a complaint for foreclosure, so it makes sense to the 23 24 court that you could do the opposite, file a complaint for foreclosure in a motion to expunge 25

1	Page 112 special proceeding. And would I ask the court to
2	rethink that facially plausible conclusion simply
3	because of two things. One is the statute
4	specifically allows the filing of a special action or
5	a motion to expunge in a foreclosure complaint, but
6	it doesn't expressly allow the other.
7	And now why would it make a difference? The
8	reason it makes a difference is because right back to
9	Rule 3, a civil action is commenced by filing a
10	complaint. This is not a civil action. This is a
11	special proceeding pursuant to NRS 108. There is no
12	civil action. The only way to initiate a civil
13	action is by filing a complaint. And even if you
14	were to construe this document as a complaint, it did
15	not initiate a civil action. It attempted to come
16	into a special proceeding. It lists this civil, this
17	civil action number on the docket. And they
18	acknowledge that they did that so that you would get
19	jurisdiction of it, but it goes it goes further
20	than that.
21	You initiate a civil action by filing a
22	complaint. If they had filed this document and
23	allowed it to be assigned a case number and it was a
24	new civil action, that would have been proper. The
25	only parties to this when they did this on

Page 113 September 20th was Brahma versus Tonopah Solar 1 2 Energy. We had just removed ten days earlier. Ιf they had filed this as a civil action, the way they 3 4 were supposed to do, the result wouldn't be exactly the same as Brahma suggests. If they had filed it as 5 a civil action, we would have removed it too. Right? 6 7 We've got 30 days from removal. If they file it into a special proceeding which we had initiated, we can't 8 9 remove that. If they had done it the right way, this would be up in federal court now too, because the 10 11 federal court can take jurisdiction over foreclosure 12 proceedings.

13 And so the whole scheme here was fraudulent, not in the sense of criminal fraud, not in the sense 14 15 of civil fraud, but in the sense of the way the federal courts used the word "fraud" in connection 16 with removal proceedings. What is a fraudulent 17 joinder? It's including a party who's not necessary 18 19 for the purpose of avoiding federal jurisdiction. 20 Why did they amend to get rid of the complaints? And 21 I agree they amended to eliminate the causes of 22 action they refiled here rather than dismiss, that's because they'd already voluntarily dismissed once. 23 24 If they dismissed again then they would be barred, so they did this amended complaint to remove the causes 25

Page 114 of action and then filed them here. And I think there is sufficient evidence that the reason they've done this, the reason for these maneuverings is to avoided federal jurisdiction over claims properly removed to federal court.

6 They cited a case where the supreme court said, you know, you had notice. The fact that you 7 filed this into another cause of action, we're not 8 9 going to -- that we don't have a problem with that because there was notice of the action, they've been 10 11 served. The key and distinguishing factor there is 12 it was filed into a civil action, which had been 13 initiated by the filing of a complaint. There is no civil action here initiated by the filing of a 14 complaint. There's only a special proceeding. 15

16 And Leon Mead, while, you know, I think if being overturned by the Nevada Supreme Court 17 invalidated an attorney's right to write books, none 18 of us would be able to write books about the law, 19 20 I know I wouldn't. But Leon Mead wrote your Honor. Nevada Construction Law, and he's a neutral party to 21 2.2 this dispute. And the neutral party says a foreclosure suit cannot be filed as a counterclaim to 23 24 a petition to expunde. And that may be just his 25 opinion, but it's an opinion consistent with the

Page 115 1 Smith V Eighth Judicial District case. It's an 2 opinion consistent with the Nevada Rules of Civil 3 Procedure.

And I do believe that this is a very simple issue, and it's probably a writable issue, if this court does not dismiss this rogue pleading and allow them to refile in accordance with the rules of civil procedure. And that is the way that we think that the court should come down today.

10 There is no forum shopping on the part of 11 Tonopah Solar Energy. Tonopah Solar Energy is from 12 Delaware, and they have a right to be in federal 13 court to avoid whatever bias might be against them as an out-of-state defendant in state court. And they 14 15 properly removed the breach of contract action. They're entitled to have that breach of contract 16 17 action heard in a federal forum. And their right to have that done should not be subverted through these 18 19 types of maneuverings.

The only reason that they can claim there's a parallel state court proceeding is because they amended to remove their claims and refiled. You can't create a competing state case in order to subvert federal jurisdiction. It would render the right to remove meaningless.

Page 116 There was one more thing, your Honor, if 1 2 you'd just allow me to check my notes. I'm trying to 3 be brief here. And that brings us around to, just as 4 a practical matter, the idea that they cannot obtain complete relief in federal court. As this court 5 knows, there's ancillary jurisdiction, there's 6 supplemental jurisdiction. If removal was proper at 7 the time of removal, then the federal court has a 8 9 right to consider whether it has supplemental or ancillary jurisdiction in order to give complete 10 11 relief.

12 But even if the court were to believe that 13 they cannot get the decision in federal court on their bond claim against Cobra, it really doesn't 14 15 alter the analysis, and here's why. I had a case a few years back with Judge Denton in the Eighth 16 Judicial District. It was a case arising out of a 17 public works project in Clark County, and there was a 18 mandatory arbitration clause. The sub filed a 19 20 mechanics lien, as they had a right to do. We moved 21 to compel arbitration. And what Judge Denton did is 22 he says, okay, the arbitrators have jurisdiction over the contract dispute. Go decide the contract 23 24 dispute, get an award and then come back here and 25 I'll enter a foreclosure on the lien and I'll award

Page 117 1 attorney's fees under the statute, if proper, and 2 allows the parties, who have a right to have their 3 contract claims heard in arbitration, to have that 4 heard while still preserving the lien rights of the 5 plaintiff.

6 And this case can happen the same way. We believe that the federal court has jurisdiction to 7 foreclose on a lien, foreclosure on a bond, grant 8 9 attorney's fees. But even if they don't, we will not, and this is judicial estoppel, I'll represent to 10 11 the court, we will not raise any type of 12 jurisdictional argument. The amount of the claim on 13 the bond cannot exceed the amount they're owed on their contract for labor and materials. 14 It's one and 15 the same.

So it's just a ministerial matter to enter 16 judgement on the bond once the court, with proper 17 jurisdiction, decides how much is owed under the 18 19 contract. And whatever court enters judgment on the 20 bond, we agree will have authority to enter 21 attorney's fees under the statute, if allowed. And I 22 say "if allowed" because, as I told the court, I won't mention an amount, I think that would be 23 24 improper, but there's an offer of judgment. Ιf there's an offer of judgment, and they don't get more 25

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Page 118 than the offer of judgement, we get our attorney's 1 2 fees and they get no attorney's fees under NRS 108. 3 And so it's not a forgone conclusion that someone is 4 going to have to decided how much attorney's fees they get for foreclosing on the bond. 5 We would urge the court to go no further 6 than to look to see if under Smith V Eighth Judicial 7 District this document they filed into a special 8 9 proceeding was a complaint initiating a civil action, or was it filed into a civil action already initiated 10 by a complaint. The answer is "no" and "no." It's a 11 12 roque pleading. You strike it. They can start over 13 and then we can deal with all of these other messy 14 jurisdictional issues. Thank you, your Honor. 15 THE COURT: I'm just wondering if you can,

16 one more time, explain or give some authority to the 17 concept that these three causes of action: Breach of 18 contract, breach of covenant of good faith and fair 19 dealing, and NRS 624; is that right?

20 MR. ROBERTS: Yes.

THE COURT: That those actions were removed to federal court, then the Brahma Group has attempted to dismiss it in federal court and refile in the state court, why is that improper? Why are they forbidden from doing that, just so I have it here

Page 119 maybe once more on the record. I'm inclined to think 1 2 that must be the law, but you're the one that would 3 know the law better than I on the subject. 4 MR. ROBERTS: Your Honor, let me cite the 5 court to a few cases. Resolution Trust Corp. V Bayside Developers, 43F 3rd, 1230 at page 1238, Ninth 6 Circuit opinion which, quote -- remove the quotes 7 8 yet. Once a party removes a case, the federal 9 removal statute bars any further proceedings in state 10 court, quote, because the state court loses 11 jurisdiction upon filing of the petition for removal. 12 The Ninth Circuit in California ex rel 13 Sacramento Metro Air Quality Management District V the United States, 215 F.3d 1005 at page 1011, Ninth 14 15 Circuit 2000, quote, it is impossible to obtain judicial remedies and sanctions in state and local 16 courts once an action is removed to federal court 17 because removal of an action to federal court 18 necessarily divests state --19 20 (Cellphone interruption.) 21 MR. ROBERTS: Sorry, your Honor, I 2.2 apologize. I set a call when I thought we would be 23 done here at 1:30 and I forget to turn off my ringer. 24 To continue, removal an action to federal 25 court necessarily divests state and local courts of

	Demo 130
1	Page 120 their jurisdiction over a particular dispute.
2	So I think that if the court, both based on
3	this law, and certainly what the court is familiar
4	with personally, if they had sued us for breach of
5	contract in this court, and we have removed that
6	claim to federal court, and they had dismissed it and
7	refiled again in your court, what would you do?
8	Would you think you had jurisdiction? Can you avoid
9	a remand a removal? Can you avoid seeking a
10	remand by just getting rid of the federal claim and
11	then trying again and then going back up to federal
12	court and saying, oh, no, no, they can't do
13	there's a parallel state court proceeding. We filed
14	these claims back with Judge Elliott after they
15	removed and now they're two cases. You can't do
16	that.

So the only question for this court is does 17 it make a difference that they refiled them in Nye 18 instead of re-filing in Clark. And we've cited three 19 20 cases from other jurisdictions which are a little old 21 that says no, you can't do that kind of trickery. 22 Once the state courts are divested of jurisdiction, it's not just the particular court it was removed 23 from, but it's all of the state courts in that state. 24 25 And that makes sense. We agree there's no Ninth

Page 121 Circuit or Nevada law addressing that particular 1 2 issue, but it makes sense that you can't do this type 3 of gamesmanship simply to avoid a federal forum where 4 they don't want to be. And they don't need to be here to get 5 complete relief because it is -- even if they can't 6 get jurisdiction over Brahma and the bond, it's a 7 simply ministerial act for this court to enter 8 9 judgement on the bond and award attorney's fees, if we owe them anything under our contract, your Honor. 10 11 THE COURT: Thank you. 12 MR. ROBERTS: Thank you. 13 THE COURT: Anything else or can I move on? 14 But in the end, Mr. Roberts gets the last word. 15 MR. DOMINA: Understood. No? All right. 16 THE COURT: Anything else? 17 Well, Mr. Robert, I do appreciate, you know, your explanation of those last two issues. 18 And I 19 agree with you on the issue of once a claim, not 20 just, you know, part of a claim, but the whole claim 21 of those things are taken out and removed to federal 22 court, I don't think you can simply, well, let's move to dismiss them and refile them in the state court. 23 24 That would vitiate the whole theory, you know, the 25 reason for, you know, removal to federal court. You

Page 122 can't just do that on your own. This can't be right. 1 2 So as to these claims: Breach of contract, 3 NRS 624, and breach of the covenant of good faith and 4 fair dealing, since they were removed to the federal court, I want the federal court basically to take 5 What I'm going to do is rather than just 6 action. throw them out, I want this case to move as 7 expeditiously at all possible in this department, if 8 it can, and, you know, I'm simply going to stay the 9 10 action in this court on those pending, you know, 11 let's see what the federal court does. 12 If the federal court agrees to divest itself 13 of those, fine. But if it feels that it wants to take jurisdiction of those claims, then those claims 14 will be dismissed here. But at the moment we I think 15 16 stay and wait and see what the federal court does. 17 And I still do appreciate your explanation of why it's okay to take a motion, let's say a motion 18 to foreclose or a complaint to foreclose, and then 19 20 file in with it a motion to expunge the lien, but you 21 can't go otherwise, you explained that, because a 22 motion to expunge is a special proceeding and it isn't a complaint. 23 24 But I'm not going to rule in your favor on 25 I'm going to rule in favor of the Brahma Group that.

1	Page 123 that they had a live expungement action here, because
2	I hadn't issued any written order on it, plus there
3	was still the pending, you know, motion for
4	attorney's fees. It wasn't dead. They still had a
5	live case here. And I believe that the reverse
6	should be allowed. It's appropriate under the
7	circumstances. And I adopt the rational explained by
8	Mr. Peel and Mr. Domina.
9	So I want the, you know, that to survive and
10	would deny, you know, the motion insofar as it tries
11	to go after the foreclosure complaint. And I believe
12	it is truly a complaint, not a countercomplaint
13	that's somehow not a pleading. I think that was just
14	something that was put on there, but it really is
15	just the reverse of what's contemplated in the
16	statute, that it tries to take those two things, put
17	them together in the case to expeditiously, you know,
18	reach a conclusion in the best possible expedient way
19	here in court.
20	So I'm not quite sure how to word all this
21	but maybe I need help from Mr. Domina in terms of

but maybe I need help from Mr. Domina in terms of what this -- what he wants this court to find in order to keep that thing alive. But I am keeping alive your, you know, all your claims with regard to, you know, the proceeding against the bond. I think

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Page 124 that needs to be allowed. And what Mr. Peel said 1 2 makes sense that since you made that filing, you have 3 an adequate, you know, one and a half times the 4 amount of the bond for your claim so it meets the statutory requirements, and therefore what you have 5 is really an action against the bond, not an action 6 7 to foreclose on the property anymore. You know, 8 that's not going to happen. And in a way it seems to 9 me, you know, that regardless of the federal claim, 10 if the Brahma Group can get satisfaction from the 11 bond, it seems like the other part is moot. 12 Anyway, Mr. Peel or Mr. Domina, if you 13 would --14 MR. PEEL: I think I'll step up. 15 THE COURT: What sort of wording do you want 16 me to put into this to keep your claims alive? 17 I assume that your Honor is going MR. PEEL: 18 to prepare the order? Is that what you're intending? THE COURT: No, I want you to -- of course I 19 20 want you to do it. 21 MR. PEEL: All right. So what I would say 2.2 is is that of course you're denying their motion to strike and to dismiss, you're granting their motion 23 to stay but only as to the three causes of action. 24 25 THE COURT: That's correct.

Page 125 That Brahma will have the right 1 MR. PEEL: 2 to amend its complaint to remove the mechanics lien 3 foreclosure action as it pertains to the real 4 property. 5 THE COURT: Correct. To increase the amount of the 6 MR. PEEL: claim against the surety bond that Cobra caused to be 7 posted, and that, again, those three causes of action 8 9 will be stayed, but otherwise the action can proceed. MR. ZIMBELMAN: Richard, we need to attach 10 11 the rider as well, the rider to the bond to the 12 extent it's a --13 MR. PEEL: Mr. Zimbelman brings up a good 14 point in that rather than go back and issue a new 15 bond, what Cobra did is it had the surety issue a 16 surety rider, which is basically just an amendment to the underlying bond. And so that will need to be 17 attached to the amended complaint. Again, that would 18 19 resolve and from my perspective the things that I 20 understand the court has desire to address. Did I 21 miss anything? 2.2 MR. ZIMBELMAN: That's right. MR. DOMINA: That's right. 23 24 MR. PEEL: Anyway, that's the gist of what 25 this order would present for the court's approval and

1	Page 126
	signature.
2	THE COURT: Mr. Roberts, does that sound
3	like, not what you agree with, but does that sound
4	like a reasonable conclusion as to what the court
5	believes is the correct ruling?
6	MR. ROBERTS: Your Honor, I believe it
7	sounds like a workable solution to implement opinions
8	expressed by the court. I would notice I would
9	point out that I think the court even misspoke or
10	forgot about a technicality, and that is these lien
11	expungement proceedings are over. The court's ruled.
12	They're over, and there is no claim against the bond
13	in these proceedings. There's only a lien
14	foreclosure action. Cobra is not a party.
15	Nothing they aren't a party. There's no claim
16	against the bond. You aren't allowing something to
17	proceed because it was decided before the expungement
18	proceeding.
19	This case is over, and they don't want to
20	foreclose the lien. They can't. They want to file a
21	complaint against a bond, and that hasn't been done
22	and these proceedings are over and we continue to
23	except, take exception to the court's ruling. But
24	having said that, I think that what's been proposed
25	by Mr. Peel implements your order as well as anything

Page 127 1 I can come up with. 2 THE COURT: Okay. 3 MR. PEEL: I would just --4 THE COURT: I'll go along with what you 5 said, Mr. Peel. 6 MR. PEEL: All right. Then I'll sit down. THE COURT: Okay. 7 8 MR. PEEL: No reason to go further. Thank 9 you. THE COURT: No, I accept the argument 10 presented by Mr. Roberts, but I don't approve of it. 11 12 I just understand that he has that position. 13 And then as to the next, is there a next 14 item? MR. ZIMBELMAN: I think the motion to amend 15 16 has been resolved by way of this discussion we just 17 had, because what we'd be doing is effectively amending our motion to amend on the fly to do exactly 18 19 what Mr. Peel suggested. 20 MR. ROBERTS: Our only objection to the 21 amendment, your Honor, is that you cannot amend a 22 rogue pleading, that the initial pleading is 23 improper, so you can't amend an improper pleading. But the court has overruled us on that so we'll stand 24 25 by our objection, but I agree the allowing the

1	Page 128 amendment follows from the court's order.
2	THE COURT: Okay. Great.
3	MR. ROBERTS: But there is one more thing
4	though that this brings up, your Honor, that I would
5	ask. As I mentioned, I think this is a pure legal
6	issue and there's no discretion to rule against the
7	Nevada Supreme Court opinion in Smith V Judicial
8	District. We're going to seek a writ on this, and I
9	would ask the court to stay the foreclosure action
10	until the court rules on the writ to avoid I'm
11	required by the rules to ask you for a stay before I
12	ask the court of appeals. And we will commit to the
13	court and the parties that we'll get that writ filed
14	within a week, and as long as we do that, I would
15	request that you stay what we believe to be an
16	extract judicial foreclosure action until that writ
17	is decided.
18	THE COURT: Well, I don't know that I can
19	take any action just on this oral presentation, but
20	Mr. Peel?
21	MR. PEEL: My response to that would be as
22	the attorney's fees, they certainly have the right to
23	seek an appeal of that issue pursuant to 108.2275.
24	But as to the rest of it that we've discussed this
25	afternoon and talked about and what the court has

Page 129 indicated is its intended ruling, they don't have the 1 2 right to stay that part of the proceeding. 3 So based on that, and really what they're 4 seeking to do is to go to argue up on appeal everything we've discussed rather than just the 5 attorney's fees issue, which is the subject of 6 7 108.2275. So based on that I would say that that's an improper oral motion. If he chooses to bring it, 8 9 he should bring it as a separate written motion with this court, or he can bring it with the Nevada 10 11 Supreme Court, if he so chooses, but it's improper 12 before this court. 13 THE COURT: Well, I won't act on it as an oral motion at this time, you know, without the 14 15 benefit of briefing and the other side informally just what they think. I think that's the appropriate 16 thing. I'm not going to prejudge your issue, but I 17 just don't think I'm going to do it. And if you can 18 get this thing going in a hurry, I can certainly do 19 20 something, but I'm leaving town, what, February 16th 21 for a month, so you won't get anything out of me 2.2 during that period of time. 23 MR. ROBERTS: Very good. 24 THE COURT: But in January I'll be -- okay. 25 MR. KILBER: Your Honor, Jeremy Kilber on

1	Page 130 behalf of Cobra. I did have a housekeeping issue,
2	just to clarify. Are we staying the present
3	complaint that is on file in this action, because I
4	believe we were named, and we would have an answer
5	due if that's the operative pleading. And if we're
6	staying those causes of action, then we wouldn't have
7	an answer due.
8	THE COURT: I signed this stipulation and
9	order to continue hearing on H & E
10	MR. PEEL: That's for H & E.
11	MR. KILBER: That's for a different party,
12	your Honor.
13	THE COURT: to intervene
14	MR. DOMINA: Cobra was only named on the
15	bond.
16	MR. ZIMBELMAN: I believe I can answer your
17	concerns. The court has granted us the ability to
18	amend our complaint to
19	THE COURT: Right.
20	MR. ZIMBELMAN: attach the rider and
21	increase the claim on the bond. At that point you'd
22	have additional time to file your answer, because it
23	would be in the pleading. So and we'll of course
24	work with you, grant you any reasonable extension
25	that you may require.
1	

Page 131 MR. PEEL: And I've already given -- give me 1 2 your name again. 3 MR. KILBER: Jeremy. 4 MR. PEEL: -- Jeremy -- Jeremy's partner, Mr. Crisp (phonetic), I've already given him an 5 extension in which to answer until after this 6 proceeding is concluded. So they've already got an 7 extension. We're not asking them to respond to the 8 existing complaint. Instead we'll amend and then at 9 10 that time we'll have whatever course that you've got. 11 MR. KILBER: Perfect. All right. Just 12 making sure. I don't want to miss the filing. 13 THE COURT: Okay. All right. Well, thank you very much. And the court will stand in recess. 14 15 MR. PEEL: Thank you very much. 16 MR. ROBERTS: Thank you for your time, your 17 Honor. 18 (Thereupon the proceedings 19 were concluded at 2:14 p.m.) 20 21 2.2 23 24 25

1	Page 132 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER
2	STATE OF NEVADA)
3	SS:
4	COUNTY OF CLARK)
5	I, Deborah Ann Hines, certified court
6	reporter, do hereby certify that I took down in
7	shorthand (Stenotype) all of the proceedings had in
8	the before-entitled matter at the time and place
9	indicated; and that thereafter said shorthand notes
10	were transcribed into typewriting at and under my
11	direction and supervision and the foregoing
12	transcript constitutes a full, true and accurate
13	record of the proceedings had.
14	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto affixed
15	my hand this 21st day of December, 2018.
16	
17	
18	Deborah Hims
19	Deborah Ann Hines, CCR #473, RPR
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60:21 61:1,17	2:17	workable	written 123:2	2:9 3:20,24
64:10 70:23		126:7	129:9	4:15,18,19
71:14,25	won 12:9,10		129.9	5:11 14:16,
76:14 77:19,	,			19,24 15:1
20 91:1,20		worked 8:25	wrong 22:16	
94:5,7 95:4	wondering	17:8,18 36:3	49:10,15 81:5	17:7,12 23:3,
98:20 99:3,15	38:13 118:15	61:14,15 80:5	85:1,16,17	14 33:11,12,
100:5 101:13			, _,	15 38:20,24
104:21 117:9,	word 62:24	worked-on	_	39:13,18,25
11,20 122:15	88:25 102:4	22:5	wrongfully	49:8 125:10,
125:1,9,17	105:22	22.0	108:16	13,22 127:15
128:12	113:16			130:16,20
131:14	110.10	workers 6:4	wrote 13:7	
	-	-	-	-

1	NEO RICHARD L. PEEL, ESQ.		
2	Nevada Bar No. 4359		
3	ERIC B. ZIMBELMAN, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 9407		
4	CARY B. DOMINA, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 10567		
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10	Attorneys for Brahma Group, Inc.		
11	FIFTH JUDICIAL DIS	STRICT C	COURT
12	NYE COUNTY,	NEVADA	
13	TONOPAH SOLAR ENERGY, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company,	CASE N DEPT. N	O. : CV 39348 IO. : 2
14	Plaintiff,		
15	vs.	NOTICI	E OF ENTRY OF ORDER
16	BRAHMA GROUP, INC., a Nevada corporation,	(I)	DENYING TONOPAH
17			SOLAR ENERGY, LLC'S MOTION TO STRIKE AND
18	Defendant.	-	DISMISS; AND
19		(II)	GRANTING IN PART TONOPAH SOLAR ENERGY, LLC'S MOTION
20		1	FOR STAY
21 22		(III)	GRANTING BRAHMA GROUP, INC'S MOTION TO AMEND
23 24	AND ALL RELATED CROSS-ACTIONS.		
25	111	1	
26	111		
27	111		
28			
	Page 1 of	9.2	

PEEL BRIMLEY LLP 3333 E. SERENE AVENUE, STE. 200 HENDERSON, NEVADA 89074 (702) 990-7272 + FAX (702) 990-7273

.

	1	NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER					
	2	PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that an ORDER (I) DENYING TONOPAH SOLAR ENERGY,					
	3	LLC'S MOTION TO STRIKE AND DISMISS; AND (II) GRANTING IN PART					
	4	TONOPAH SOLAR ENERGY, LLC'S MOTION FOR STAY and (III) GRANTING BRAHMA GROUP, INC'S MOTION TO AMEND was filed on January 24, 2019, a copy of					
	5						
	6	which is attached as Exhibit 1.					
	7	Dated this <u>43</u> day of January, 2019.					
	8	PEEL BRIMLEY LLP					
	9	000					
r STE. 200 89074 990-7273	10						
	11	RICHARD L. PEEL, ESQ. (4359) ERIC B. ZIMBELMAN, ESQ. (9407) CABY B. DOMINIA, ESQ. (10567)					
	12	CARY B. DOMINA, ESQ. (10567) RONALD J. COX, ESQ. (12723)					
UE, S DA 89 702) 9	13	3333 E. Serene Avenue, Suite 200 Henderson, Nevada 89074-6571					
SERENE AVENUE, SERENE AVENUE, SERENE AVENUE, SERENE AVENUE, SPERSON, NEVADA 8 1-7272 + FAX (702)	14	Attorneys for Brahma Group, Inc.					
SERENE SERENE DERSON, -7272 +	15						
3333 E. SEREN HENDERSO 702) 990-7272	16						
333. 1 (702)	17						
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1		CERTIFICA	TE OF SERVICE				
2	Purs	Pursuant to Nev. R. Civ. P. 5(b), I certify that I am an employee of PEEL BRIMLEY LLP					
3	and that on	and that on this 25 Hay of January, 2019, I caused the above and foregoing document entitled					
4	NOTICE O	FENTRY OF ORDER to be ser	ved as follows:				
5 6		by placing same to be deposited envelope upon which first class	f for mailing in the United States Mail, in a sealed postage was prepaid in Las Vegas, Nevada; and/or				
7			registered parties via the Court's electronic filing				
8 9		pursuant to EDCR 7.26, to be so	ent via facsimile;				
10		to be hand-delivered; and/or					
11		other: Electronic Service (E-ma	il)				
12	to the party(i	ies) and/or attorney(s) listed below	w at the address and/or facsimile number indicated				
13	below:						
14							
15		berts, Jr., Esq. Balkenbush, Esq.	Geoffrey Crisp, Esq. WEIL & DRAGE				
16	WEINBER	RG, WHEELER, HUDGINS DIAL, LLC	2500 Anthem Village Drive				
17	6385 S. Ra	inbow Blvd., Suite 400	Henderson, NV 89052 gcrisp@weildrage.com				
18	lroberts@v	NV 89118 vwhgd.com	Attorneys for Cobra Thermosolar				
19	<u>Attorneys</u> f	sh@wwhgd.com for Tonopah Solar Energy, LLC	Plants, Inc.				
20							
21							
22		-6	the Bank				
23			An Employee of Peel Brimley LLP				
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PEEL BRIMLEY LLP 3333 E. SERENE AVENUE, STE. 200 HENDERSON, NEVADA 89074 (702) 990-7272 & FAX (702) 990-7273

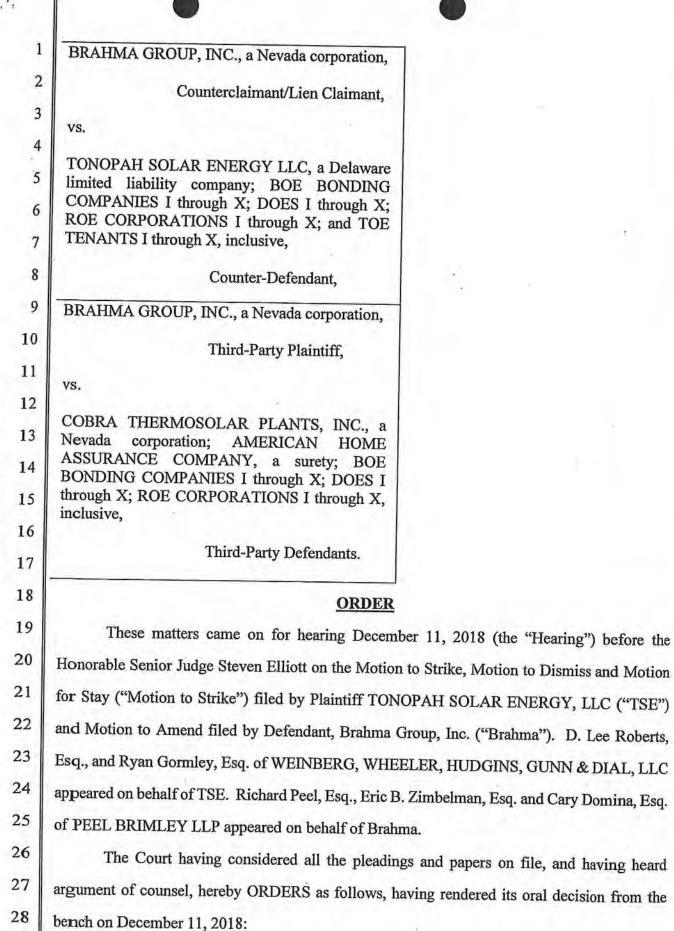
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EXHIBIT 1

.

	• ORIGIN/		
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	ORDR RICHARD L. PEEL, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 4359 ERIC B. ZIMBELMAN, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 9407 CARY B. DOMINA, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 10567 RONALD J. COX, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 12723 PEEL BRIMLEY LLP 3333 E. Serene Avenue, Suite 200 Henderson, Nevada 89074-6571 Telephone: (702) 990-7272 Facsimile: (702) 990-7273 <u>rpeel@peelbrimley.com</u> ezimbelman@peelbrimley.com cdomina@peelbrimley.com Attorneys for Brahma Group, Inc. FIFTH JUDICIAL DIS NYE COUNTY,	STRICT (COURT A IO. : CV 39348

PEEL BRIMLEY LLP 3333 E. SERENE AVENUE, STE, 200



PEEL BRIMLEY LLP 3333 E. SERENE AVENUE, STE. 200 HENDERSON, NEVADA 89074 (702) 990-7272 + FAX (702) 990-727:

The Court finds that Brahma's Amended Counter-Complaint does not violate NRCP 7(a) because it (i) acts as a standalone complaint, (ii) was served on TSE, and (iii) provides adequate notice of the claims that are at issue between Brahma and TSE. While incorrectly styled as a "Counter-Complaint," the Court finds that it is really a "Complaint" and complies with NRCP 7(a) as it "puts the matters asserted therein at issue." In fact, the initial pleading Brahma filed in this Action was identified as a "Mechanic's Lien Foreclosure Complaint" and was not called an Amended Counter-Complaint until Brahma amended the initial Complaint.

8 The Court further finds that there was nothing improper with Brahma filing its Counter-9 Complaint in the same Case TSE commenced when it filed its Motion to Expunge Brahma's Lien. First, NRS 108.2275(5) establishes the Nevada Legislature's intent to combine mechanic's 10 lien foreclosure actions with motions to expunge liens. Had Brahma filed a standalone complaint as an independent action and then moved the Court to consolidate that action with Case No. CV-39348 as TSE suggests, the Parties would be in the same position they currently find themselves SPE At the time Brahma filed its Amended Counter-Complaint in this Action, the Court had not yet ruled on Brahma's Motion for Attorney's Fees and Costs under NRS 108.2275, so that Case was still open.

The Court further finds that the following three Causes of Action asserted by Brahma 17 18 against TSE are stayed: (i) Breach of Contract; (ii) Breach of Implied Covenant of Good Faith 19 and Fair Dealing; and (iii) Violations of NRS 624 until such time as the federal court rules on 20 Brahma's and TSE's pending motions filed in the federal action. With respect to all remaining 21 causes of action (as may be further amended), nothing herein is intended to be a stay of such claims and causes of action and Brahma is entitled to proceed with the prosecution of such 22 23 claims.

24 Finally, the Court finds that Brahma shall be permitted to amend its Amended Counter-Complaint to (i) withdraw the mechanic's lien foreclosure action against TSE's Work of 25 26 Improvement; (ii) identify the Rider to the Bond (as defined in the Parties' Briefing); and (iii) 27 increase its mechanic's lien foreclosure action against the Bond and Rider to \$19,289,366. The 28 three stayed Causes of Action shall be included in the Second Amended Complaint but shall

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remain stayed as set forth above.

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THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that TSE's Motion to Strike Brahma's Amended Counter-Compliant is DENIED;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that TSE's Motion to Dismiss Brahma's Amended Counter-Complaint is DENIED; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that TSE's Motion for Stay is DENIED in part and GRANTED in part. The Motion for Stay is granted only as to the following three Causes of Action which TSE initially removed to federal court: (i) Breach of Contract; (ii) Breach of Implied Covenant of Good Faith and Fair Dealing; and (iii) Violations of NRS 624. These three Causes of Action shall be stayed until such time as the Federal Court rules on whether this Court has proper jurisdiction over these claims. Brahma may prosecute its remaining claims and causes of action as amended. TSE's Motion for Stay is DENIED as to all other claims.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Brahma shall be permitted to amend its Amended Counter-Complaint.

Dated this 24 day of January, 2019.

SENIOR JUDGE STEVEN ELLIOTT

Respectfully submitted by: PEEL BRIMLEY LLP RICHARD L. PEEL, ESO. (4359) ERIC B. ZIMBELMAN, ESQ. (9407) CARY B. DOMINA, ESQ. (10567) RONALD J. COX, ESQ. (12723) 3333 E. Serene Avenue, Suite 200 Henderson, Nevada 89074-6571 Attorneys for Brahma Group, Inc.

Approved as to form and Content WEINBERG, WHEELER, HUDGINS, GUNN & DIAL, LLC

D. LEE ROBERTS, JR, ESQ. (8877) COLBY L. BALKENBUSH, ESQ. (13066) RYAN T. GORMLEY, ESQ. (13494) 6385 South Rainbow Blvd., Suite 400 Las Vegas, Nevada 89118 Attorneys for Tonopah Solar Energy, LLC

3333 E. SERENE AVENUE, STE. 200 HENDERSON, NEVADA 89074 (702) 990-7272 + FAX (702) 990-72 PEEL BRIMLEY LLP

United States District Court District of Nevada (Las Vegas) CIVIL DOCKET FOR CASE #: 2:18-cv-01747-RFB-GWF

Brahma Group, Inc. v. Tonopah Solar Energy, LLC Assigned to: Judge Richard F. Boulware, II Referred to: Magistrate Judge George Foley, Jr Demand: \$11,900,000 Case in other court: District Court, Clark County, Nevada, A-18-777815-B Cause: 28:1332 Diversity-Other Contract Date Filed: 09/10/2018 Jury Demand: None Nature of Suit: 190 Contract: Other Jurisdiction: Diversity

<u>Plaintiff</u>

Brahma Group, Inc.

represented by Eric Zimbelman

Peel Brimley LLP 3333 E. Serene Avenue Suite 200 Henderson, NV 89074-6571 702-990-7272 Fax: 702-990-7273 Email: ezimbelman@peelbrimley.com *LEAD ATTORNEY ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED*

Richard Leslie Peel

Peel Brimley LLP 3333 E. Serene Ave., Ste. 200 Henderson, NV 89074 702-990-7272 Email: rpeel@peelbrimley.com LEAD ATTORNEY ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

Cary B Domina

Peel Brimley LLP 3333 E. Serene Avenue Henderson, NV 89074-6571 702-990-7272 Fax: 702-990-7273 Email: cdomina@peelbrimley.com *ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED*

V.

Defendant

Tonopah Solar Energy, LLC

represented by Colby Balkenbush Weinberg Wheeler Hudgins Gunn &

Dial, LLC 6385 S. Rainbow Blvd. Suite 400 Las Vegas, NV 89118 702-938-3838 Fax: 702-938-3864 Email: cbalkenbush@wwhgd.com LEAD ATTORNEY ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

D. Lee Roberts, Jr

Weinberg, Wheeler, Hudgins, Gunn & Dial, LLC 6385 S. Rainbow Blvd. Suite 400 Las Vegas, NV 89118 702-938-3838 Fax: 702-938-3864 Email: lroberts@wwhgd.com LEAD ATTORNEY ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

Ryan T. Gormley

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Counter Claimant

Tonopah Solar Energy, LLC

represented by Colby Balkenbush

(See above for address) LEAD ATTORNEY ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

D. Lee Roberts, Jr

(See above for address) LEAD ATTORNEY ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

Ryan T. Gormley

(See above for address) ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

V.

Counter Defendant

Brahma Group, Inc.

represented by Eric Zimbelman

(See above for address) LEAD ATTORNEY ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

Richard Leslie Peel

(See above for address) LEAD ATTORNEY ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

Cary B Domina

(See above for address) ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

Date Filed	#	Docket Text	
09/10/2018	1	PETITION FOR REMOVAL from District Court, Clark County, NV, Case Number A-18-777815-B, (Filing fee \$ 400 receipt number 0978-5233951) by Tonopah Solar Energy, LLC. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Exhibit, # <u>2</u> Civil Cover Sheet) (Balkenbush, Colby) NOTICE of Certificate of Interested Parties requirement: Under Local Rule	
		7.1-1, a party must <u>immediately</u> file its disclosure statement with its first appearance, pleading, petition, motion, response, or other request addressed to the court. (Entered: 09/10/2018)	
09/10/2018		Case assigned to Judge Richard F. Boulware, II and Magistrate Judge George Foley, Jr. (JM) (Entered: 09/10/2018)	
09/10/2018	2	MINUTE ORDER IN CHAMBERS of the Honorable Judge Richard F. Boulware, II on 9/10/2018. Statement regarding removed action is due by 9/25/2018. Joint Status Report regarding removed action is due by 10/10/2018. (Copies have been distributed pursuant to the NEF - JM) (Entered: 09/10/2018)	
09/10/2018	<u>3</u>	CERTIFICATE of Interested Parties by Tonopah Solar Energy, LLC that identifies all parties that have an interest in the outcome of this case. Corporate Parent Capital One, National Association, Corporate Parent Banco Santander, S.A., Corporate Parent Inversiones Capital Global, S.A., Corporate Parent Cobra Energy Investment, LLC, Corporate Parent Cobra Industrial Services, Inc., Corporate Parent SolarReserve, Inc., Corporate Parent ACS Servicios Comunicaciones y Energia S.L., Other Affiliate Tonopah Solar Energy Holdings II, LLC, Other Affiliate Tonopah Solar Energy Holdings, I, LLC, Other Affiliate Tonopah Solar I, LLC, Other Affiliate Tonopah Solar Investments, LLC, Other Affiliate Cobra Energy Investment Finance, LLC, Other Affiliate SolarReserve CSP Holdings, LLC, Other Affiliate SolarReserveCSP Finance, LLC, Other Affiliate SolarReserve, LLC for Tonopah Solar Energy, LLC added. (Balkenbush, Colby) (Entered: 09/10/2018)	
09/17/2018	<u>4</u>		

		ANSWER re <u>1</u> Petition for Removal, <i>to Brahma Group, Inc.'s Complaint</i> (, Discovery Plan/Scheduling Order due by 11/1/2018.), COUNTERCLAIM against Brahma Group, Inc. by Tonopah Solar Energy, LLC. filed by Tonopah Solar Energy, LLC.(Balkenbush, Colby)
		NOTICE of Certificate of Interested Parties requirement: Under Local Rule 7.1-1, a party must <u>immediately</u> file its disclosure statement with its first appearance, pleading, petition, motion, response, or other request addressed to the court. (Entered: 09/17/2018)
09/19/2018	<u>5</u>	CERTIFICATE of Interested Parties by Tonopah Solar Energy, LLC that identifies all parties that have an interest in the outcome of this case. Other Affiliate Department of Energy for Tonopah Solar Energy, LLC, Tonopah Solar Energy, LLC added. (Balkenbush, Colby) (Entered: 09/19/2018)
09/24/2018	<u>6</u>	DEMAND for Trial by Jury by Counter Claimant Tonopah Solar Energy, LLC, Defendant Tonopah Solar Energy, LLC. (Balkenbush, Colby) (Entered: 09/24/2018)
09/25/2018	7	STATEMENT REGARDING REMOVAL by Counter Claimant Tonopah Solar Energy, LLC, Defendant Tonopah Solar Energy, LLC. (Balkenbush, Colby) (Entered: 09/25/2018)
09/25/2018	<u>8</u>	First AMENDED COMPLAINT against All Defendants by Brahma Group, Inc No changes to parties. Proof of service due by 12/24/2018.(Domina, Cary) (Entered: 09/25/2018)
09/25/2018	<u>9</u>	CERTIFICATE of Interested Parties by Brahma Group, Inc There are no known interested parties other than those participating in the case (Domina, Cary) (Entered: 09/25/2018)
10/05/2018	<u>10</u>	ANSWER to <u>4</u> Answer to Petition for Removal,,, Counterclaim,, filed by Brahma Group, Inc(Domina, Cary) (Entered: 10/05/2018)
10/09/2018	<u>11</u>	ANSWER to <u>8</u> Amended Complaint filed by Tonopah Solar Energy, LLC. (Balkenbush, Colby) (Entered: 10/09/2018)
10/10/2018	<u>12</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by Counter Claimant Tonopah Solar Energy, LLC, Defendant Tonopah Solar Energy, LLC. (Balkenbush, Colby) (Entered: 10/10/2018)
10/16/2018	<u>13</u>	MOTION to Stay Case, or in the Alternative, Motion to amend Complaint by Plaintiff Brahma Group, Inc., Counter Defendant Brahma Group, Inc (Attachments: # 1 Exhibit 1 - Services Agreement, # 2 Exhibit 2 - Original Lien, # 3 Exhibit 3 - Notice of First Amended and Restated Lien, # 4 Exhibit 4 - Notice of Second Amended and Restated Lien, # 5 Exhibit 5 - Third Ameded and/or Restated Notice of Lien, # 6 Exhibit 6 - Fourth Amended and/or Restated Notice of Lien, # 7 Exhibit 7 - Brahma Surety Bond, # 8 Exhibit 8 - Brahma Surety Bond Rider, # 9 Exhibit 9 - H&E Surety Bond, # 10 Exhibit 10 - TSE's Motion to Expunge, # 11 Exhibit 11 - Brahma's Complaint filed in the Clark County Action, # 12 Exhibit 12 - Mechanic's Lien Foreclosure Complaint, # 13 Exhibit 13 - First Amended Counter-Complaint and Third-Party Complaint, # 14

		Exhibit 14 - TSE's October 15, 2018 Letter) (Domina, Cary) (Entered: 10/16/2018)	
10/17/2018	<u>14</u>	MOTION NOTICE for Oral Argument by Brahma Group, Inc. re <u>13</u> Motion to Stay Case. (Domina, Cary) <u>Event modified by Clerk's Office on 10/17/2018</u> (EDS). (Entered: 10/17/2018)	
10/18/2018	<u>15</u>	CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE for <u>9</u> Certificate of Interested Parties, <u>8</u> Amended Complaint by Plaintiff Brahma Group, Inc., Counter Defendant Brahma Group, Inc (Domina, Cary) (Entered: 10/18/2018)	
10/18/2018	<u>16</u>	MOTION for Permanent Injunction by Counter Claimant Tonopah Solar Energy, LLC, Defendant Tonopah Solar Energy, LLC. Responses due by 11/1/2018. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Exhibit, # <u>2</u> Exhibit, # <u>3</u> Exhibit, # <u>4</u> Exhibit, # <u>5</u> Exhibit, # <u>6</u> Exhibit, # <u>7</u> Exhibit, # <u>8</u> Exhibit, # <u>9</u> Exhibit, # <u>10</u> Exhibit, # <u>11</u> Exhibit, # <u>12</u> Exhibit, # <u>13</u> Exhibit, # <u>14</u> Exhibit, # <u>15</u> Exhibit, # <u>16</u> Exhibit) (Balkenbush, Colby) (Entered: 10/18/2018)	
10/22/2018	<u>17</u>	NOTICE of Withdrawal of Demand for Jury Trial by Tonopah Solar Energy, LLC (Balkenbush, Colby) (Entered: 10/22/2018)	
10/30/2018	<u>18</u>	RESPONSE to <u>13</u> Motion to Stay Case,,, by Counter Claimant Tonopah Solar Energy, LLC, Defendant Tonopah Solar Energy, LLC. Replies due by 11/6/2018. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Exhibit, # <u>2</u> Exhibit) (Balkenbush, Colby) (Entered: 10/30/2018)	
11/01/2018	<u>19</u>	FIRST STIPULATION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME re <u>16</u> Motion for Permanent Injunction, by Plaintiff Brahma Group, Inc., Counter Defendant Brahma Group, Inc (Domina, Cary) (Entered: 11/01/2018)	
11/05/2018	20	RESPONSE to <u>16</u> Motion for Permanent Injunction, by Plaintiff Brahma Group, Inc., Counter Defendant Brahma Group, Inc Replies due by 11/12/2018. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Declaration Declaration of Richard L. Peel, Esq. in Support of Brahma Group, Inc.'s Response to Tonopah Solar Energy's Motion for Preliminary Injunction and Motion to Strike [ECF No. 16], # <u>2</u> Exhibit 1 - Services Agreement, # <u>3</u> Exhibit 2 - Original Lien, # <u>4</u> Exhibit 3 - First Complaint, # <u>5</u> Exhibit 4 - Notice of Foreclosure, # <u>6</u> Exhibit 5 - Notice of Lis Pendens, # <u>7</u> Exhibit 6 - Letter dated April 19, 2018, # <u>8</u> Exhibit 7 - First Motion to Expunge, # <u>9</u> Exhibit 8 - Voluntary Dismissal, # <u>10</u> Exhibit 9 - First Amended Lien, # <u>11</u> Exhibit 10 - Second Amended Lien, # <u>12</u> Exhibit 11 - Third Amended Lien, # <u>13</u> Exhibit 12 - Fourth Amended Complaint, # <u>14</u> Exhibit 13 - Brahma Surety Bond, # <u>15</u> Exhibit 14 - Brahma Surety Bond Rider, # <u>16</u> Exhibit 15 - H&E Lien, # <u>17</u> Exhibit 16 - Tonopah's Motion to Expunge the H&E Lien, # <u>18</u> Exhibit 17 - H&E Surety Bond, # <u>19</u> Exhibit 18 - TSE's Second Motion to Expunge Brahma's Lien, # <u>20</u> Exhibit 19 - Order of Reassignment, # <u>21</u> Exhibit 20 - Judge Elliott's Order Denying TSE's Second Motion to Expunge the Brahma Lien, # <u>22</u> Exhibit 21 - Brahma's Fee Motion, # <u>23</u> Exhibit 23 - Brahma's Complaint filed in the Clark County Action, # <u>24</u> Exhibit 23 - Mechanic's Lien Foreclosure Complaint, # <u>25</u> Exhibit 24 - First Amended Counter-Complaint and Third-Party Complaint, # <u>26</u> Exhibit 25 - TSE's Motion to Strike, Motion to Dismiss or Motion to Stay, # <u>27</u> Exhibit 26 - Brahma's	

		Opposition to TSE's Nye County Motion to Stay) (Domina, Cary) (Entered: 11/05/2018)	
11/06/2018	21	STIPULATION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME (First Request) <i>and Order</i> <i>Extending Deadline to File Reply</i> re <u>13</u> Motion to Stay Case,,, by Plaintiff Brahma Group, Inc., Counter Defendant Brahma Group, Inc (Domina, Cary) (Entered: 11/06/2018)	
11/07/2018	22	DRDER granting <u>19</u> Stipulation; Re: <u>16</u> Motion for Permanent Injunction, Responses due by 11/5/2018. Replies due by 11/16/2018. Signed by Judge Richard F. Boulware, II on 11/7/2018. (Copies have been distributed pursuant to the NEF - JM) (Entered: 11/07/2018)	
11/07/2018	<u>23</u>	RDER granting <u>21</u> Stipulation; Re: <u>13</u> Motion to Stay Case, Replies due by /8/2018. Signed by Judge Richard F. Boulware, II on 11/7/2018. (Copies have en distributed pursuant to the NEF - JM) (Entered: 11/08/2018)	
11/08/2018	<u>24</u>	EPLY to Response to <u>13</u> Motion to Stay Case,,, by Plaintiff Brahma Group, ic., Counter Defendant Brahma Group, Inc (Domina, Cary) (Entered: 1/08/2018)	
11/14/2018	<u>25</u>	PROPOSED Discovery Plan/Scheduling Order by Plaintiff Brahma Group, Inc., Counter Defendant Brahma Group, Inc. <i>Special Scheduling Review Requested</i> (Domina, Cary) (Entered: 11/14/2018)	
11/15/2018	26	SCHEDULING ORDER. Re: 25 Proposed Discovery Plan/Scheduling Order. Discovery due by 10/25/2019. Motions due by 11/25/2019. Proposed Joint Pretrial Order due by 12/26/2019. Signed by Magistrate Judge George Foley, Jr on 11/15/2018. (Copies have been distributed pursuant to the NEF - JM) (Entered: 11/15/2018)	
11/15/2018	27	NOTICE PURSUANT TO LOCAL RULE IB 2-2: In accordance with 28 USC § 636(c) and FRCP 73, the parties in this action are provided with a link to the "AO 85 Notice of Availability, Consent, and Order of Reference - Exercise of Jurisdiction by a U.S. Magistrate Judge" form on the Court's website - www.nvd.uscourts.gov. AO 85 Consent forms should NOT be electronically filed. Upon consent of all parties, counsel are advised to manually file the form with the Clerk's Office. (A copy of form AO 85 has been mailed to parties not receiving electronic service.)	
		NOTICE OF GENERAL ORDER 2013-1 AND OPPORTUNITY FOR EXPEDITED TRIAL SETTING: The parties in this action are provided with a link to General Order 2013-1 and the USDC Short Trial Rules on the Court's website - <u>www.nvd.uscourts.gov</u> . If the parties agree that this action can be ready for trial within 180 days and that a trial of this matter would take 3 days or less, the parties should consider participation in the USDC Short Trial Program. If the parties wish to be considered for entry into the Court's Short Trial Program, they should execute and electronically file with USDC Short Trial Form 4(a)(1) or Form 4(a)(2). (no image attached) (JM) (Entered: 11/15/2018)	
11/16/2018	<u>28</u>	REPLY to Response to <u>16</u> Motion for Permanent Injunction, by Counter Claimant Tonopah Solar Energy, LLC, Defendant Tonopah Solar Energy, LLC. (Balkenbush, Colby) (Entered: 11/16/2018)	

11/28/2018	<u>29</u>	MOTION to Stay Discovery by Plaintiff Brahma Group, Inc., Counter Defendant Brahma Group, Inc (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Exhibit Declaration of Ronald J. Cox, Esq.) (Domina, Cary) (Entered: 11/28/2018)
11/29/2018	30	MINUTE ORDER IN CHAMBERS of the Honorable Magistrate Judge George Foley, Jr. on 11/29/2018. By Deputy Clerk: Ivy Hensel.
		Re: <u>29</u> MOTION to Stay Discovery by Plaintiff Brahma Group, Inc., Counter Defendant Brahma Group, Inc.
		Motion Hearing set for <u>Thursday, December 27, 2018 at 1:30 PM</u> in LV Courtroom 3A before Magistrate Judge George Foley, Jr. (no image attached) (Copies have been distributed pursuant to the NEF - IH) (Entered: 11/29/2018)
12/04/2018	31	MOTION to Compel <i>Brahma Group, Inc. to Respond to Requests for</i> <i>Production and Interrogatories</i> by Counter Claimant Tonopah Solar Energy, LLC, Defendant Tonopah Solar Energy, LLC. Responses due by 12/18/2018. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Exhibit, # <u>2</u> Exhibit, # <u>3</u> Exhibit, # <u>4</u> Exhibit, # <u>5</u> Exhibit, # <u>6</u> Exhibit) (Gormley, Ryan) Modified on 12/26/2018 (JM). (Entered: 12/04/2018)
12/12/2018	32	RESPONSE to 29 Motion to Stay Discovery by Counter Claimant Tonopah Solar Energy, LLC, Defendant Tonopah Solar Energy, LLC. Replies due by 12/19/2018. (Attachments: # 1 Exhibit) (Gormley, Ryan) (Entered: 12/12/2018)
12/18/2018	33	STIPULATION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME (First Request) (<i>Extend</i> <i>Response</i>) re <u>31</u> Motion to Compel, by Plaintiff Brahma Group, Inc., Counter Defendant Brahma Group, Inc (Domina, Cary) (Entered: 12/18/2018)
12/18/2018	<u>34</u>	STIPULATION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME (First Request) <i>(Extend Reply)</i> re 29 Motion to Stay Discovery by Plaintiff Brahma Group, Inc., Counter Defendant Brahma Group, Inc (Domina, Cary) (Entered: 12/18/2018)
12/19/2018	<u>35</u>	ORDER granting <u>33</u> Stipulation; Re: <u>31</u> Motion to Compel, Responses due by 12/21/2018. Signed by Magistrate Judge George Foley, Jr on 12/19/2018. (Copies have been distributed pursuant to the NEF - JM) (Entered: 12/19/2018)
12/19/2018	<u>36</u>	ORDER granting <u>34</u> Stipulation; Re: <u>29</u> Motion to Stay Discovery, Replies due by 12/21/2018. Signed by Magistrate Judge George Foley, Jr on 12/19/2018. (Copies have been distributed pursuant to the NEF - JM) (Entered: 12/19/2018)
12/21/2018	37	STIPULATION <i>and Order to Withdraw Pending Discovery Motions [ECF Nos.</i> 29 and 31] re <u>31</u> Motion to Compel, <u>29</u> Motion to Stay Discovery by Plaintiff Brahma Group, Inc., Counter Defendant Brahma Group, Inc (Domina, Cary) (Entered: 12/21/2018)
12/26/2018	<u>38</u>	ORDER granting <u>37</u> Stipulation to Withdraw Pending Discovery Motions; Signed by Magistrate Judge George Foley, Jr on 12/26/2018. (Copies have been distributed pursuant to the NEF - JM) (Entered: 12/26/2018)

PACER Service Center Transaction Receipt

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Billable Pages:	6	Cost:	0.60

Case #: CV-0039348

Judge: ELLIOTT, STEVEN P

Date Filed: 06/11/18 Department: 02

Case Type: RP OTH REAL PROP/OTHER TITLE TO PROP

Title/Caption: TONOPAH SOLAR ENERGY, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, Plaintiff VS BRAHMA GROUP, INC., a Nevada Corp. Defendant

Comments: FILE IN PAHRUMP/SENIOR JUDGE ELLIOTT

Defendant(s) BRAHMA GROUP INC

Time Hearing

Attorney(s) PEEL, RICHARD

Attorney(s)

Defendant(s) H&E EQUIPMENT SERVICES, INC. HANSEN, DANIEL M.

Plaintiff(s) TONOPAH SOLAR ENERGY LLC Attorney(s) ROBERTS JR., D. LEE BALKENBUSH, COLBY L.

Hearings: Date

Reference

8/06/18 9:00 MOTION TO EXPUNGE MECHANICS LIEN 7/23ORDER JUDGE: ROBERT W. LANE; CLERK: VERONICA AG UILAR; BAILIFF: JAMELE TAYLOR; APP: D. LEE ROBERTS, ESQ., IS PRESENT ON BEHALF OF PLAINTIFF, TONOPAH SOLAR ENERGY; RICHARD PEEL, ESQ., AND RONNIE COX, ESQ., ARE PRESENT WITH DAVID ZIMMERMAN. MR. ROBERTS ADDRESSES THE RECUSAL FROM DEPARTMENT 1; STATES HE IS READY TO PROCEED. THE COURT STATES HE IS INCLINED TO TRANSFER THE MATTER TO SENIOR JUDGE ELLIOT SINCE HE IS AWARE OF THE MATTER AND EXPLAINS HE WILL NOTIFY COUNSELS IF THE CASE IS TRANSFERRED.

9/12/18 1:15 MOTION HEARING SENIOR JUDGE: STEVEN ELLIOTT CLERK: SARAH WESTFALL BAILIFF: JAMELE TAYLOR APPS: D. LEE ROBERTS JR. & COLBY L. BALKENBUSH PRESENT ON BEHALF OF PLAINTIFF; RICHARD L. PEEL, ERIC B. ZIMBELMAN, & RONNIE J. COX PRESENT ON BEHALF OF DEFENDANT, WITH CLIENT REPRESENTATIVE DAVID ZIMMERMAN. COURT CALLS THE MATTER; CALENDARED TODAY ON PLAINTIFF, TONOPAH SOLAR ENERGY, LLC'S MOTION TO EXPUNGE BRAHMA GROUP, INC.'S MECHANIC'S LIEN. COURT INFORMS COUNSEL HE HAS REVIEWED THE PLEADINGS ON FILE IN RELATION TO THE INSTANT MOTION AND HANDS THE MATTER OVER TO COUNSEL FOR ARGUMENT. MR. ROBERTS PRESENTS ARGUMENT IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFF'S MOTION AND SUBMITS FOR THE COURT'S REVIEW CASE LAW CONCERNING BURDEN OF PROOF. MR. ZIMBELMAN RESPONDS AND PRESENTS ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION OF PLAINTIFF'S MOTION. COURT RAISES QUESTIONS WITH REGARD TO ANOTHER CASE, NUMBER CV39237. MR. PEEL ADDRESSES THE COURT REGARDING CV39237 AND NOTES IT WAS DISMISSED VOLUNTARILY WITHOUT PREJUDICE BY HIS CLIENT DUE TO PROVISIONS WITHIN THE CONTRACT BETWEEN THE PARTIES. MR. ZIMBELMAN CONTINUES WITH OPPOSING ARGUMENT AND SUBMITS TO THE COURT. COURT TAKES A BRIEF RECESS. COURT RETURNS TO SESSION. MR.

ZIMBELMAN ADDRESSES THE COURT'S CONCERNS WITH REGARD TO BRAHMA GROUP, INC.'S LIEN. MR. PEEL INTERJECTS, REVIEWS STATUTES PERTAINING TO LIENS AND PRESENTS ARGUMENT SUPPORTING BRAHMA GROUP, INC.'S LIEN. MR. ROBERTS PRESENTS REBUTTAL ARGUMENT. MR. PEEL PROCEEDS WITH SOME FINAL POINTS. MR. ROBERTS RESPONDS AND MOVES TO STRIKE MR. PEEL'S COMMENTS AS TO THE ORIGINAL INTENT AT THE TIME THE LIEN WAS FILED. COURT RULES AGAINST TONOPAH SOLAR ENERGY, LLC AND FINDS THE LIEN STANDS. COURT OUTLINES HIS CONCLUSIONS FOR COUNSEL. COURT ORDERS PLAINTIFF, TONOPAH SOLAR ENERGY, LLC'S MOTION TO EXPUNGE BRAHMA GROUP, INC.'S MECHANIC'S LIEN DENIED. MR. PEEL IS TO PREPARE THE ORDER FROM TODAY'S HEARING AND RUN BY OPPOSING COUNSEL FOR REVIEW PRIOR TO SUBMISSION. COURT IS ADJOURNED.

10:00 MOTION HEARING 12/11/18 10:00 MOTION TO STRIKE .. (TSE) JUDGE:STEVEN P ELLIOTT

11/2/18GERIE GERIE

CLERK: DEBRA BENNETT; COURT REPORTER: DEBBIE HINES

BAILIFF: JAMELE TAYLOR

APPEAR: RICHARD PEEL; ERIC B. ZIMBELMAN AND CARY DOMINA PRESENT ON BEHALF OF BRAHMA GROUP INC.; D.LEE ROBERTS JR AND RYAN GORMLEY PRESENT ON BEHALF OF TONOPAH SOLAR ENERGY LLC; DANIEL M HANSEN PRESENT ON BEHALF OF H&E EQUIPMENT SERVICES, INC. ATTORNEY JEREMY KILBER FROM WEIL & DRAGE PRESENT ON BEHALF OF COBRA.COURT OPENS ADDRESSING MOTIONS AND BEGINNING WITH H&E EQUIPMENTS MOTION TO INTERVENE, PARTIES HAVE STIPULATED TO CONTINUE HEARING DATE ON H&E EQUIPMENTS MOTION TO INTERVENE. COURT STATES STIP AND ORDER HAS BEEN SIGNED TODAY SO THAT CAN BE MOVED ON.MR ZIMBELMAN ON BEHALF OF BRAHMA GROUP INC PRESENTS THE MOTION ADDRESSING ATTORNEYS FEES THAT THEY ARE REQUESTING. MR ROBERTS ON BEHALF OF TONOPAH SOLAR ARGUES THAT THE RATES ARE TOO HIGH AND OBJECTS TO THE BLOCK BILLING USED BY BRAHMA AS LACKING IN TRANSPARENCY. COURT PRESENTS VIEW THAT ULTIMATELY BRAHMA IS JUSTIFIED AND RULES IN FAVOR OF BRAHMAS MOTION AND GRANTS THE MOTION FOR ATTORNEYS FEES AND COSTS.COURT STATES MR ZIMBELMAN CAN SUBMIT SOMETHING IN WRITING TO ADDRESS ADDITONAL FEES AND COSTS TO COVER TODAYS HEARING. MR ZIMBELMAN STATES IF THE COURT COULD MAKE AN AWARD UP THROUGH THE AMOUNT SUBMITTED INITIALLY AND THEN HE COULD PREPARE A SUPPLEMENTAL DECLARATION, RUN IT BY MR ROBERTS. MR ROBERTS AGREES TO STIP TO THIS.COURT MOVES TO TAKE A SHORT RECESS.COURT BACK IN SESSION.COURT ADDRESSES NEXT MOTION, TONOPAH SOLARS MOTION TO STRIKE, DISMISS OR STAY. MR ROBERTS PRESENTS HIS ARGUMENT FOR EACH MOTION AND THE FEDERAL COURTS JURISDICTION ON THIS CASE. MR ROBERTS STATES IF THE COURT WILL NOT STRIKE OR DISMISS THEN HE WOULD REQUEST A STAY UNTIL THE FEDERAL COURT HAS RULED OR WEIGHED IN ON THE CASE BEFORE THEM. THIS CASE AT FEDERAL COURT HAS JURISDICTION AND MR ROBERTS BELEIVES THEY WILL PROCEED WITH THIS CASE.FEDERAL COURT SHOULD TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER THE STATE.COURT ADDRESSES MR ROBERTS AS TO FEDERAL COURTS OBLIGATION TO TAKE THIS CASE.MR ROBERTS STATES JURISDICTION IS DIVESTED. A REMAND HAS NOT BEEN REQUESTED.COURT STATES IT IS NOT A SURE THING. MR. ROBERTS ARGUES THIS IS WHY THEY ARE REQUESTING THE COURT GRANT ITS MOTION FOR A STAY UNTIL THEY HEAR BACK ON WHAT FEDERAL COURT DECIDES TO DO WITH THIS CASE. MR. ROBERTS CONCLUDES HIS ARGUMENT.MR DOMINA ON BEHALF OF BRAHMA GROUP BEGINS HIS REBUTTAL.MR DOMINA STATES TONOPAH SOLAR IS TRYING TO DRAG OUT THE CASE IN FEDERAL COURT TO DELAY PAYING BRAHMA GROUP WHILE AT THE SAME TIME COLLECTING INTEREST ON THIS MONEY. MR DOMINA ARGUES THAT THE FEDERAL COURT HAS LIMITED JURISDICTION AND CAN ONLY HEAR CASES WHERE IT HAS SPECIFIC STATUTORY AUTHORIZATION TO DO SO. ONE EXAMPLE IS DIVERSITY. THIS COURT IS A COURT OF GENERAL JURISDICTION. MR DOMINA STATES HIS CONCERNS WITH THE BOND CLAIMS AND FEDERAL COURT NOT BEING ABLE TO AWARD THE ATTORNEYS FEES AND COSTS IF THE BOND CLAIM HAS A STAY WITH THIS COURT IN NYE COUNTY. COURT ADDRESSES MR DOMINA AS TO THE CLAIM BOND BEING FILED WITH THE FEDERAL

COURT. MR DOMINA STATES IT WAS NOT FILED IN CLARK COUNTY AND WILL PROCEED TO CLARIFY THIS ISSUE. MR DOMINA CONTINUES TO STATE HIS REASONS FOR THE CASE TO BE HEARD HERE IN NYE COUNTY. COURT STATES THAT TONOPAH SOLAR HAS THE RIGHT TO TAKE THIS UP TO FEDERAL COURT IF THEY ARE WITHIN THE LAW AND YOU MIGHT LOOK AT THIS AS DENY, DELAY, DONT PAY BUT UNFORTUNATELY IT IS NOT WHAT IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO BUT WHAT IS THE LAWFUL THING TO DO. MR DOMINA CONTINUES TO ARGUE AND FEELS THAT FEDERAL COURT WILL DISMISS THE CASE AND IT WILL BE ABLE TO CONTINUE ON IN NYE COUNTY.COURT BREAKS FOR LUNCH.COURT BACK IN SESSION.MR ZIMBELMAN ON BEHALF OF BRAHMA GROUP COVERS THE CLAIMS IN FEDERAL COURT AND THE CLAIMS IN DISTRICT COURT NYE COUNTY. MR ZIMBELMAN IS REQUESTING THE BOND CLAIM TO PROCEED IN DISDTRICT COURT ALLOW THEM TO AMEND THEIR COMPLAINT.MR ROBERTS ADDRESSES THE DENY, DELAY, DONT PAY. TONOPAH SOLARS POSITION IS THAT BRAHMA HAS REFUSED TO GIVE THEM BACKUP INVOICES THEY REQUESTED AFTER IT WAS BROUGHT TO THEIR ATTENTION THEY HAD BEEN OVERPAYING.MR ROBERTS STATES THAT THEY ARE NOT THE ONES TRYING TO DELAY THIS CASE.MR ROBERTS CONTINUES TO ARGUE THE FORUM SHOPPING ISSUE AND THE FILING OF BRAHMAS ROGUE DOCUMENT (COUNTER-COMPLAINT). COURT MAINTAINS THE DOCUMENT IS CONSIDERED A VALID DOCUMENT AND FILING. COURT ADDRESSES ALL PARTIES AND STATES IT IS DENYING TONOPAH SOLARS MOTION TO STRIKE AND DISMISS; WILL STAY THE THREE CAUSES OF ACTION, WAIT AND SEE WHAT FEDERAL COURT WILL DO. COURT ADDRESSES THE ACTION AGAINST THE BOND NOT FORECLOSURE, IF BRAHMA CAN GET SATISFACTION FROM THE BOND THEN THE OTHER PART IS MOOT. COURT STATES MR PEEL IS TO PREPARE THE ORDER. MR PEEL CLARIFIES AND OUTLINES THE DETAILS THAT WILL MAKE UP THE ORDER. MR ROBERTS TAKES EXCEPTION TO COURTS RULING BUT HAVING SAID THAT, WHAT HAS BEEN PROPOSED BY MR PEEL IS AS GOOD AS ANYTHING I COULD COME UP WITH TO IMPLEMENT THE COURTS ORDER.COURT ACCEPTS THE ARGUMENT PRESENTED BY MR ROBERTS BUT DOES NOT APPROVE OF IT. COURT UNDERSTANDS THAT HE HAS THAT POSITION. JEREMY KILBER ON BEHALF OF COBRA, REQUESTS CLARIFICATION ON WHEN TO FILE ANSWER. MR ZIMBELMAN STATES HE SHOULD FILE HIS ANSWER AFTER BRAHMA GROUP HAS FILED THE AMENDED COMPLAINT. COURT SETS A HEARING DATE FOR H & E EQUIPMENT SERVICES MOTION TO INTERVENE FOR JANUARY 3RD 2019 AT 10AM. MR. PEEL IS TO PREPARE THE ORDER. TRANSCRIPTS FOR THIS HEARING WILL BE PREPARED AND FILED BY COURT REPORTER DEBBIE HINES.COURT IS ADJOURNED.

12/11/18 10:00 MOTION FOR LEAVE TO AMEND .. (BRAHMA) GERIE SEE MINUTES ABOVE 12/11/18 10:00 MOTION FOR ATTORNEY'S FEES .. (BRAHMA) GERIE SEE MINUTES ABOVE 12/11/18 10:00 MOTION TO INTERVENE PENDING HEARING DATE GERIE SEE MINUTES ABOVE 1/24/19 9:00 MOTION TO INTERVENE 1/3 ORD JUDGE: STEPHEN ELLIOT CLERK: DEBRA BENNETT; COURT REPORTER: DEBBIE HINES BAILIFF: JAMELE TAYLOR APPEAR: ERIC ZIMBELMAN PRESENT ON BEHALF OF BRAHMA; DANIEL HANSEN PRESENT ON BEHALF OF H & E. COLBY BALKENBUSH PRESENT ON BEHALF OF TONOPAH SOLAR. COURT ADDRESSES ALL PARTIES. MR ZIMBELMAN PRESENTS ARGUMENT IN SUPPORT OF HIS MOTION TO CONSOLIDATE. CV 39799 INTO CV 39348 MAKES LOGICAL AND JUDICIAL SENSE TO CONSOLIDATE. MR BALKENBUSH PRESENTS CASE OPPOSING MOTION TO CONSOLIDATE. THE

IDENTICAL CLAIMS; 2 SEPARATE ACTIONS; AGAINST RULE 15 AND CLAIM SPLITTING. TSE WANTS EVERYTHING MOVED TO FEDERAL COURT. DENY MOTION AND DISMISS Filings:

REDUNDANT IDENTICAL CLAIM THAT HAS BEEN FILED. MR ZIMBELMAN PRESENTS REBUTTAL ARGUMENT; REQUESTS CASES BE HEARD IN TOTAL ALL CONSOLIDATED; HEARD TOGETHER EITHER JURISDICTION. COURT DOES NOT FEEL THERE IS A VIOLATION OF RULE 15. IN COURT GRANTS MOTION TO CONSOLIDATE.COURT ADDRESSES THE PROPOSED ORDER AND PROBLEMS WITH SOME OF THE WORDING; CHANGES TO SOME OF THE VERBAGE USED. MR BALKENBUSH AGREES WITH THE COURTS VIEWS ON THE PROPOSED ORDER. MR ZIMBLEMAN EXPLAINS THE REASONING BEHIND THE PROPOSED ORDER AND HOW IT WAS WORDED.COURT REFERS TO LEON MEAD AND HIS TREATISE. COURT WILL DELINEATE AND SIGN ORDER. BOTH ATTORNEYS AGREE WITH THE COURT. MR HANSEN PRESENTS HIS ARGUMENT ON HIS MOTION TO INTERVENE AND JOIN THIS CASE ON BREACH OF FORECLOSURE. MR ZIMBLEMAN PRESENTS ARGUMENT ON SEPARATE LIEN ACTIONS. MR BALKENBUSH OPPOSES THE MOTION TO INTERVENE. COURT FINDS GOOD CAUSE ON MOTION TO INTERVENE AND GRANTS H & E'S MOTION TO INTERVENE.H & E WILL SUBMIT COMPLAINT AND ORDER. NOTHING FURTHER. COURT IS ADJOURNED. DEBBIE HINES WILL

1/24/19 9:00 MOTION TO CONSOLIDATE CASE 1/3 ORD SEE MINUTES ABOVE

PREPARE AND FILE TRANSCRIPTS FOR THIS HEARING.

Fees Date Pty Filing TONOPAH SOLAR ENERGY, LLC'S MOTION TO EXPUNGE BRAHMA GROUP 245.00 6/11/18 P INC.'S MECHANIC'S LIEN STIPULATION AND ORDER TO CONTINUE HEARING DATE FOR TONOPAH С 7/02/18 SOLAR ENERGY, LLC'S MOTION TO EXPUNCE BRAHMA GROUP, INC.S MECHANICS LIEN NOTICE OF HEARING OF TONOPAH SOLAR ENERGY, LLC'S MOTION TO 7/16/18 Ρ EXPUNGE BRAHMA GROUP, INC'S MECHANIC'S LIEN BRAHMA GROUP, INC.'S OPPOSITION TO TONOPAH SOLAR ENERGY, 7/25/18 D LLC'S MOTION TO EXPUNGE BRAHMA GROUP, INC'S MECHANIC'S LIEN TONOPAH SOLAR ENERGY, LLC'S REPLY TO BRAHMA GROUP, INC.'S 7/31/18 P OPPOSITION TO TONOPAH SOLAR ENERGY, LLC'S MOTION TO EXPUNGE BRAHMA GROUP, INC.'S MECHANIC'S LIEN BRAHMA GROUP, INC.'S SUPPLEMENT TO ITS OPPOSITION TO 198.00 8/03/18 D TONOPAH SOLAR ENERGY, LLC'S MOTION TO EXPUNCE BRAHMA GROUP, INC.'S MECHANIC'S LIEN ORDER SETTING HEARING (9/12/18) 8/10/18 С ORDER OF REASSIGNMENT (SENIOR JUDGE ELLIOTT) C 8/14/18 TONOPAH SOLAR ENERGY, LLC'S ERRATA TO ITS REPLY TO BRAHMA 8/15/18 Ρ GROUP, INC.'S OPPOSITION TO TONOPAH SOLAR ENERGY, LLC'S MOTION TO EXPUNGE BRAHMA GROUP, INC.'S MECHANICS LIEN BRAHMA GROUP, INC.'S STATEMENT OF SUPPLEMENTAL AUTHORITIES 8/17/18 D IN SUPPORT OF ITS OPPOSITION TO TONOPAH SOLAR ENERGY, LLC'S MOTION TO EXPUNGE BRAHMA GROUP, INC'S MECHANIC'S LIEN TONOPAH SOLAR ENERGY, LLC'S RESPONSE TO BRAHMA GROUP, INC.'S 9/07/18 P STATEMENT OF SUPPLEMENTAL AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT OF ITS OPPOSITION TO TONOPAH SOLAR ENERGY, LLC'S MOTION TO EXPUNGE BRAHMA GROUP, INC.'S MECHANIC'S LIEN (HRG 9/12/18) ********* END OF FILE # 1 ********* BRAHMA GROUP, INC.'S MECHANIC'S LIEN FORECLOSURE COMPLAINT 9/21/18 D 9/21/18 D NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE 9/21/18 D NOTICE OF LIS PENDENS 9/21/18 D CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

9/21/18	D	BRAHMA GROUP, INC.'S (I) PETITION TO EXCEPT TO THE SUFFICIENCY OF SURETY BOND; AND (II) PETITION TO COMPEL THE INCREASE OF THE AMOUNT OF THE SURETY BOND, OR ALTERNATIVELY, THE PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL SECURITY/ NOTICE OF PETITION (DATE TBD)
9/25/18	D	
9/25/18	С	SUMMONS(ISSUED)(COBRA THERMOSOLAR PLANTS, INC.)
9/25/18	C	SUMMONS(ISSUED) (AMERICAN HOME ASSURANCE COMPANY)
9/25/18	D	AMENDED CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
9/25/18	D	RECEIPT OF COPY
9/25/18	D	RECEIPT OF COPY
9/26/18	C	SUMMONS ON FIRST AMENDED COUNTER-COMPLAINT (ISSUED - SOLAR ENERGY, LLC)
9/26/18	C	SUMMONS (2ND ISSUED - TONOPAH SOLAR ENERGY, LLC)
9/26/18	C	SUMMONS (2ND ISSUED - COBRA THERMOSOLAR PLANTS INC.)
10/11/18	0	CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
10/11/18	0	AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE TO BRAHMA GROUP, INC AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE TO H&E EQUIPMENT SERVICES, INC.
10/11/18	0	RECEIPT OF COPY
10/11/18 10/11/18	D D	SUMMONS-SERVED (FRANCES GUTIERREZ)
10/11/18 $10/11/18$	D	SUMMONS-SERVED (FRANCES GUITERREZ) SUMMONS-SERVED (GALINA HILLS)
10/11/18	D	SUMMONS-SERVED (COBRA THEDRMOSOLAR PLANTS)
10/11/18	D	
10/11/18	D	AFFIDAVIT/DECLARATION OF SERVICE AMERICAN HOME ASSURANCE COMPANY
10/11/18	D	
10/11/18	D	AFFIDAVIT/DECLARATION OF SERVICE - COBRA THERMOSOLAR PLANTS, INC
10/11/18		RECEIPT OF COPY
10/11/18	C	ORDER SETTING HEARING (11/02/18)
10/18/18	P	TONOPAH SOLAR ENGERY, LCC'S MOTION TO STIKE BRAHMA GROUP, INC.'S FIRST AMENDED COUNTER-COMPLAINT, OR, IN THE ALTERNATIVE, MOTION TO DISMISS COUNTER-COMPLAINT, OR, IN THE ALTERNATIVE, MOTION TO STAY THIS ACTION UNTIL THE CONCLUSION OF THE PROCEEDINGS IN FEDERAL COURT
10/19/18		NOTICE OF VACATING HEARING AND WITHDRAWING (I) PETITION TO EXCEPT TO THE SUFFICIENCY OF SURETY BOND AND (II) PETITION TO COMPEL THE INCREASE OF THE AMOUNT OF THE SURETY BOND, OR ALTERNATIVELY, THE PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL SECURITY
10/19/18		BRAHMA GROUP, INC.'S MOTION FOR LEAVE TO AMEND ITS FIRST AMENDED COUNTERCOMPLAINT AND THIRD-PARTY COMPLAINT
10/29/18		ORDER DENYING TONOPAH SOLAR ENERGY, LLC'S MOTION TO EXPUNGE BRAHMA GROUP, INC.'S MECHANIC'S LIEN
11/01/18		
11/01/18	D	PROOF OF SERVICE (SUMMONS, FIRST AMENDED COUNTER-COMPLAINT; AND THIRD-PARTY COMPLAINT, & PETITION TO EXCEPTDEFENDANT AMERICAN HOME ASSURANCE COMPANY)
11/01/18	D	BRAHMA GROUP, INC.'S MOTION FOR ATTORNEY'S FEES AND COSTS PURSUANT TO NRS 108.2275(6)(C) ********* END OF FILE # 2 *********
11/05/18	Ρ	
, 00, 10	**	IN'S MOTION FOR LEAVE TO AMEND ITS FIRST AMENDED COUNTER-COMPLAINT AND THIRD-PARTY COMPLAINT
11/05/18	D	BRAHMA GROUP, INC.'S OPPOSITION TO TONOPAH SOLAR ENERGY, LLC'S MOTION TO STRIKE, MOTION TO DISMISS OR MOTION FOR

Run: 02/12/19

12:57:58

198.00

		STAY
11/05/18	D	
11/05/18	D	RECEIPT OF COPY (ATTORNEYS FOR COBRA THERMOSOLAR PLANTS,
II/03/10		INC - 1. BRAHMA GROUP, INC.'S MOTION FOR ATTORNEY'S FEES
		AND COSTS PURSUANT TO NRS 108.2275(6)(C); 2. NOTICE OF
		ENTRY OF ORDER DENYING TONOPAH'S MOTION TO EXPUNGE; AND
		PROOF OF SERVICE)
11/05/18	D	
11/03/10	D	SOLAR ENERGY, LLC - 1. BRAHMA GROUP, INC.'S MOTION FOR
		ATTORNEY'S FEES AND COSTS PURSUANT TO NRS 108.2275(6)(C);
		2. NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER DENYING TONOPAH'S MOTION TO
		EXPUNGE; AND 3. PROOF OF SERVICE)
11/13/18	D	
,,	-	INC
11/13/18	D	AFFIDAVIT/DECLARATION OF SERVICE AMERICAN HOME ASSURANCE
	-	COMPANY
11/16/18	0	H&E EQUIPMENT SERVICES, INC. MOTION TO INTERVENE/NOTICE
,,	•	OF MOTION
11/26/18	Р	TONOPAH SOLAR ENERGY, LLC'S OPPOSITION TO BRAHMA GROUP,
/ /	-	INC.'S MOTION FOR ATTORNEY FEES AND COTS PURSUANT TO
		NRS 108.2275(6)(C) *******END OF FILE #3************************************
11/30/18	₽	TONOPAH SOLAR ENERGY LLCS REPLY TO BRAHMA GROUP INCS
- , ,		OPPOSITION TO TONOPAH SOLAR ENERGY LLCS MOTION TO STRIKE
		BRAHMA GROUP INCS FIRST AMENDED COUNTER-COMPLAINT OR IN
		THE ALTERNATIVE MOTION TO DISMISS COUNTER-COMPLAINT OR IN
		THE ALTERNATIVE MOTION TO STAY THIS ACTION UNTIL THE
		CONCLUSION OF THE PROCEEDINGS IN FEDERAL COURT
12/03/18	D	NOTICE OF HEARING
12/03/18	D	AFFIDAVIT/DECLARATION OF SERVICE AMERICAN HOME ASSURANCE
		COMPANY
12/03/18	D	AFFIDAVIT/DECLARATION OF SERVICE AMERICAN HOME ASSURANCE
		COMPANY (2ND DOC)
12/03/18	D	BRAHMA GROUP INCS REPLY IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR LEAVE TO
		AMEND ITS FIRST AMENDED COUNTER-COMPLAINT AND THIRD PARTY
	-	COMPLAINT
12/04/18	D	BRAHMA GROUP, INC.'S REPLY TO TONOPAH SOLAR ENERGY LLC'S
		OPPOSITION TO MOTION FOR ATTORNEY'S FEES AND COSTS PURSUANT TO NRS 108.2275(6)(C)
10/11/10	~	STIPULATION AND ORDER TO CONTINUE HEARING DATE FOR H&E
12/11/18	C	EQUIPMENT SERVICES, INC.'S MOTION TO INTERVENE ONLY
		(HEARING 1/03/2019 10:00AM)
12/14/18	D	
12/14/10	D	COMPANY
12/14/18	D	
12/14/10	2	COMPANY
12/17/18	D	
12/1//20	_	CV39799 WITH CASE NUMBER CV39348
12/17/18	D	NOTICE OF HEARING(1/3/19)
12/18/18	P	NOTICE OF HEARING OF H&E EQUIPMENT SERVICES INC.'S MOTION
,,	_	TO INTERVENE (HEARING 1/03/2019 10:00 AM)
12/20/18	С	
12/28/18	D	STIPULATION REGARDING AMOUNT OF ADDITIONAL FEES AWARDED
-		TO BRAHMA (TOTAL OF \$88,417.34)
1/04/19	D	
		TO WEIL & DRAGE - 12/21/18)
7/04/10		DECETOR OF CODY (MORTON TO CONCOLIDATE AND NOTICE OF HEADING

1/04/19 D RECEIPT OF COPY (MOTION TO CONSOLIDATE AND NOTICE OF HEARING TO WEINBERG, WHEELER, HUDGINS, GUNN & DIAL, LLC - 12/21/18) Run: 02/12/19 12:57:58

- 1/04/19 D AFFIDAVIT/DECLARATION OF SERVICE WEINBERG, WHEELER, HUDGINS, GUNN & DIAL, LLC, D. LEE ROBERTS, JR., ESQ., COLBY L. BALKENBUSH, ESQ., ATTORNEYS FOR DEFENDANT TONOPAH SOLAR ENERGY, LLC (12/21/18)
- 1/04/19 D AFFIDAVIT/DECLARATION OF SERVICE WEIL & DRAGE, GEOFFREY CRISP, ESQ., ATTORNEYS FOR COBRA THERMOSOLAR PLANTS, INC. (12/21/18)
- 1/07/19 P TSE'S OPPOSITION OT BRAHMA'S MOTION TO CONSOLIDATE CASE NO. CV 39799 WITH CASE NO. CV 39348
- 1/08/19 C ORDER GRANTING BRAHMA'S MOTION FOR ATTORNEY'S FEES AND COSTS PURSUANT TO NRS 108.2275(6)(C)
- 1/09/19 D NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER (ORDER GRANTING BRAHMA'S MOTION FOR ATTORNEY'S FEES AND COSTS)
- 1/14/19 D BRAHMA GROUP, INC.'S REPLY TO TONOPAH SOLAR ENERGY, LLC'S OPPOSITION TO MOTION TO CONSOLIDATE CASE NO. CV 39799 WITH CASE NO. CV 39348 (HEARING 01/24/19)
- 1/14/19 P TSE'S OPPOSITION TO H& E EQUIPMENT SERVICES, INC.'S MOTION T TO INTERVENE (HEARING 1/24/2019 9:00 AM)
- 1/22/19 P H&E EQUIPMENT SERVICES, INC. REPLY IN SUPPORT OF MOTION TO INTERVENE
- 1/24/19 C ORDER: DENYING TONOPAH SOLAR ENERGY, LLC'S MOTION TO STRIKE AND DISMISS; AND GRANTING IN PART TONOPAH SOLAR ENERGY LLC'S MOTION FOR STAY; GRANTING BRAHMA GROUP, INC'S MOTION TO AMEND
- 1/28/19 D NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER (1) DENYING TONOPAH SOLAR ENERGY, LLC'S MOTION TO STRIKE AND DISMISS; AND (II) GRANTING IN PART TONOPAH SOLAR ENERGY, LLC'S MOTION FOR STAY, (III) GRANTING BRAHMA GROUP, INC'S MOTION TO AMEND
- 1/30/19 C ORDER ON H&E EQUIPMENT SERVICES, INC.'S MOTION TO INTERVENE